



Catholic Maritime News

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The Geography of the Heart

As I'm wishing you and your families a blessed and happy Christmas season, I want to share with you some words that come from the Christmas homily of Pope Benedict in 2007:

"In the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth meet. Heaven has come down to Earth. For this reason, a light shines from the stable for all times; for this reason joy is enkindled there; for this reason song is born there. At the end of our Christmas meditation I should like to quote a remarkable passage from Saint Augustine. Interpreting the invocation in the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father who art in Heaven", he asks: what is this – Heaven? And where is Heaven? Then comes a surprising response: "... who art in Heaven – that means: in the saints and in the just. Yes, the heavens are the highest bodies in the universe, but they are still bodies, which cannot exist except in a given

location. Yet if we believe that God is located in the heavens, meaning in the highest parts of the world, then the birds would be more fortunate than we, since they would live closer to God. Yet it is not written: 'The Lord is close to those who dwell on the heights or on the mountains',

but rather: 'the Lord is close to the brokenhearted' (Ps 34:18 [33:19]), an expression which refers to humility. Just as the sinner is called 'Earth', so by contrast the just man can be called 'Heaven'" (Sermo in monte II 5, 17). Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the Holy Night, stooped down to the stable: the humility of God is Heaven. And if we approach this humility, then we touch Heaven. Then the Earth too is made new. With the humility of the shepherds, let us set out, during this Holy Night, towards the Child in the stable! Let us touch God's humility, God's heart! Then his joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant. Amen."

What a beautiful image – heaven belongs to "the geography of the heart." Heaven doesn't exist far away in a distant future, but in the heart that opens up to the simple love of God revealed in the stable at Bethlehem. No wonder the angels sing, earth rejoices and Christmas seems to bring out the best in us. As we look at the manger scene with Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus each of us receives the special invitation - to bring Heaven to Earth.

You have been a light bringing Heaven to Earth in many ways not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the year. May the Lord bless each of you and your families, let's keep each other in prayer with confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit,



Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill

+ Brendan Cahill



*The Nativity, Lorenzo Lotto
Courtesy of the National Gallery of Art*



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Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers

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We encourage you to visit our website which has user friendly navigation tools. Check out our interactive map with a list of AOS chaplains and contacts, know about news and events and other relevant information.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

We welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions.
Tell us what you think by sending an email to AOS@uscceb.org.

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Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America (AOSUSA) is a professional membership association of chaplains/associates, cruise ship priests, mariners, student mariners and affiliate members.

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It's Christmas, Let's Celebrate

By:
Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. God sent His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). Reflecting on the meaning of Christmas, Pope Francis said, "The birth of Jesus is an invitation for all Christians to imitate him in reaching out to embrace the vulnerable and all those who are suffering. The joy that we are called to celebrate, share, and proclaim at Christmas is "the joy with which God, in his infinite mercy, has embraced us pagans, sinners and foreigners, and demands that we do the same," (Christmas message, December 24, 2017). Yes, it is Christmas, there will be lots of happiness, feasting, shopping and gift giving. Santa Claus will visit with gifts of new clothes, shoes, and other items. Are we ready to give and to receive? Are we prepared to offer a helping hand?

As Christmas approaches, preparation is on the way to the celebration. According to various traditions, many people will be decorating their homes, churches, streets, and public places. Christmas trees and stars will be used to beautify many places. Many will be rejoicing over food and drinks; others will be happy enjoying the company of family and friends. In many places, there will be lots of shopping, gift giving, singing, and dancing. Yes, Christmas is a season of great joy, a time when we share the love of Christ Jesus with family and friends; it is a time of healing and renewed strength. It is a favorite time of the year for many people. But, the true reason for the celebration of Christmas is the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Yes, it is Christmas a great time of giving. For Saint Teresa of Calcutta Christmas means, "Every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Are we ready to love God and love our neighbor? Are we ready to offer a helping hand?

Yes, it is Christmas, a time of joy, but for the people of the sea, who may be facing challenges on board

ships, Christmas may be a time of sorrow. Many will be experiencing stress, fatigue, isolation, long working hours and work-related accidents. Some will be away from family and friends. Many will have no opportunity to relax or for recreation. Some may face various types of occupational hazards or be confronted by pirates. Several may not have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Some will be at the sea and will have no opportunity to see their family. Many are saddened as they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home. For many, Christmas dinners may be only a wish and not a reality.



As Christmas approaches, are we ready, regardless of the situations we find ourselves. As Christmas approaches, I encourage all to allow yourselves to live out the true meaning of Christmas. Let us recognize the call to see Christ Jesus in other people, especially those who need our love and care. Let us be agents of hope and tenderness for the people of the sea who might be on board ships and will have no opportunity to see their family and friends. It is Christmas, let us join the group of angels from heaven praising God, saying: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." (Luke 2:13-14). Are you willing to extend a helping hand to seafarers? Please, feel free to contact us.

Kindly look at our directory <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/pastoral-care-of-migrants-refugees-and-travelers/apostleship-of-the-sea/chaplains.cfm> which lists the location of the various ports: It's Christmas, let us extend our love and hospitality by providing pastoral assistance to seafarers and all people of the sea especially during this Christmas. Merry Christmas to one and all.

Mariner's Prayer

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Mother of God and our Mother, you know all the dangers of soul and body that threaten mariners. Protect your sons and daughters who work and travel on the waters of the world, and protect also their families that await their return. Star of the Sea, Mother of the Church, give light and strength to those Chaplains and lay ministers who bring the love of your Divine Son among mariners. Fill their hearts with a supernatural and life-giving zeal for the apostolate. Star of the Sea, light shining in the darkness, be a guide to those who sail amid the storms and dangers of life. Enlighten the hearts of ardent disciples and bring us all to the safety of heaven's port. Amen



***May this Christmas
bring you
happiness and peace.
Merry Christmas.***

*Deacon Paul Rosenblum, Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
and Most Rev. Brendan Cahill*

Photo courtesy of NAMMA

Apostleship of the Sea, National Office Welcomes New Coordinator for the North American and Caribbean Region of the Apostleship of the Sea

By Sr. Dr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers is pleased to announce the appointment of Deacon Paul Rosenblum, Chaplain at the Port of Charleston, NC as Coordinator for the North American and Caribbean Region of the Apostleship of the Sea.



Deacon Paul Rosenblum he attended Beloit College in Beloit, WI where he received a BA in Biology in 1976. He returned to Worcester and worked as a laboratory technician at Mason Research Institute where he met his future wife Cathy. After a stint as a research assistant at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Deacon Paul enrolled in graduate school at Boston University in 1981, receiving a PhD in Biology in 1986. Following a two-year period as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, he took a job on the biology faculty at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. In 1997 Deacon Paul was named the Willie D. Bryan Professor of Biology at Lyon College in Batesville, AR, a position he held until 2001 when he became head of the Biology Department at The Citadel. During his tenure at The Citadel, Deacon Paul received an MA degree in Pastoral Ministry from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona. He entered the diaconate formation program in 2010 and was ordained a Permanent Deacon on May 9, 2014.

Deacon Paul began his involvement in seafarers' ministry as a volunteer with the Charleston Port and Seafarers' Society in 2003. In October 2015 the Bishop of Charleston, Robert Guglielmone appointed him as the Apostleship of the Sea Port Minister for the Diocese of Charleston. Following his retirement from The Citadel in May 2017 he took on the Port Minister position on a full-time basis. He serves on the Boards of Directors for the Charleston Port and Seafarers' Society and the North American Maritime Ministry Association. In June 2018 Deacon Paul was appointed as Coordinator for the North American and



On May 9, 2014 Most Rev. Robert Guglielmone ordained Paul Rosenblum to the Permanent Diaconate.

Caribbean Region of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Deacon Paul and Cathy have one son, Kevin, who lives in Richmond, VA with his wife Genia and their son Elliott.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Deacon Paul for accepting such an important pastoral responsibility. His leadership and experience in maritime ministry will be beneficial to foster the work of the maritime apostolate. Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is a Catholic maritime ministry that reaches out to seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the seas. The maritime ministry shows the Church's care and concern for seafarers who cannot participate in regular parish life because of the nature of their work. AOS is present in 53 United States seaports and waterways, representing 48 dioceses and archdioceses. Priests, chaplains, deacons, religious and lay people extend their hospitality by providing pastoral assistance to seafarers and all people of the sea, including port personnel, other port workers in the Stella Maris centers.



New AOS Regional Coordinator Deacon Paul Rosenblum

Pastoral Visit to the Port of Oakland

By John Claassen

On Friday, October 26 and Saturday, October 27, 2018 Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of Victoria, TX, Bishop Promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea in the United States, made a pastoral visit to the Port of Oakland, CA.

The ecumenical partners at the port hosted a reception luncheon for Bishop Cahill, on Saturday at the port of Oakland's International Maritime Center.



L-R: Robert McKoon, Corporate Treasurer, Greg Govan, volunteer and long-time ship visitor, Fr. Joseph Phan, Catholic Chaplain at the International Maritime Center, Most Rev. Brendan Cahill Bishop of Victoria, TX, Bishop Promoter, of the Apostleship of the Sea, Helene Bunch, member of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Center, John Claassen, International Maritime Center Director and Jim Carbonay, center volunteer.



L-R: Rev. Nancy Smith, America Baptist Church Chaplain, volunteer, minister, and member of the Board of Directors for the International Maritime Center. Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, John Claassen, Jim Carbonay, Alodia Corpuz, ship visitor and center volunteer, and Gail Carter, center volunteer.



L-R: Alodia Corpuz, volunteer originally from the Philippines, who has a special ministry to the Filipino sailors. Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, and Rev. Nancy Smith.



L-R: Fr. Joseph Phan, Catholic Chaplain at the International Maritime Center and Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of Victoria, TX, Bishop Promoter, of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Pope John Paul II's prayer to Our Lady Star of the Sea

O Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart and mind, in word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Pray for us. Amen

AOS North America & Caribbean Regional Conference Little Flower Monastery at Carmel Hill - Deroche, BC CANADA August 20-23, 2018

Apostleship of the Sea-North America and Caribbean Regional Conference

By Deacon Paul Rosenblum, Chaplain at the Port of Charleston NC and Coordinator for the North American and Caribbean Region of the Apostleship of the Sea.

On August 20, 2018, thirty-five delegates from Canada, the United States, and Jamaica gathered at the serene and beautiful Little Flower Carmelite Monastery in Deroche, British Columbia, Canada for the 2018 Apostleship of the Sea-North American and Caribbean Regional Conference. After the opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Michael



Most Rev. Thomas Dowd

Miller of Vancouver and Bishop Thomas Dowd of Montreal, the AOS Episcopal Promoter for Canada, Archbishop Miller welcomed the delegates and spoke about the spiritual and pastoral bonds that unite AOS chaplains and ship visitors in their common ministry to the People of the Sea. Fr. Bruno Ciceri then briefed the attendees on the recent meeting of Regional Coordinators in Rome and thanked and honored the outgoing Regional Coordinator Karen Parsons for her hard work and dedication to building up the ministry in the region.

Over the next two and one-half days the delegates heard presentations and participated in discussions covering a broad spectrum of issues facing the ministry. Topics included the implementation of the Motu Proprio Stella Maris, the Maritime Labor Convention 2006, and the Seafarers Bill of Rights, all key to our understanding of the responsibilities we have to minister effectively to the seafarers we meet. Interesting presentations on the history of AOS in both Canada and the United States gave the attendees a context for our ministries today. We also heard about how ecumenical partnerships can enhance our

ministry and the importance of spirituality and continued formation for carrying out our mission. Talks about challenges that chaplains are facing in their particular locales and in the cruise industry were also presented.

Although the conference schedule was busy, adequate time was left for worship. Each morning began with Morning Prayer. Holy Mass was celebrated each day and we ended each day with Evening Prayer. These times were fundamental to allow the delegates the chance to place everything we do into God's hands and ask for the Lord's grace and strength to help us in the work he has called us to do.

We also had the opportunity to visit Westminster Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery located in nearby Mission, BC. After joining the monks for Evening Prayer, Abbot John Braganza gave us a tour of this beautiful place located on a bluff overlooking the Fraser River. It was a wonderful and uplifting experience.

Special thanks must be given to Sister Joanna Okereke, AOS National Director for the United States, and Fr. Andrew Thavam Thuraisingnam, AOS National Director for Canada for all of their hard work to make the arrangements for the conference. Thanks as well to our hosts Fr. Alexander Braganza and his associates for their wonderful hospitality that contributed so much to the success of the meeting, and to Deacon Dileep Athaide and his team of drivers for meeting all of our transportation needs.



Most Rev. Gary Gordon of Victoria, Canada celebrated Mass on Thursday. AOS Canadian Episcopal Promoter Most Rev. Thomas Dowd concelebrated. Most Rev. Gary Gordon gave a talk on how to handle spiritual and mission field dryness.



Fr. Joseph Phan, Chaplain and Mr. John Claassen, International Maritime Center Director, Port of Oakland presented a talk on the Issues and Challenges of Port Chaplains



Meals: A time for getting to know one another, sharing about the ministry and networking.



Fr. Alexander Braganza, OCD, Superior at Carmel Hill and retreat facilitator, shared the Carmelite spirituality as a powerful tool to conduct faithful ministry.



Fr. Bruno Ciceri brought greetings from Rome, honored the outgoing Regional Coordinator and introduced the new Regional Coordinator. He celebrated the closing Mass.



Delegates met to hear presentations and participate in discussions of issues for those involved in the maritime ministries.



A time for getting together and getting that last picture before everyone returns to their ministry.

Seafarers Expectations of our Ministry & Services with Reference to the Cruise Ship Ministry

By Doreen Badeaux

On board Cruise Ships, it is important to note that everyone who is working on the ship, for example: Traditional seafarers, staff, entertainers, lecturers, guides, musicians, etc, are considered “Seafarers”. Indeed ALL people on board are considered “seafarers” according to the Apostolic Letter, *Motu Proprio Stella Maris* on the Maritime Apostolate. This means passengers too.

The care of ALL souls on board is the Mission of AOS.

However, when I speak to our AOS-USA Cruise Ship Priests, I always reference their ministry to “Crew, Staff and Passengers”, to ensure that THEY remember that ALL are to be served.

Some personal reflections on how we are perceived and what expectations are place on us by Cruise Ship Personnel and Passengers.

I have served in AOS Maritime Ministry since 1995 with AOS Diocese of Beaumont and the Port Arthur International Seafarers’ Center. I began working for the AOS-USA Membership Association in 2003, at the request of then National Director, Fr John Jamnicky.

He asked me to facilitate the Cruise Ship Priest Program for AOS-USA, when the US Bishop’s Committee on Migration charged AOS with this work.

Over the years, I had been on merchant ships, barges, tugs, pilot boats, shrimp boats, but never a cruise ship.

In fact it was not until the Holland America Line insisted I take a cruise to better understand the life and work on board, that I took a cruise in 2014.

I had a staff cabin, akin to that of the Priest, and I always wore my AOS-USA Badge and the lapel pin. This made a difference! Because so many of our priests are on board, the crew and staff would say, “Oh! You’re with the priests! We love having them on board!”

I’d like to share a story about a Crew Member I met:

I noticed one female staffer, who was dressed eloquently every night, in a long dress and high heels, but ALWAYS on her feet. She was a bar tender late at night, and one of the ladies walking through the Queen’s Lounge, offering drinks every night.

One night, she saw me and said, “I know that pin. You are with the priests.” (Pointing to the AOS logo pin.) I smiled and explained the mission of AOS, and the work of the AOS-USA Cruise Ship Priest Program onboard.

There was an instant ease in her demeanor and a desire to talk. She wasn’t Catholic, but clearly the presence of the priests was something she noticed, and it gave her comfort, and now she identified me because of the logo, and could feel comfortable to talk with me. She had expectations of me, because of the lapel pin, and because she had been watching the priests.

In the course of the conversation, I asked her about home, and she told me she had a son who was 4 years old. I asked her how she handled that...who looked after him when she was at work.

She said “My sister takes care of him” But then her face took on a look of happiness and pain all in one, and she said... “He calls her Mommy”...

I could see how happy she was for her son that he was so happy and comfortable with his Aunt, but I also saw the dagger she felt in her heart.

But it was the usual story that we hear from so many seafarers, it’s the best way she knew to provide for her child, so she



*Seafarer's expectation of our ministry and services with reference to the cruise ship industry.
Doreen M. Badeaux, Secretary General, AOS-USA.*

made the sacrifice for him.

Another story shows expectations of a Passenger:

Passengers are also considered seafarers when embarking upon a cruise.

I've heard many amazing stories over the years, but one of the one's that sticks in my mind the most, was a phone call I received from a man whose wife died while they were on board a cruise.

He told me he was Methodist, but his wife was Catholic, and they raised their children in the Catholic Faith. They took a Celebrity Cruise, because at that time, AOS-USA placed priests on all sailings. And since his wife was a Daily Communicant, it was the only way that his wife would even think of taking a cruise.

It was a "bucket list" dream of theirs to take a cruise, and they knew she was dying of cancer. So they booked the cruise.

On the first night of the cruise, the priest just happened to dine with them, and they told him their story. Later, during the cruise, he was called to their cabin, where he administered the Anointing of the Sick and prayed with them. She passed away peacefully, with the priest in her presence.

This man told me..."Her Church was THERE for her...in the middle of the Ocean!....We can't thank you enough! It gives our family such peace and comfort to know that her Church was THERE!"

Imagine what that family expected. They expected to have a priest for Daily Mass. They ended up having a priest for their Wife/Mom's last day.

And finally, I'm sharing an email that one of our priests sent me last Thursday.

"I just returned from a two-week cruise on the Zuiderdam. We traveled from Copenhagen to Scotland, Iceland, and the Faroe and Shetland islands. The seas were relatively calmer than usual in the North Atlantic and the weather was excellent the whole two weeks.

But what made the trip so enjoyable was the little Catholic community that formed in such a short time. The people were extremely friendly. I think the main reason for that was that they were so pleased to have Mass offered every day. In all but two days, it was scheduled for 5:00 in the afternoon which I consider a perfect time, after tours and before dinner.

I think that even though it was my third time acting as chaplain on Holland America and once as a paying passenger on Princess, it really hit me this time how special this ministry is. As a priest you are present not just for the free cruise but to minister to those passengers in a special way. We had a regular group of about 15-20 people attend Mass during the week and over 100 at the two Sunday Masses. Catholics may be used to coming together at their parishes at home, but to have an opportunity on vacation to come together with fellow passengers in celebrating the Mass, is special in its own right. I believe this ministry connects Catholics by emphasizing that the Catholic Church is much bigger than their Diocese or even their parish. That it is a model that wherever we as believers are located, we are all together in the Lord.

I had the added blessing of being assisted at Mass by a seminarian who was just beginning his seminary training. He even offered a scripture reflection at a few weekday Masses and was well received by the congregation. The positive effect of the AOS's ministry was brought home to me very clearly when my sister talked to a woman who apparently was a first-time cruiser and was very nervous about traveling so far and experiencing the isolation of being on a ship at sea. That was until she happened to pass me in the corridor going to say Mass, and even though no words were exchanged, she felt immediately at ease because she knew that in some way that a religious leader was on board for the whole cruise to aid her and others in regular prayer at Mass. She was a daily attendee. Unless, we reflect on our ministry regularly, we may not realize how much of a positive difference we make in people's lives by our presence. Rev. Mark Canavan"

Expectations! Even our priests on board have expectations of their ministry. And as they grow in the ministry, their expectations of that ministry continues to grow.



The Nativity, Fra Filippo Lippi, Courtesy of the National Museum of Art

The Importance of Continued Formation and Participation in Retreats and Conferences

By Deacon Dileep Athaide, Catholic Chaplaincy Coordinator, Port of Vancouver, at the AOS 2018 North American and Caribbean Region Conference, August 2018, Vancouver, BC.

“Port Ministry at the Margins” was the theme of last week’s NAMMA Conference in Baltimore. Indeed, as chaplains caring for seafarers, our ministry is often “at the margins”. Some chaplains have the benefit of working as part of a large ecumenical team, at times with many volunteers and a large seafarer center, generally in the bigger ports around North America. Others, particularly those at smaller ports, may work in isolation, isolated from colleagues doing similar work, and perhaps isolated from other clergy and lacking a supportive faith community.

Most of us working as Catholic chaplains, or in support of the AOS ministry at our respective ports, were appointed to our position without the benefit of a prior training program specific to caring for seafarers; we learned on the job, although, admittedly, we may have accumulated similar experience in other related ministries or work prior to our current engagement.

This points to the need for ongoing training and formation, in order to optimize our effectiveness as port chaplains. Much of this can be obtained through participation at seminars and conference and at spiritual retreats. Face-to-face meetings with colleagues on a somewhat regular basis are important to keep up with work trends, and for mutual support in our ministerial practice.

Three months ago, I had the pleasure of a ten-day visit with chaplain colleagues in Great Britain, at the invitation of AOS GB. I benefited immensely from the experience, visiting ships at the Port of Southampton, meeting with personnel at the AOS office in London, and a four-day retreat with my British counterparts at the Benedictine Abbey at Ampleforth. I learned a lot from them, shared my own ministry experiences, and was quite invigorated by the whole experience.

Last week’s annual NAMMA Conference in Baltimore was likewise an informative and uplifting experience. These gatherings allow us to share in the commonality of our port work, while also realizing what may be unique to our own home experience. Specific workshops can provide knowledge that can be of immediate value on return to our own corner of the world. Such conferences also provide useful updates from related and supporting marine and port

service industries.

We not only share useful information and explore mutual concerns, but also support each other. As chaplains, we have to attend to our own ongoing spiritual needs, coming back to the well, ensuring we remain shoots joined to the vine, and not evolving into “lone rangers”!

Our Stella Maris – Apostleship of the Sea gatherings are to be particularly treasured in helping each of us maintain our Catholic identity, which can often be lost by our day-to-day work in an ecumenical setting, however practical and intrinsically valuable the experience of working with colleagues of other faiths may be. Likewise, we must maintain a strong Catholic presence in ecumenical chaplaincy conferences, such as NAMMA.



Deacon Dileep Athaide, chaplaincy coordinator, Vancouver, British Columbia, cantor for Mass. Deacon Athaide gave a talk on the importance of continued formation and participating in retreats and conferences.



*Ecumenical Relations and Training***Houston Maritime Chaplaincy Training Program**

Working alongside the AOS worldwide are the men and women of many other major denominations. They respond with much talent, time, and devotion not only for seafarers but also for chaplains and pastoral associates. Evidence of this is the ecumenical school of training in the Port of Houston. Established more than fifteen years ago, the school program examines most facets of the chaplain's work.

This larger forum advocates a program of shared prayer, exchange of ideas, and a spirit of cooperation. Special interdenominational committees are formed to update the legislative and judicial bodies about seafarers' rights that have been neglected or violated.

The National Office of the Apostleship of the Sea offers a reimbursement Scholarship intended to provide financial assistance to AOS chaplains and pastoral team members who minister in the USA, in order they may attend the Houston Maritime Ministry Training.

A limited number of Scholarships are granted each year to those who are eligible.

Eligibility requirements:

Applicant is appointed by the diocese or assigned by the AOS chaplain to serve in a local AOS chaplaincy in the USA. A letter of appointment or assignment must accompany the AOS Scholarship Application form.

Applicant has not attended the Houston School previously.

Awards:

If selected as a scholar, the student will have their registration paid and a maximum reimbursed amount of \$500.00, for travel (with approval and receipts). The actual amount of a scholarship is determined based on need and available funding at the time of the awards.

The AOS scholarship application form should be submitted to the AOS national office (via mail, email or fax) by November 15 and the applicant will be notified of the award on December 15.

The AOS scholar will be responsible to make ALL arrangements with the Houston School organizers in order to participate in the Houston School training program.

The Houston School will be informed by the AOS national office of the names of AOS scholars.

The AOS scholar is expected to pay for his/her expenses to attend the in-class program at the Houston International Seafarers' Center and will seek reimbursement from the AOS national office no later than one month after completion of the training. Original receipts are required in claiming reimbursement.

The AOS scholar must complete the training. He or she is expected to serve at least one year in the local AOS chaplaincy. For any questions or clarification, please contact Sr. Joanna Okereke at jokereke@usccb.org.

Registration and Scholarship form can be found online at: www.usccb.org/aos. Scroll down to and click on: Ecumenical Relations.

The 2018 NAMMA Conference

The North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA) held their annual conference in August at Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) - Merchant Marine Training, in Linthicum Heights, MD with the 2018 theme of "Port Ministry at the Margins".

The conference concentrated on seafarers' welfare with information on the environments and laws that govern the seafarers' life on board ships.

Mark H. Buzby, Maritime Administrator, MARAD, spoke at and participated in the conference and according to the MARAD website the conference was attended by one of the "largest and most diverse gathering of seafarers' welfare providers in the world".



*Above: NAMMA Conference Participants
Below: AOS Chaplains and Port Volunteers at the
NAMMA Conference*

Photos Courtesy of NAMMA



Apostleship of the Sea, National Office
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Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers
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Upcoming Events

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Houston Maritime Ministry Training Program
Houston International Seafarers' Center
Houston, TX

APRIL 17 -19, 2019

AOS-USA Annual Conference
American Maritime Officers' STAR Center,
Dania, FL

MAY 19, 2019

Mass of Prayer and Remembrance for
Mariners and People of the Sea
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Washington, DC

MAY 22, 2019

National Maritime Day Celebration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington DC

AUGUST 13-16, 2019

NAMMA Annual Conference
Charleston, SC

SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

Feast of Our Lady Star of the Sea

NOVEMBER 11, 2019

AOS Breakfast with the Bishops
Baltimore, MD