



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MARITIME ASSOCIATION

ICMA MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK SEA AND MIDDLE EAST

BULLETIN

10th BULLETIN (November 2011)

Dear friends:

Here you have the 10th Bulletin of our region.

The most important event of ICMA was world conference, which took place in Hamburg from 19 to 23 August.

You will find a report on it on this bulletin. On September 29th we had the World Maritime Day. This year, piracy was the key point.

Also in September, there was in Port de Bouc (France) the AOS European Conference for preparing the AOS World Congress in 2012.

We have this time three articles of the region: from Odessa, Las Palmas and Malta. Thank you!!!

Finally, we have to start thinking about our next Regional Conference which should probably be in Odessa in 2012.

Ricardo Rodríguez-Martos
Regional Coordinator

Stella Maris in Las Palmas (by Mr. Antonio Rodríguez)

The activity of Stella Maris Las Palmas, on sailors who have been abandoned by their owners,

Stella Maris was established in Las Palmas in 1997 from the Chaplain appointed by the bishop.

It began at a time when the number of abandoned ships were 60, 12 of them with crew.

We helped with food and clothes, took them to the doctor or dentist when they needed it, and bought medicines, provided a generator for the electric motors, etc.

But one of the most important actions was the repatriation of seafarers. We achieved it thanks collections made in parishes and the port community.

Since 1997 and until today, we have repatriated 64 foreign sailors.

In most cases, the crews after spending more than four years lost any chance of recover their wages, when the ship was sold in auction to a ridiculous price.

We have also paid legal fees to arrest a ship on behalf of the crew.

Director Mr. Antonio Rodríguez de León
Port Chaplain: Fr. Simón Perez Reyes
E-mail : smarislp@hotmail.com

Greetings from Malta (By Fr. Joseph Borg)

Malta is a small island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Throughout its history it was ruled by the Phoenicians, the Arabs, Normans, the Knights of St John, the French under Napoleon and then by the British.

In 1964, Malta became independent and in 1979 it became a Republic, but remained in the British Commonwealth. In 2004 we became full member of the European Union. Being at the centre of the Mediterranean, it has its strategic importance, especially during this time serving as a bridge between Europe and North Africa. It is a beautiful and peaceful country, with good weather and food.█

Many cruise liners and merchant ships and tankers pass through Malta. Here you find a dockyard for ship repair and a free port.

It was in the middle of July that I received a phone call from the Archbishop Curia informing me that the Archbishop Mons. Pawl Cremona wanted to see me. I never expected what he told me. Up till now my



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pastoral work was as a vice parish priest at St Sebastian Parish, at the Curia office and as a teacher in the senior section at the collage of the De La Salle Brothers in Cottonera. The Archbishop told me that he was going to appoint me Port Chaplain and Rector of Our Lady of Liesse church in Valletta, the capital city. This church is situated exactly at the entrance of the Grand



Harbour and serves us the home for the Apostleship of the Sea. The Archbishop wanted to appoint me as Port Chaplain because the Franciscan Friars could no longer continue with this Apostolate mission.

Here I would like to thank Fr. Paul Attard OFM, for the good pastoral work as Port Chaplain.

After my appointment, I started immediately to work in this new (for me) Pastoral work. Fortunately for me after a few weeks I had to attend a seminar at Port de Bouc in Marseille where I met a number of Port Chaplains from various ports around Europe and started gaining a lot of experience. Coming in contact with these Port Chaplains and voluntary workers including my friend Deacon Rodriguez I started to see how they work in their country and learning from their vast experience.

Here I came to the conclusion that here in Malta you must have a professional way how to perform this mission. The first two things that came to mind were to build a monument dedicated to sea farers exactly at the entrance of the Grand Harbour in front of the church of Liesse. Secondly, a place near the same church to serve as a head quarters with all amenities were volunteer



helpers meet and

were records are kept and were through modern technologies, such as computer and internet are kept, to keep contact with chaplains and volunteers

around the world. Through this we can see that although we are a small country we can help other Port Chaplains and be of service for anyone who needs our help in this port of the Mediterranean.

Here in Malta I am continuing the pastoral care started by others before me like ship visiting and celebrating mass on board ships. However to implement what I said before I need help since here our resources are few, being a small country. So if any type of help is given, materially and financially, I will be very grateful.

Lastly I would like to thank the director of this news paper for giving me space to write these few words and pray to God and Our Lady of the sea to Bless us all.

Fr Joe

Memorial celebration for passenger's ship "Admiral Nakhimov".

(By fr. Oleksandr Smerechynskyy – AOS Odessa)

On 31 Of August 1986 Tzemes bay, near of Novorossiysk after collision with the dry-bulker "P.Vasyov" the passenger cruise



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liner “Admiral Nakhimov” sank in 7 minutes . 423 persons died and 65 had been missed in result of disaster. “Apostleship of the Sea” and “The Mission to Seafarers” together cares people which concern this tragedy. This year, as well as the last one, the memorial celebration begun with a requiem organized by “Apostleship of the Sea” and “The Mission to Seafarers” in Odessa port. The day after, 30 representatives of Ukraine with Fr.Olexander Smerechynsky (“Stella Maris” chaplain) went to Novorossiysk (Russian Federation) to the place of the tragedy . A requiem has been served and flowers were thrown into the sea. Fr.Olexander Smerechynsky had friendly meeting with Nikolay Motrenko (“Sailor Society” chaplain in Novorossiysk).



29th September 2011: World Maritime Day

(from www.icma.as)

On this day, as the media pays just that little bit more attention to matters maritime, we at ICMA will remember in our daily prayers seafarers held captive by pirates and seafarers still suffering in the aftermath of piracy. We always pray for seafarers and for their families.

The Maritime Piracy: A Humanitarian Response Programme launches today in the Docklands of London, and the IMO Headquarters plan for a themed reception to be held this evening on London’s South Bank, Maritime Piracy: Orchestrating the Response. We could respond that politicians and the maritime industry are at last catching up with what ICMA has been doing routinely.

Memorandum of Understanding of the “Maritime Piracy: Humanitarian Response Program.”

(from AOS Bulletin N. 109, 2011/III)

The International Christian Maritime Association has, on behalf of all its members, signed the Memorandum of Understanding





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of the “Maritime Piracy: Humanitarian Response Program.”

In doing so ICMA has added its voice to the maritime community in vowing to stand by seafarers and their families when affected by piracy.

ICMA had long since resolved that it would support efforts to help seafarers affected by piracy. At the time ICMA called upon the industry to join its members in giving priority to the harm done to human lives when pirates strike. We are gratified that the industry has now come together as never before to battle the human tragedy of piracy. The program states:

An industry wide alliance of ship owners, unions, managers, manning agents, insurers and welfare associations (maritime, labour, faith or secular) has come together to establish the “Maritime Piracy: a Humanitarian Response Program” (MPHRP). The objectives of this program is to address the three phases of “pre-, during and post incident” of humanitarian response, with the aim of implementing a model of assisting seafarers and their families with the humanitarian aspects of a traumatic incident caused by a piracy attack, armed robbery or being taken hostage.

The Program intends to bring together ICMA’s projects and the other known initiatives to address the humanitarian fallout of piracy, to enable coordination and collaboration.

Most importantly, the Program will enhance the role of ICMA members’ chaplains and centre staff as first responders: it is we who meet first and face to face the seafarers and families who need help after piracy. The program was launched officially on World Maritime Day, 29th September 2011, in the Docklands of London.

ICMA addresses piracy care at the 11th International Symposium on Maritime Health

(from www.icma.as)

The Rev. David M. Rider, President & Executive Director of ICMA member the Seamen’s Church Institute of New York and New Jersey, and Douglas B. Stevenson, ICMA’s Chairman, jointly represented ICMA at the 11th International Symposium on Maritime Health, held in Odessa, Ukraine.

Organised by the International Maritime Health Association, IMHA, the 4-day meeting brought together some 200 maritime health professionals from 42 countries to discuss the unique challenges of seafarer medical care while at sea and visiting ports around the world.

A special session addressed the unique medical and mental health challenges of seafarers affected by piracy. With hostage situations lasting an average of six months and, in an extreme case, 16 months, seafarers run out of prescription medications, endure poor nutrition and sanitation, and, of course, cope with extreme stress like mock executions and isolation from other crew.

Rider introduced SCI’s revised Post-Piracy Care for Seafarers Guidelines (version 3.0), addressing the medical and mental health support of seafarers and their families before, during and after hijacking episodes.



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*International Christian Maritime
Association*
10th World Conference
“Promoting Seafarers’ Dignity”
19 - 23 August 2011
Hamburg

10th ICMA World Conference Hamburg 2011

208 chaplains, welfare workers and representatives of the maritime world from 41 different countries around the world gathered 19 to August 23, 2011 in Hamburg to celebrate the 10th World Conference of ICMA (International Christian Maritime Association).

Topics addressed during the conference:

- **ILO Convention 2006:** This agreement, of transcendent importance to the future of the sailors was presented by Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry Director of the International Labour Standards Department of the ILO, together with Doug Stevenson chairman of ICMA, Brian Orrel from the International Transport Workers Federation and Dierk Lindemann from the shipping fraternity. It was underlined the ICMA’s role in the convention’s development.

The Maritime Industry: Economic Situation

Prof H Gerstenberger, Wolfgang Hurtienne, Hamburg Port Authority and Prof Christoph Wand analyzed the evolution of the maritime sector in the last 40 years and its future prospects.

Wellbeing of Seafarers - A Holistic Approach,

presented by Dr Clara Schlaich & Jan Oltmanns

It addressed the needs of seafarers and pastoral work in terms of the brevity of scales, the growth of the ports, the proliferation of flags of convenience and the plurality of the crews.

Labour for Leisure - Serving Seafarers on Cruise Ships

presented by Andrea Pesce, Markus Wichman and Giacomo Martino. It was analyzed the needs of the crews on board cruise ships and the welfare services for them in port.

-**Working Groups:** on the following topics:

- a) fishing
- b) health of seafarers
- c) sailing chaplains
- d) welfare committees
- e) marine sports activities
- f) ISAN (International Service for seafarers)
- g) Assistance to cruise ship crews in port

The Needs of Seafarers and Families Affected by Piracy

presented by David Rider, Doug Stevenson, Ken Peters, Peter Swift, Niels Mathiesen, Peter Imminger and Jens M Priess

A shipowner introduced throughout the process experienced by a boat of your company from the time he was assaulted by pirates until the release of the crew and return to their homes. Then several experts in the field had the psychological impact of a pirate attack on the crew and their families, during it and after returning home and pastoral response port chaplains and organizations to assist mariners in general should give.

Working within Challenging Contexts –

presented by Heike Spiegelberg, Antie Heider-Rottwilm. Wolfram Weise spoke on



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interreligious communication.

Here we also have to underline the presentation of Hennie La Grange, General Secretary of ICMA on: **Maritime Theology and the reality of ICMA.**

Hennie made a profound statement on what he called practical theology of ecumenism of ICMA. His speech was primarily pastoral spirit-filled. Everybody felt very touched for it.

Finally, as the closing event was an ecumenical service in the Lutheran Church of St. Michael.

It should be emphasized, once again, the wealth that is the experience of sharing debates and concerns while prayer spaces with fellow Christians of different denominations, united by a common faith in the risen Christ.

(You can find most of the presentations on www.icma.as)

AOS European Conference

Port de Bouc, France 22nd – 26th September 2011, under the patronage of Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

There were 36 delegates from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Malta, Greece, Poland, Spain, UK and the Vatican, under the leading theme:

“Witnesses of the God’s Love on the Move and through Service “

Conference aims:

- To prepare AOS Europe’s contribution to the XXIII AOS World Congress (2012).
- For AOS Europe collectively to:

Be aware of the situation of AOS Europe and some issues in today’s maritime world.

Presentations:

“Witnesses of God’s Love on the Move and through Service” by prof. Henryk Sławiński

“Presentation on piracy by Captain Lampros D. Nellas – AOS Greece

“MLC 2006 and Fishing Convention 2007 by Alexandre Charbonneau – Université de Bordeaux

“AOS commitment to fishers and their families” by Fr. Dirk Demaeght –

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Flemish government.

“AOS Global Cruise ministry” by Deacon Ricardo Rodriguez-Martos (AOS Barcelona).

“IT at the service of AOS ministry” by Fr. Giacomo Martino

Finally, there was the celebration of the Holy Mass in the Notre Dame de la Garde Basilica in Marseille.

Next Regional Conference in Odessa?

The team of Odessa is now working to prepare our next regional conference, next year, there. However, this is until now just a project. As soon as we have proper information, we will inform you immediately.

This was the 10th bulletin.

Please send contributions for the next one!