



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MARITIME ASSOCIATION

ICMA MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK SEA AND MIDDLE EAST

BULLETIN

7th BULLETIN (November 2010)

Dear friends:

Here you have the 7th Bulletin of our region.

In September ICMA celebrated the AGM and the Consultative Forum in Penang (Malaysia). You will find here some informations about it and also about the next World Conference in 2011. I will also include a deep and suggestive article of Brother Alois from Taizé regarding Eucharist and Ecumenism.

Finally, we have a very sad new: Rev. Vladimir Parfenenko, Port Chaplain from the International Seafarers Society in Odessa, died after a long illness.

Ricardo

Regional Coordinator

Our friend and colleague Rev. Vladimir Parfenenko (ISS Port Chaplain in Odessa) passed away last september

Rev. Vladimir Parfenenko died after a long illness. He used to attend ICMA Regional Conferences and was a very kind person. His smile on the picture reflects very well how he was.

It is an important loose for ISS, for Ukraine and for all who, like him, work for seafarers welfare. May the lord award all the good things he did.

Let us pray for him and for his family.



Consultative Forum in Penang (Malaysia)

On September 25th we had the ICMA Consultative Forum. There were 4 workshops. 1.) Why is ICMA important, 2.) The theology underlying ecumenical working within ICMA, 3.) Post piracy care. 4.) Ministry to fishers.

First of all we had a very interesting presentation of Mr. David Fredrick.



General Manager Human Resource Management (Sea) MISC BHD, explained how they have handle a case of piracy providing all the needs of the crews and their families, hiring professionals for handling with pirates and to provide assistance to the victims.



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Afterwards the **Workshop on post piracy** decided to prepare a survey asking: “what you found most helpful and what was least helpful, when working with seafarers and their families who had been affected by piracy (including hijacking, attack and threat of attack)”

On the ICMA website you can find it and send your answer.

The Workshop on Why is ICMA important underlined the work made by ICMA, referring the key elements like: to promote collaboration among Christian associations, to act as a coordinating body, to be the collective voice of member associations and to coordinate, support and promote ecumenical cooperation in the maritime world, respectfully, taking into consideration the nature of every member society.

The workshop on Theology discussed about the possibility to develop some theological reflection about our ecumenical work. Following themes were mentioned: Mission, Ecumenism, Diaconal work, Incarnation, Magisterium, Advocacy, Justice and Spirituality.

It seemed to be a great interest in this topic and the discussions and reactions gave clear evidence that the reflection on The Theology/ies, inspiring our maritime work and grounding it, should continue.

This discussion could/should be kept alive by a discussion group on the internet or via e-mail.

For **the Workshop on Fishers** there were no participants.

Annual General Meeting:

Doug. Stevenson, Chairman of ICMA presented his report, which was approved.

Members' Reports: The Member Societies, the Regions and the Programs had presented their reports which were included in the general report.

Robert Adams presented the ICMA finances, which were approved.

The application from the Nordelbischen Kirche (Lutherse Evangelische Kirche) for membership of ICMA was presented and accepted.

Date and venue of next AGM: It was agreed that the 2011 Annual General Meeting will be held in Hamburg Germany after the ICMA World Conference.

ICMA World Conference in 2011

The next ICMA World Conference will be held in Hamburg (Germany) from August 19th to 23rd.

The conference fee including accommodation and meals, according



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the present situation, will be about 700 €. However, the organisation's committee is working to achieve a better price.

The World Conference is generously supported by the ITF Seafarers Trust and the TK Foundation.

They have also spoken with Lufthansa and there will be special discount for the participants who fly with this airline.

In short ICMA will prepare a special website for the World conference where you will find all the information about it.

However, it is important that you start to prepare your budget and, if necessary, look for some financial help for your participation in this important event.

Congratulations to our colleagues of Odessa Seamen's club, which celebrated their 10th anniversary

In July Odessa Seamen's club celebrated its 10th anniversary. Every year about 5000 seafarers visit this centre. International telephones, WI-FI zone, pool room, air hockey and table football, bar facilities, souvenir shop, ping pong room, chaplain room – all these facilities enable seafarers feel at home in the centre. Sport activities and holiday celebrations are appreciated by the seafarers as well.

During the celebration Port authorities representatives as well as Trade union leaders visited the centre. Staff members were awarded diplomas for their successful welfare work..



AOS celebrates 90 years of serving seafarers

Congratulations to ICMA member Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) celebrating their 90th anniversary this year.

AOS began in 1920 in the port of Glasgow, Scotland, as an initiative to bring together various existing efforts on the part of the Catholic Church to help visiting seafarers. The original constitution gave as the purpose: "to promote the spiritual, moral and social development of seafarers".

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary, Archbishop Antonio Maria Veglio, President of the Pontifical Council which oversees AOS, has issued a message reflecting on the organisation's history and on its work today.



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Left to right: Fr Bruno Ciceri of AOS and member of the ICMA Executive Committee with ICMA General Secretary Rev Hennie la Grange, and Archbishop Veglio

In his message, Archbishop Veglio acknowledges the changes in the maritime world since AOS was founded: for example, how today's short turnaround times have made ship visiting, by well-trained pastoral workers, vital. Other contemporary challenges include the trauma caused by piracy, pollution and the depletion of fish stocks. In an international profession, and an era of globalisation, the need for cooperation with the maritime sector and good relations with partners, including other churches, is acknowledged.

AOS was a founder member of ICMA. The organisation has consistently demonstrated its commitment to ecumenism, to working together for the benefit of seafarers. We congratulate our valued partners and wish them many more years of devoted service to the People of the Sea.

Some ecumenical theological thoughts:

Brother Alois from Taizé says:
(http://www.taize.fr/en_article8367.html)

"In presenting this last evening, John tells how Jesus began by washing his disciples' feet. The other three Gospels recall that Jesus instituted the Eucharist on that night. It is fortunate that we are invited to commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the foot-washing on the same day. These two acts are closely linked: both express the entire mystery of Jesus' being in utter simplicity. Differently than by words, perhaps better than by words, Jesus shows what lies at the heart of the Gospel: "I have loved you to the end."

Both for the Eucharist and for the foot-washing, the contrast is striking between the act and what it stands for. The poverty and simplicity of these two signs make them accessible to everyone.

Are we sufficiently aware that through a service as simple as the washing of feet, we allow the presence of the Risen Christ to act in the world? Our commitment is often on the order of signs, just as the life of Jesus was. We may be doing nothing more than washing the feet of those entrusted to us. But our acts of solidarity are signs that can open a way forward for Christ and transfigure humanity.

To become more aware of the link between the Eucharist and service: is that not a source of renewal for the Church today? Yes, the Eucharist invites us to the washing of feet, to go like Jesus to the utmost bound of love, to love as he loved."



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And some comment thinking of ICMA:

If we apply this text to the field of ICMA, we may might ask ourselves: *Are we aware that through a service as simple as* visiting some sailors on board, offering transport to the city, giving them the chance to talk by phone or internet with their families, or simply listen to them, *we allow the presence of the Risen Christ to act in the world?*

We may doing nothing more than offer some welfare facilities or accompany a sailor in his solitude. *But our acts of solidarity are signs that can open a way for Christ and transfigure humanity.*

Activities for the Year of the Seafarers:

Workshop on MLC 2006:

The Welfare Committee (Comité de Solidaridad) of Barcelona organized a workshop on MLC which was called by the President of the Port. Spanish Maritime Administration, Spanish Labour organisation, Shipowners, and Seafarers were represented.

Jean Yves Legouas from ILO was expected to come, but because of the general strike in Spain, he couldn't come. The chairman of the maritime law section of the Bar Association in Barcelona exposed this convention from the legal point of view.

Seafarers Photo Award 2010

Organised by AOS Barcelona, these photo award was announced in July

2010 as an activity for the year of the seafarer.

26 authors presented 76 photos.



Winning photo: "Fishers" by Jorge Llorca

The prize-giving ceremony will happen on November 24th during the Seafarers week and after a workshop on interreligious coexistence on board merchant vessels.

Last news:

M/V "Delphin"

The cruise ship Delphin is stranded in Venice with 225 crew. It seems that German ship-owner, Delphin Cruises, is in bankruptcy and the ship has been arrested in Venice by creditors. Several voices from our region has send e-mails asking for support. Captain Igor Gaber is thankful for this reaction. As far as we know the crew is being assisted by AOS Venice, Stella Maris Friends and the ITF.

**This was the 7th bulletin.
Please send contributions for
the next one!**