



NEWSLETTER

STELLA MARIS SEAFARERS' CENTER – KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, R.O.C.

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Mass On Board

A Spiritual Support to Seafarers Away from Home

By Michelle Yu

Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung Taiwan



The Mass represents the Last Supper, when Jesus broke bread and drank wine with his disciples. According to the Bible, Jesus instructed his disciples to eat the bread and drink the wine in order to remember Him. To Catholics, attending Mass and worshipping together is not only a way of commemorating the Last Supper, but also a way of strengthening and professing their faith as Christians.

While we are very fortunate to decide whether we will go and attend a Mass on a shiny bright Sunday, the seafarers who have been crossing oceans between hemispheres bringing us vital supplies, goods and materials which modern world seems to so desperately crave, are pitiful because most of the time, it is impossible for them to

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Latest Maritime Short News

BBC (Oct. 12) - *The Filipino captain of a Rena Vessel that has grounded off New Zealand and is leaking oil into the sea has been arrested and charged with "operating a vessel in a manner causing unnecessary danger or risk". It is estimated that 350 tons of oil have leaked from the ship which may cause New Zealand's environmental disaster in many decades.*

ShipTalk Ltd. (Sep. 26) - *Holy Pressure: A Vatican official has urged the Philippine government to approve the Maritime Labor Convention (MLC) of 2006 to ensure "fair employment practices" for Filipino seafarers.*

MARITIME TIPS

International Labor Standards Policy

Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

Standard A2.2 – Wages

1. Each Member shall require that payments due to seafarers working on ships that fly its flag are made at no greater than monthly intervals and in accordance with any applicable collective agreement.

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have Masses onboard when they are out to sea. It is tough for them to maintain their faith, especially when they are feeling depressed or lonely whilst at sea for more than three months and up.

It is estimated that of the world's population engaging in seafaring career, more than 60% are Catholics or come from Catholic countries. That is why, one of the primary aims of Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) here in Kaohsiung, Taiwan is to sustain and nourish the faith of the seafarers while they are away from homes and churches for long period of time.

The AOS- Kaohsiung is actively engaged in the visiting of seafarers onboard ships to provide practical assistance and pastoral care while they are in port. If you think that Mass Onboard is as regular as what we have on lands, well you are wrong. To the seafarers, a one-hour Mass Onboard for them is a very special occasion, especially having a priest on board their ship—what they called their home, workplace, amusement area, and of course, a church—celebrating Mass, offering communion and prayers for their safe onward voyage. Like the MV Magnolia Ace where AOS Chaplain Fr. Roger C. Manalo, CS had celebrated Mass last Oct. 4, the seafarers onboard enjoyed the Mass and even requested for a Blessing of the Ship. After the Mass and Blessing of the ship, it was like fiesta onboard for all the



seafarers as they felt relief and well-nourished.



AOS Kaohsiung does not only pay visits to ships and celebrate Mass Onboard. They bring useful magazines, newsletters, and other reading materials to the seafarers. They talk and listen to the seafarers; eat and drink with them onboard, and most important, care for them, making them feel they are "at home with special friends" even for a little moment.

Deck The Halls

By Michelle Yu

Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung Taiwan

This coming December 10 to 12, Stella Maris Seafarers' Center in Kaohsiung Taiwan is playing host to a Christmas Party for all the SEAFARERS and FISHERMEN who are away from homes. There will be free food and drinks, karaoke singing contest, raffle draw and gifts giving. We cordially invite all the seafarers to help us deck our halls with Christmas cheer, and join us in a toasting and sharing of food, drinks and laughter.

So, if you happened to be here on December 10 to 12, please come and enjoy the feast. It will be loads of fun to have you hanging around with us. You can inform us with the contacts on page 4, or stay tune to VHF Channel 10.

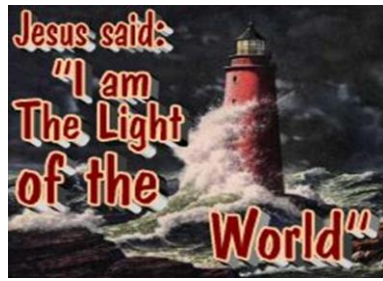
Being a Seaman Can Be Easy If You Have Faith

Story by Mr. Cesar, a seaman
Arranged and written by Charlie Esguerra
Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung Taiwan

My name is Cesar. I'm a first assistant engineer. I became a seaman because this is the only work I'd thought of and I think it is God's will why I chose this career.

Being a seafarer is difficult; for sometimes, it is physically and mentally tiresome. I never forgot that experience when our vessel had encountered total engine stop in the middle of the sea because of the bad weather. However, this problem does not discourage me for I know God is always there to protect us. Homesick is another usual thing that every seafarer encounters. Like me, as I am away from home for so many months, I do really miss my family a lot. But I have to tolerate that homesickness because I have to earn money for my family and being seafarer seems to be earning more dollars compared to other jobs in our country. All I can do is to always pray to God and this is also the only way to sustain my spiritual life onboard.

I thank the Lord for giving me strength in the sea, always protecting me and my crew mates, as well as my family.



By Fr. Roger C. Manalo, CS
Stella Maris Seafarers' Center, Kaohsiung Taiwan

When Fr. Boy was still here as a port chaplain, I love listening to him talking with seafarers – using the lingo that the seafarers can understand. He was well verse on seafarer's language because he was a former seafarer himself. He can understand more their plight, he can understand and empathized with them and therefore the seafarers can easily open up themselves to him. He was one of them in every real sense of the word.

It is not therefore a wishful thinking to have a former seafarer as a port chaplain but to make it a reality, somebody from your rank has stand up. If you are a young seafarers, not married, has been entertaining in the past that you might have a priestly vocation, why not give a try. Be a Scalabrinian and dedicate you r life in the ministry of the seafarers in many ports of the world.

If you are in the Philippines, please contact our Scalabrini Vocation Office at 41, 7th Street, New Manila, Quezon City (phone: +63-2-722-8863, e-mail: csvocations@gmail.com or log on to <http://www.csvocations.org.ph>)

If you are in Taiwan, you may call +886-9-88288135 or e-mail us at: aos.khh@gmail.com. Young seafarers, you have the vocation to bring God's Word to the ends of world.

Port Chaplain's Corner



Fr. Roger Cortuna Manalo, CS
Port Chaplain

AOS ON FIRE!!

One day I was driving back with the AOS staff to Stella Maris Seafarers Center from the port after celebrating mass onboard, there was a big fuel tanker that swerved in front of us and I remarked that if we would collide with that truck, then we will be AOS on fire.

Yes, in a deeper thought, AOS in fact should always be on fire because....

- It should enkindle the faith of the seafarers and the fishermen
- It should ignite the dedication and zeal, generosity and compassion of the people benefitting from seafarers and fishermen's work and the staff working at AOS
- Its programs should be warm and light giving
- It should emit rays to serve as light house of faith to guide everyone in sailing the treacherous ocean of life and it should fire them up as they facing head on the chaos and storm of life that they experience day after day.

Yes, AOS-Kaohsiung is in fact, on fire...

- with the new initiatives and projects that we are doing for the people of the sea

- with 2 new staff – both efficient and capable, dependable and intelligent, dedicated and zealous, generous and bighearted: Michelle and Charlie
- Renewed collaboration and cooperation with other seafarer center and other NGOs
- Rejuvenated enthusiasm to reach out to seafarers and fishermen to make them feel at home when they are in Kaohsiung and let them feel that they are not alone
- Invigorated devotion to minister to the seafarers/fishermen and to attend to their needs spiritually, emotionally, socially
- Revitalized commitment to disseminate the information to people around about the important contributions that seafarers and fishermen are making in our everyday life
- And re-energized ardor to bring to people and the government the real plight of the seafarers and the fishermen.

AOS-Kaohsiung is indeed on fire!

DONATION CORNER

Make your donation and help us go on with our mission:

Bank: Bank Of Kaohsiung, Kaohsiung Taiwan
Account Name: The Catholic Diocese of Kaohsiung- Stella Maris International Service Center

Account No.: 235210446165

SWIFT Code: BKAOTWTK

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