



Catholic Maritime News

SPRING 2018

VOLUME 87

Absolute Care and Respect

On the Feast of Pentecost, May 24, 2015 Pope Francis published his teaching *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home*. The themes our Holy Father addressed three years ago continue to be a challenge and also give great hope to our daily ministry for Seafarers. Among the themes he developed was the Scriptural understanding that as human beings we are all connected through the order of Creation. The care that we offer to one another reflects the care we offer to Creation. In a powerful turn of phrase Pope Francis challenges our “throwaway culture” – since it seems the carelessness with which we throw away food sheds light on the carelessness with which we consider other people and the effect our choices have on them.

Upholding the value of work, Pope Francis wrote: “We are convinced that “man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life”. Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood.[101] We need to remember that men and women have “the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments”. (Paragraph 127: *Laudato Si*)

The footnotes of this paragraph refer to the Second Vatican Council *Gaudium et spes*, Pope Paul VI *Populorum Progressio* and St. John Paul II *Centesimus Annus*. All of these teachings highlight the promotion of the dignity and worth of the human person as “particularly urgent” for today’s world. This is what we do! In our daily tasks, strengthened by the Holy Spirit in prayer we make sure that the human person is the source, focus and aim of all that we do.

Among the many beautiful qualities I’ve heard from the testimony of Port Chaplains is the absolute care and respect you have for every person – every voice deserves to be heard! You understand that defending justice for workers and creating space for spiritual dialogue are challenges and opportunities. In the coming months there will be several conferences and prayer services that give us the opportunity to support one another. Each is an opportunity to learn more about the challenges we face and share creative ideas in ministry. I want to particularly encourage our chaplains to attend one or more of the conferences mentioned in this newsletter. I’ll be attending the Annual Conference of NAMMA in Baltimore and the AOS Regional Chaplains Conference and Meeting in Vancouver in August.

Pope Francis concluded *Laudato Si* with a couple of prayers. Some words from his final prayer may be fitting for us as we continue to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our ministry:

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you! Amen.



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

+ Brendan Cahill



Catholic Maritime News

is published by the

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) National Office

3 times a year – spring, summer and winter.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, & Travelers

Bishop Promoter: Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill
Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, TX

AOS National Director Contact: Sr. Dr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017

Phone: (202) 541-3359 ■ Fax: (202) 541-5417
E-mail: jokereke@uscgb.org

www.usccb.org/AOS

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@uscgb.org.

DISCLAIMER

Statements and opinions expressed in articles and other materials herein are the views of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Apostleship of the Sea National Office.

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.

For AOSUSA membership enquiries:

Doreen Badeaux
1500 Jefferson Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77642
Tel. (409) 985-4545 ■ Fax (409) 985-5945

E-mail: aosusa@sbcglobal.net ■ www.AOS-usa.org

Visit to the Port of Jacksonville Florida: A Sign of Encouragement

Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

The Catholic Church in the United States of America continues its efforts to draw a special attention to the pastoral needs of those working in the maritime industry. Undeniably, living the Catholic faith on board ships at sea is a big challenge. Many seafarers face painful and long periods of separation from family and friends, without the support or network to help them prosper. Their work is strenuous, dangerous, isolated and lonely. Their unique and unusual profession is challenging, prone to accident, boredom and with poor salary. The Church therefore makes special effort to promote the pastoral care through the Apostleship of the Sea; caring for seafarers, fishers and their families.

The visit to the Port of Jacksonville (JAXPORT) at St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida was an exciting and encouraging opportunity to experience the life at the port and to be exposed to the different ministry styles and the challenging but rewarding tasks of the Apostleship of the Sea. The huge number of car ships that traffic through Jacksonville Port, reflects the continuing growth of the port. One of the widest shipping channels in the Southeast region of the United States, the volume of trade and cruise ships that move through JAXPORT is a proof of its international network and activity.

Thanks to Bishop Felipe J. Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine, through his support for the Catholic Port Chaplains and volunteers who carry out pastoral care, welcome and hospitality to seafarers and their families, the Diocese of St. Augustine established its own Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. This has ensured that the Christian faithful are able to show their unconditional love to the seafarers. The Bishop's appointment of Deacon Milton Vega as the Director of the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre evidences his fraternal love and care.

The Catholic Port ministry of Jacksonville, continues to promote the spiritual and social well-being of seafarers by giving them a friendly and safe environment, a chance to relax, and support in living the Catholic/Christian faith while serving aboard ships at sea. The director of the Apostleship of the Sea, Catholic Port Ministries Jacksonville, Florida, Deacon Milton Vega found it extremely valuable to have volunteers. He



Thoi Phi Bullard AOS Port Volunteer and Deacon Milton Vega, director of the Apostleship of the Sea, Catholic Port Ministries Jacksonville, Florida

recognizes when the centers are busy and relies on the support of the volunteers.

Some of the services offered by the Catholic Port Ministries of Jacksonville are:

- Visit to the ships that arrive at the terminals
- Mass, Catholic Communion Service, Confession and spiritual counseling
- Transportation from the ship to the Seafarer's Centre, as well as to points of interest in Jacksonville, for example, to churches, local shopping centers and malls
- Provision of spiritual materials
- Postal service



Goods available to Seafarers who come into port.

- Call center (land line/cell phone usage)
- Computer with Internet service
- Television/movies

As the National Director, the passion and dedication of the chaplains to the mission of the Apostleship of the Sea inspires me to bring the assurance that the Church cares for the people of the sea. Visiting the ports and supporting the chaplains to effectively reach out to seafarers enables me to know the chaplains, to give them a chance to ask questions, to share experiences and to assist in any issues they may have. The visits help to open up the lines of communication, it's a chance to build relationship and trust. Indeed, it is a time to listen, to offer ideas and to share resources. I am thankful to be able to support quality services, further the improvement and expansion of pastoral care to more ports and to advance the mission of the Apostleship of the Sea.



Deacon Vega and seafarers sharing time together.



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCI, National Director of Apostleship of the Sea and Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, Bishop of St. Augustine

Bishop Promoter Visits Baltimore

By Andrew Middleton

On November 17, 2017 Apostleship of the Sea-Baltimore had the privilege of hosting his Excellency, Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, for the day. Although an exciting day for AOS Baltimore, the absence of AOS Director, Msgr. John FitzGerald was truly felt. Msgr. FitzGerald was just a few days into his recovery from knee replacement surgery at the time of Bishop Cahill's visit.

Bishop Cahill was able to celebrate mass at Sacred Heart of Mary parish thanks to the cooperation of the pastor, Rev. George Gannon. In attendance were parishioners of the Sacred Heart and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea-Baltimore. Bishop Cahill gave a wonderful sermon and spent time after mass speaking with those in attendance.

Bishop Cahill was also given a tour of the Port of Baltimore by Andrew Middleton, Operations Director for the AOS-Baltimore. While touring the port, Bishop Cahill was also able to go on board a vessel and speak with a few crew members.

Bishop Cahill ended his tour at the Stella Maris International Seafarer center where he spent more time with the volunteers of AOS-Baltimore and also received a tour of the center.

Pictured are His Excellency, Bishop Cahill, Along with Rev. George Gannon and AOS Baltimore Volunteers.



Bishop Cahill pictured with AOS Baltimore Volunteers



Andrew Middleton, Maritime Associate, Port of Baltimore and Most Rev. Brendan Cahill, Bishop of Victoria, Texas and Bishop Promoter of Apostleship of the Sea



On a recent trip to the Port of Houston, Texas, Sr. Joanna Okererke, HHCJ, above (Center), with Muthudurage Rajjtha Senadeera (left) and Athula Wickamasinghe (right) on when she did a ship visit and got a first hand lesson on how the AOS port volunteers dress or a ship visit.



A Fulfilled Maritime Port Ministry

By Fr. Jan Kubisa, Chaplain at the Port of Houston



Prayer and blessing of the spot where a port worker was killed - a heavy cargo load crushed him. The captain and crew were very much affected by the tragedy.



Blessing in the engine room, and asking God to shelter and protect the seafarers.

Right: A Catholic seafarer from India, near the Shrine of Velankani, receiving Christmas boxes from the Houston Seafarers' Center.

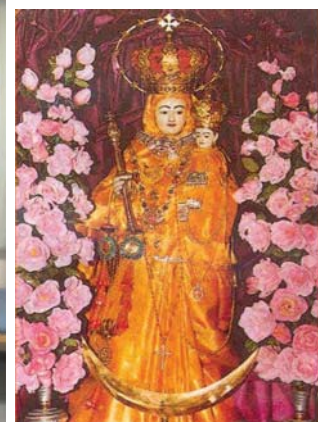
He was very proud to share with Fr. Jan about the numerous Catholics, Hindus and Muslims that go on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Velankani, to ask the Blessed Mother for healing. (The Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health is located at the small town of Velankanni in the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India. Our Lady of Good Health, also known as Our Lady of Vailankanni, is a celebrated Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)



After Mass at the Seafarer's Center in front of a unique painting representing St. Nicolas, the patron for seafarers.



Above: Mass on board the ship.



Our lady of Vailankanni

WORLD FISHERIES DAY

Pietro Parravano

November 21, 2017

It seems like yesterday that World Fisheries day was established in New Delhi, India. It seems like yesterday that I shared the excitement with fishermen from around the world in forming our organization—The World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters (WFF). It seems like yesterday that the world started an annual event that celebrated the profession of commercial fishing.

On November 21, 1997, fishermen from eighteen countries left their boats and traveled to New Delhi, India.

Strangers, bonded by the Oceans, met to establish a new organization. The creation of the WFF was founded on the common principles of sustaining the fisheries; sustaining the fishing communities; advocating for social justice and preserving the cultural history of fish harvesters and fish workers. Fishing representatives from 18 countries signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies. The

representatives from the United States that participated in this milestone were Angela Sanfilippo from Gloucester, MA; Barbara Stickel from Morro Bay, CA and myself.

“Yesterday” was twenty years ago. The first World Fisheries day was celebrated on November 21, 1997! Each one of us can reflect on what the last twenty years have meant for us in our professional and personal lives. Lots of ups and downs, lots of happiness and sadness and lots of

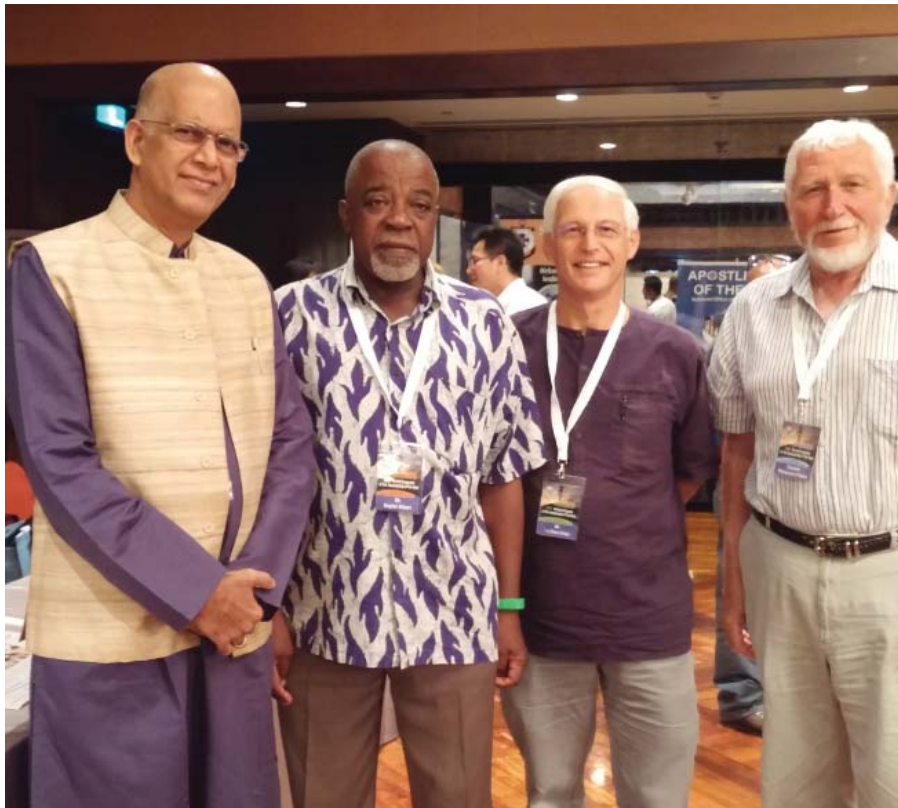
successes and failures. As fishermen, we look back at the past twenty years with a perspective based on economic, ecological and social values. We measure our profession with unique indicators and principles. Our workplace are the Oceans and lakes which cover about 75% of Earth. This workplace has many challenges which are based on natural systems. Skills and knowledge are needed to harvest food that is constantly changing location and abundance. Equally important is the vulnerability to changing conditions.

Fishing has been around for a very long time—thousands of years. So, twenty years is a small of time relative to the chronicles of fishing in world history.

We know that the Bible has several references to gospels which describe the importance of fish and fishermen. Nowadays, fishing is the focal point of many policies, regulations and nutritional interest. Many times we take for granted that food will be always available and plentiful. Many times we do not understand the source of food and how food travels through a supply chain. Commercial fishermen bring you a variety of seafood which is unique to the region. They do this with pride using skills that they have learned working on the back deck

of fishing boats. Often catching fish is a spiritual way of life and serves as a symbol of culture and heritage. World Fisheries day illustrates the importance of fish as food and the role of the fishermen in providing us with this nourishment. This pride continues today.

Unfortunately, twenty years has brought us calamities and losses. Many fishermen have died working or pursuing their quest of teaching others the economic,



Pictured: Sebastian Matthew, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, Albert Napier, Apostleship of the Sea, Seychelles Islands, Alain LeSann, Apostleship of the Sea, France, Pietro Parravano, AOSUSA Fishing Board Representative, AOS Fishing Sector.

ecological and social importance of sustaining the fisheries. Disasters—natural and man-made—have taken a severe toll on the fisheries and fishermen. The inhumane treatment of fishermen held captive on boats has become prevalent in the last twenty years.

Fortunately, twenty years has brought a lot more awareness to fishermen, the fisheries and the coastal communities. Recently (October 1-7, 2017), the Vatican, through its maritime ministry—the Apostleship of the Sea—organized a World Congress in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The conference, *Caught In The Net*, gave an overview of abuse on board fishing vessels. Many organizations gave presentations on how they are addressing the human rights violations. I am very grateful that Pope Francis is addressing these human rights issues on fishing boats. It is in alignment with his goal of equality and reinforces the meaning of World Fisheries day to advocate for social justice and fair labor conditions in fishing. Ocean health and fishing comes with a price which is recognized on World Fisheries day. This day helps us understand the vulnerability of the fisheries to disasters and water quality.

World Fisheries day welcomes us into the livelihood and experiences of fishermen—a union that is held together by the circle created by the Oceans. It gives us an insight into their culture, their lives and their knowledge. Twenty years ago in New Delhi, this bond established solidarity. Solidarity between fishermen replaces hopelessness and loneliness. It overcomes despair and fear.

Each year on November 21, we return to where it all started twenty years ago. It defines a path, twenty years in the making, which has brought us closer to the bounty of the Oceans. Looking forward, this path will bring a heightened awareness to the plight of the Oceans' resources and to those that spend their lives bringing us seafood. It truly brings out the goodness of the Oceans and those that bring us seafood.

Pietro Parravano

Chair, Fishing Committee Apostleship of the Sea
Half Moon Bay, CA



DEAD IN THE WATER: A NEW DOCUMENTARY ON THE METHODOICAL DESTRUCTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND GROUND FISHING INDUSTRY

By Angela Sanfilippo

The Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association & Lighthouse Productions are proud to announce the new film, *Dead in the Water*. This moving documentary tells the story of the persecution and resulting demise of the New England commercial groundfishing industry over the last 20 years, as well as the ongoing struggle of the remaining fishermen to continue to make a living in the face of poor science and unresponsive management.



Banner on the wall of the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester, MA announcing the showing of the documentary of "Dead in the Water" Released in 2010, the documentary is being shown in the Northeast United States as well as being requested to be shown in other countries around the world.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker David Wittkower, this compelling and eye-opening film shows audiences the relentless destruction of the New England fishing communities due to poorly considered regulations based on bad science and incomplete data. Told in first person by fishermen and those with close knowledge of the industry, *Dead in the Water* tells of the demise of coastal fishing communities and their centuries-old tradition of harvesting the bounty of the ocean. But most important, it

shows the indomitable spirit of those who risk their lives on the open waters.

For the last 20 years, New England Groundfish fishermen have seen both their fleets of boats and the onshore infrastructure that supports and depends on them disappear from their communities as the federal regulators kept cutting their allowable quota of fish. Lawsuits were filed against the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide some relief from the draconian regulations, but these were eventually lost in the courts as nobody believed the fishermen. Environmentalists and others portrayed fishermen in a negative light, implying they only cared about catching every last fish in the ocean. The reality is much different, of course: no one cares more about protecting the fish than the fishermen; fish are their livelihood. But just as important is the data that shows the fish stocks are far healthier and more abundant than NOAA scientists and managers claim.

When filmmaker David Wittkower, a Rockport native, visited Cape Ann four years ago, he noticed the striking lack of activity in the once-busy fishing port of Gloucester, MA. After he made inquiries, he learned something of the sad story of how groundfishermen were being driven out of business, and decided this story needed to be told, and told by the actual fishermen themselves, in their own words. Thanks to generous financial donations by local businesses and philanthropists, and the donation of his time by David Wittkower, the production of this full-length film was able to proceed. As *Dead in the Water* was nearing completion in the Fall of 2015, the codfish quota



Commenting after viewing the film are: (from L to R): Niaz Dorry (fisheries advocate), Al Cottone (fisherman), Paul Vitale (fisherman), Rick Beal (fisherman), and J.J. Bartlett (fisheries advocate)

allowed to groundfishermen was cut by 75%, due to faulty government stock assessments—lending new urgency to the need for this important film to be seen as widely and as soon as possible.

When the premiere of *Dead in the Water* was shown on November 18, 2017, in David Wittkower's hometown of Rockport, MA, it was received by thunderous applause by the packed house, as well as at the six subsequent showings to standing-room-only audiences. At all the screenings, the audiences posed many questions to the panels of fishermen and industry experts available for the discussion period following. Local newspapers and the National Fishermen's Magazine wrote glowing reviews of the film. In addition, fishing communities across the United States, as well as several in England and Scotland, have sent both messages of support and heartfelt praise, as well as requests for showings in their localities. And in April 2018, this worthwhile documentary will be screened in six new towns in Massachusetts and Maine, including a screening at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. A three-minute trailer of *Dead in the Water*, plus up-to-date screening locations and times, can be seen at www.deadinthewater.info.



Audience viewing dead in the water which was sold out with standing room only

About the author: Angela Sanfilippo is President of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association. She can be reached at asanfilippo@gfwa.org



Left to right: John Bell, former mayor of Gloucester, who helped raise the money for the documentary, Angela Sanfilippo, and David Wittkower, Producer of "Dead in the Water"

The following two articles are from *Chirp Maritime Feedback Magazine*, reprinted with permission. *CHIRP Aviation and Maritime Confidential Incident Reporting* for maritime can be found at: <https://www.chirp.co.uk/newsletters/maritime>.

You may wish to view the report titled "Perception, Decision Making & Fatigue at Sea" along with its associated video "Vision and Decision" on the Chirp website: <https://www.chirpmaritime.org/publications/>

An Illusion of Safety

Ian Shields

OUTLINE: A report outlining dangers with inertia-wire rope safety lanyards when not used correctly.

What the Reporter told us:

Rigging the gangway, the crew were dutifully using inertia-wire rope safety lanyards clipped to the webbing straps of life jackets. There were a few issues of concern and I don't believe they are unique to this vessel.

- The life-jacket was not of a type designed for fall arrest. (Lanyard clipped around strap and strap around torso).
- There was no energy absorbing lanyard in use.
- There was no obvious rescue means on hand at the top of the work area.
- The inertia-wire rope unit was not directly above the worker. Should they have fallen they would have suffered the pendulum effect. The wire was passing over a sharp coaming.



Life-jacket with safety lanyard

- The inertia unit was secured to handrails that were in poor condition.

There are many factors here, including the design of a gangway area that seems to have no regard for how to rig safely. The idea that someone is expected to walk down a gangway with no rails and then lift those rails into place shows that good human-centred design has a long way to go in our industry.

Further to this, if we can't change the design we should at least consider how we make people safe carrying out this task? How do we get an unconscious person back to deck level when using a safety harness and stop them dying from suspension trauma?

Typical marine industry reaction will likely be more training for the seafarer to ensure he/she is blamed for what is, at root, a design issue not a behaviour/training issue.

CHIRP Comment:

The Maritime Advisory Board agreed with all aspects of this report. It is good example of Human Centred Design not being applied, forcing crews to work around the problem. **Designers take note!**

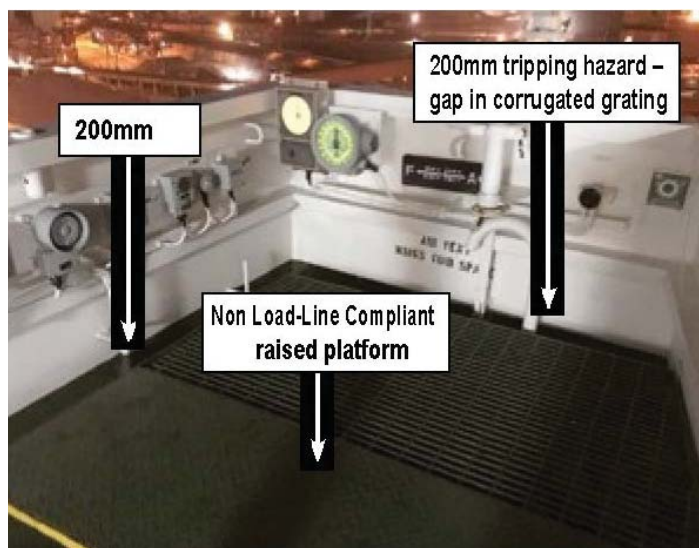


Watch Your Step!! Poorly designed bridge wing platform

OUTLINE: Poor design – a tripping hazard with the potential for a fatal fall from height.

What the Reporter told us:

I piloted a vessel into port this morning. As I walked out to the bridge wing in the dark I was confronted by a platform approximately 200mm off the deck - despite the yellow paint on the edge it was almost invisible. Once on the platform I had the coaming of the bridge at mid-thigh level as opposed to hip level. Being some 26m above the wharf, this was quite unnerving.



Tripping Hazards on a bridge wing - Height to coaming must be a minimum of 1000mm

Upon stepping off and proceeding to the bridge during berthing my foot slipped off the outboard edge. This was due to the fact that there was a gap off approximately 200mm between the platform and the solid upright part of the bridge wing.

I am not sure why the ship was built with this platform - the only thing it appears to do is make it easier for a person to fall off the bridge wing.

The reporter passed the incident to Port State Control who visited the vessel to follow up and conduct a scheduled inspection. They commented that, remarkably, this ship is some 13 years old yet the matter has never been raised. The International Convention on Load Lines 1966, Regulation 25(2) Protection of Crew states that a minimum bulwark height of 1000mm from the deck is required. With the addition of the deck platform the height was reduced to about 880mm which does not comply with

this regulation.

The vessel's classification society also stipulate that for bridge wings, freeboard decks and superstructure decks, the minimum height of bulwarks must be 1000mm.

A deficiency was raised with a direction to comply with the regulation as soon as practicable. Until then a risk assessment must be completed with appropriate measures taken to ensure there is no risk of falling or tripping hazard to any persons occupying the area. The company's port captain, on board at the time, agreed to follow up accordingly.

CHIRP Comment:

The non-compliant design should have been identified in a flag state survey. A risk assessment should have been undertaken and a Management of Change process applied at the design stage. This should have been approved by the ship managers. This report should raise the awareness of all mariners about the need for a minimum bulwark height of 1,000mm, and the inherent dangers of tripping over obstacles at night.



**"OMARY, CONCEIVED
WITHOUT SIN, PRAY
FOR US WHO HAVE
RECOURSE TO THEE."**

National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea, May 22

May 1, 2018

WASHINGTON—The National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea will be celebrated on May 22. The day is observed in conjunction with National Maritime Day in the United States of America, which has been celebrated since 1933 to honor those who serve as merchant mariners and to recognize the benefits of the maritime industry.

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas, and Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) promoter, is encouraging dioceses to mark the national day by remembering the men and women of the sea in homilies and by including special petitions during Mass. When Mass is celebrated on May 22, the text for the Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea, is also encouraged.

Bishop Cahill will celebrate a Mass in observance of Maritime Day on Saturday, May 19, at 12:10 p.m., in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. The Mass is sponsored by the AOS national office and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS), is a worldwide Catholic maritime ministry that engages with seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas, regardless of race, color or creed. The maritime ministry shows the Church's care and concern to seafarers who are often away from home for many months because of the nature of their work and lifestyle. A network of AOS port offices and Catholic chaplains provide spiritual and practical assistance that accommodate a seafarer's unique lifestyle and needs.

In the message addressed to chaplains, volunteers, friends and supporters of the Apostleship of the Sea, on Sea Sunday July 9, 2017, Cardinal Peter Appia Kodwo Turkson said, "In our daily lives, we are surrounded by and use many objects and products that at some stage of their journey towards us have been transported on vessels. It is difficult for us to imagine behind these objects the faces of the many seafarers who have secured a smooth sailing for the vessel to deliver these commodities to the port safely. We are invited to recognize and express our gratitude to this force of more than 1.5 million seafarers, who with their hard work and sacrifices are making our life more comfortable by transporting, between nations and across the seven seas, almost 90 per cent of the goods."

In the United States, AOS is present in 53 maritime ports in 26 states and in 48 dioceses. Priest chaplains, deacons, religious and lay people extend hospitality by providing a "home away from home" for seafarers. AOS has 10 Stella Maris centers, and over 100 chaplains and pastoral teams, including priests, religious, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers providing many services including: Mass, communion, confession and other sacraments, assistance to seafarers in distress, ship visits, transportation to visit business centers, a place to relax while on the port, computers with internet connection at the center, cell phones and phone cards as well as facilitating seafarers' access to services that others provide.

As we work and serve to protect the rights of those working at sea, let us join our prayers with that of Pope Francis, entrusting sailors, fishermen, and all those in difficulty on the seas far away from home, to the motherly protection of Mary, Star of the Sea.

More information is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/aos>.





Apostleship of the Sea, National Office
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers
3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20017

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events

MAY 19, 2018

Mass for day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea
Reception with screening of "Dead in the Water"
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

MAY 22, 2018

National Maritime Day Celebration
U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington D.C.

AUGUST 14-17, 2018

NAMMA Annual Conference
The Maritime Institute of Technology Conference Center
Linthicum Heights, MD

AUGUST 20-23, 2018

AOS Regional Meeting
Carmel Hill, Little Flower Monastery
10789 North Deroche Road
Deroche, British Columbia, Canada