

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

SUPPORTING SEAFARERS WORLDWIDE
PORT OF ANTWERP BULLETIN WINTER 2018/2019



Dear Sponsor, Dear Reader,

Welcome to this second edition of our ApM Newsletter.

2019 has begun, a year with great expectations but also with many uncertainties and treats for the shipping community at large and for all of us in particular! Brexit, trade wars, climate change and many more calamities endanger our daily life. The fundamentals on which our world was based are no longer self-evident. To what extent this will impact our economy and our life is too early to tell, but for certain there will be some effects. We must hope responsible people will find sensible solutions to build a more stable situation during 2019.

For the Port of Antwerp and Apostolatus Maris 2018 was a very successful year! More than 14.500 seagoing vessels visited our port. Our port chaplains and volunteers visited more than 5000 vessels and we received 12.370 seamen from 2.300 ships in our seamen's club. The success of our organization is entirely built on the work of our port chaplains, our many volunteers and last but not least YOU, dear sponsor making this magnificent work possible.

We would like to pay tribute to all those who supported our organization during last year with a donation small or large, and who already promised their support also during 2019. No non-profit organization can exist without the continued joint efforts of volunteers and sponsors.

In this Newsletter you will find more news about these efforts, in particular the benefit event 'MSC gaat overstag' from MSC Belgium in favor of ApM. On Monday 24th December more than 100 seamen celebrated the Christmas Eve Service and the Christmas party in our Seamen's Club. Small presents were very much appreciated. Also, on 31st December New Year's Eve was celebrated in our Seamen's club. On behalf of the seamen participating to these events we thank the many generous sponsors making during those particular days 'a home far from home' possible to them!

Jacques D'Havé, President ApM



Foto: Vlaamse overheid –
Agentschap MDK

Sinterklaas in de Haven

At the 6th of December we visited the harbour with Sinterklaas. The Welfare worker of the Antwerp Harbour Hotel Ann van der Sypt organised the day. All organisations teamed up in three teams each with one Sint and two Zwarte Pieten. Each team visited ships in a different part of the port. They gave away Sinterklaas chocolate and other sweets. It was incredible to see how everybody got surprised and was happy because the Sint had come on board.

Sinterklaas had to take a lot of pictures and they were immediately send to their families all over the world. Not even the seafarers were surprised to see the Sint and his helpers in the harbour. The dockworkers were pretty surprised and were blessed too that Sinterklaas visited the ships. Everybody got some sweets and chocolate. The atmosphere that day was indescribable. The feeling when you're on a ship and the seafarers arguing over who gets to take a picture first with Sinterklaas, others delighted over the sweets, smiling and just chatter around and everybody forgets for a moment that he actually has to work. And then you turn around and look over the terminal and you see the chauffeurs of the straddle carriers and cranes, standing on the platform in front of their cabins, taking pictures of Sinterklaas on the ship, making the seafarers happy, then you know you did something incredibly right. Because just for a little moment the whole work on that terminal stopped because Sinterklaas was there and nothing else in the world seemed more important than him, not even the work. It was a really successful day. Everybody was happy and most of all the seafarers who got a little surprise during their normal workday.

Hannah Fritz – volunteer (IJFD)



MSC Charity Event “MSC gaat overstag voor het goede doel”



More than 1800 sympathizers visited this entertainment with live music and famous DJ's on December 6th 2018. Till late that night music lovers and dance partygoers celebrated on the tunes of Robert Abigail, MDC and Jean Bosco Safari. On December 19th MSC Belgium handed over a cheque of € 25.000 to ApM being the revenue of this spectacular charity event. We thank the management and staff of MSC Belgium for their generous support!

Antoine Vuysteke



Christmas in Seamen's Club Stella Maris

"Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!"

With the chaplains of all the seamen's missions -representing the different Christian denominations- we presided the liturgical celebration in the feast-hall of the Antwerp Seafarers' Centre, Italiëlei 72. Together with volunteers, members of the board and seafarers (more than 60 participants) we song and prayed on Christmas' Eve that peace and fellowship may reign in our homes, on board, in the city and the world for all people of good will, with respect for all races, nations, cultures and religions.



In co-operation with the Antwerp Harbour Hotel (Noorderlaan 100) we offered sandwiches, soup and warm drinks as "Glüwein" and chocolate. On board of the vessels the dishes in Christmas' time are very special in accordance with the different national traditions. Also the Christmas decoration is very creative with a lot of bright and colored lights, showing our wish to dissipate all kind of darkness in our personal life and environment.

There arrives Santa Claus with his presents for every seaman, but... first sing a popular song of your country in your native language! Very funny to see how they find their roots and sing in Russian, Chinese, Tagalog, German, Indian language, ...**During Christmas' Eve and Christmas' Day** (also with Mass celebration) **we hand over 250 packets** with a woolly beret, scarf or sweater, socks, a bottle-opener with knife, sweeties and our calendar of the Apostleship of the Sea. Of course, photos and recorded messages with Santa where sent immediately at home using our Wi-Fi or internet cards.





About **100 seafarers** returned at 23 hrs. back to their ships to the left or right bank by our transport for free in tree busses. As you notices, happy and encouraged to take up their duty and ready to sail around the world. **In the Christmas' week about 350 crewmembers visited our seamen's club.**



Our ship visitors from the Antwerp Seafarers' Centre and the Antwerp Harbour Hotel also **distribute 1700 (small) packets with Christmas gifts on board** of the vessels for all crewmembers during the period off Christmas. They didn't have a chance to go ashore. We also distribute on request a lot of warm coats for wintertime and now we are out of stock. Especially seafarers from tropical countries can't bring it from their homeland. So, if you can provide us second hand winter coats for men, you are mostly welcome! The thankfulness of our beloved seafarers is the best payment to be on their side, day after day.

Jos Vanhoof, port chaplain AoS



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Upcoming Events

March

26.03.2019 annual general assembly Apostolatus Maris vzw followed by the meeting of the board of directors

April

20-22.04.2019 Easter celebration at Stella Maris Seamens' Club



Sponsors

During 2018 Apostolatus Maris received donations from various sponsors and organisations.

We thank all of them in the name of the Seamen!



**You or your company/organization want to support the Seafarers Center?
Go for it!**

Also during 2019 your support is greatly appreciated.
Any amount is welcome.

We also worked out some special sponsorship formulas:

Bronze: 2.500 €

Silver: 5.000 €

Gold: > 5.000 € up to your discretion

More information?

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be paid

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