

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

SUPPORTING SEAFARERS WORLDWIDE
STELLA MARIS ANTWERP BULLETIN SUMMER EDITION 2019



Dear Sponsor, Dear Reader,

2020 is a symbolic year for many. For us at Apostolatus Maris, it will be a very special year too.

100 years ago some volunteers deeply concerned with the spiritual and material needs of seafarers met in Glasgow in order to join forces. They decided to structure the efforts caring for seafarers and founded the first mission to seafarers. Since then, these missions became of great importance to seafarers who live in isolation and loneliness for extended periods of time. Today the Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea, is serving seafarers, fishers and their families, around the world, with a global outreach in 261 ports in 55 countries worldwide with over 200 port chaplains and hundreds of ship visitors and volunteers. Also in Antwerp we have a long tradition of ship visits. Since many years seamen of all countries and convictions are welcome in our Seamen's club.

The Centenary will be an occasion to remember the past and give thanks for all the people who over the past one hundred years have served the people of the sea, to celebrate the present and to chart the future, in responding to the evolving needs of seafarers, fishers and their families. The task of the Apostleship of the Sea is clear: it is to contribute to the best of our ability, to bring solidarity in the maritime world, in spite of the ever increasing and often threatening impact of economic globalization on the life and work of maritime people.

On this occasion the **XXV World Congress of the Stella Maris/Apostleship of the Sea and its Centenary Celebration will be organized from the 29th September to the 4th October 2020 in Glasgow – Scotland.**

Visit from Bishop Johan Bonny



Bishop Johan Bonny with father Bago and with Jaques D'Havé in the Seamens Club

Antwerp Bishop Johan Bonny paid a visit last October to his largest parish: the port of Antwerp. He was extensively informed about the tasks Apostolatus Maris is performing and the cooperation with the other sailor missions by ApM president Jacques D'Havé and some members of the board. Afterwards Monseigneur Bonny visited several ships with our chaplains.

Direct contact with the sailors is necessary to assess the pastoral needs and tasks of our movement he stressed. Apostolatus Maris is an international movement and from origin a Catholic initiative, which is working together in an ecumenical interpretation with other seamen missions in Antwerp.



Bishop and Jos Vanhoof during Shipvisit and Mass on Board

Caring for the seamen in need.

Working on ships implies often dangerous and occupational hazards. Although for years many prevention schemes have been worked out, it is hard to find a seafarer who hasn't been through an accident. On 27th October seaman Arsani experienced on board of m/v Coastal Water¹ in Antwerp a very serious accident. During mooring operations of his vessel his glove was trapped with the mooring line and caught on the drum end of the winch. Although he immediately activated the alarm brake his hand was seriously injured. Immediately taken to hospital the doctors had to amputate part of his fingers and could only save his thumb. As an accident usually never comes alone his vessel sailed in the meantime to the next port of call in Germany with all his personal belongings still on board.



Mr. Arsani from m/v Coastal Water

This is a case where Apostolatus Maris has to intervene. Informed by the agent father Jorgedy Bago chaplain of Apostolatus Maris immediately visited the unfortunate seaman. Together with the excellent crewing manager of the shipowner and the responsible agent, the luggage finally was retrieved and returned to the hospital.

During his stay the seaman received several visits from Apostolatus Maris and from his employer who took care of all the documents needed for his insurance and return to his home in Indonesia.

Mister Arsani was lucky to be in the hands of a responsible shipowner. After more than six weeks at the hospital he sufficiently recovered and he returned to his family but he will never forget his treatment in Antwerp thanks to many volunteers disposed towards seamen.

Properly insured he now receives further treatment and eventually an artificial hand in his country.

¹ Managed by Clearwater Ship Management BV.

News from Stella Maris

Apostolatus Maris welcomed last year Mrs. Yvette Vandevelde as Secretary General after the resignation of Mrs. Caroline Smits who fulfilled this function with great devotion for many years.

Mrs Yvette Vandevelde can look back at a longstanding career in the administration of the Antwerp Nautical College and the pilotage organization of the Flemish Government. She always carried a warm heart for the seamen. We wish her success in this new function.



Sinter Klaas and Christmas



December is as usual a festive month for Apostolatus Maris. However for the many volunteers and our port chaplains, it is hard work to put together all the packages received from our sponsors and deliver them to the sailors aboard the visiting ships or during the Christmas and New Year's party in our Antwerp Seafarers Centre better known as Stella Maris.

All gifts, no matter how simple or small, are always accepted with thanks. The gratitude of the sincere sailors is our greatest reward and motivation to continue our mission.



Volunteers preparing all the Christmas gifts for our celebration



Sinterklaas with the whole Team and Christmas Mass with 100 Seafarers



KONINKLIJKE VERENIGING DER WATERKLERKEN
VAN ANTWERPEN

At the occasion of the Yearly Banquet of the 'Waterklerken van Antwerpen' a sponsoring event was organized in favor of the Seamens Mission of Apostolatus Maris. We thank the organization and all participants of the Banquet for their generous contribution.



Following a lecture last year given by our President Capt. Jacques D'Havé, Rotary Club Kortrijk decided to grant Apostolatus Maris a yearly sponsoring gift. We thank Rotary Club Kortrijk for their generous donation supporting our daily work for seamen, which is highly appreciated.



The IAPH World Ports Conference assesses the indispensable role of ports in global maritime trade and brings together key industry stakeholders for learning, information sharing, networking and collaboration. The IAPH recognizes the role of seamen in achieving these goals.

The IAPH Annual Conference **2020** is bringing together leading *ports*, their customers and stakeholders as well as regulators in a *world*-class interactive event to be organized in Antwerp from 17th – 19th March. We are thankful to the organisation and proud to inform to our members that Apostolatus Maris has been chosen as **recognised charity partner of the IAPH World Ports Conference 2020**.



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Upcoming Events

- 20th February - General Assembly and Board Meeting Apostolatus Maris Antwerp
- March : Christening of MSC Container Vessel
- 17-19th March IAPH World Ports Conference 2020 in Antwerp
- 11th April : Easter Vigil and Easter Eggs with the participation of the Philippine choir and community (all welcome)
- Whit Monday : Volunteer day



Sponsors

During 2019 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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