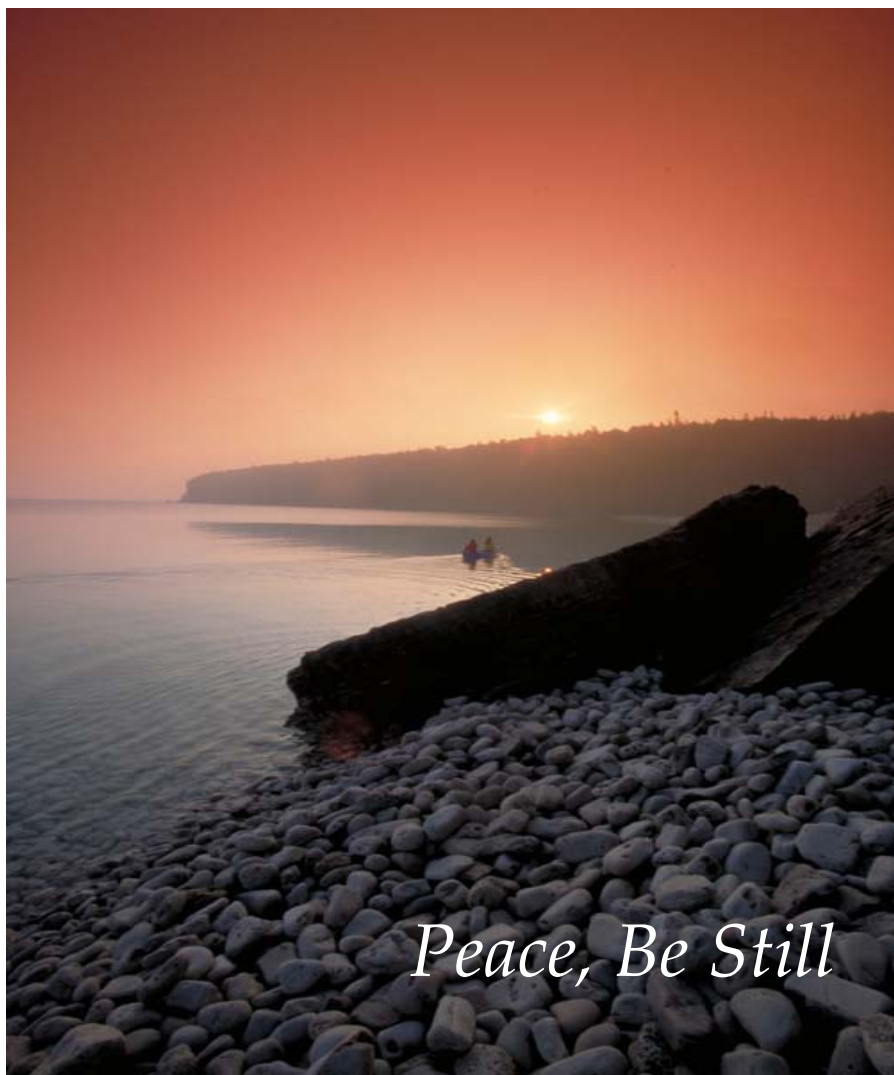




MORNING STAR



Magazine of the Apostleship of the Sea – Canada • Spring-Summer 2009



Peace, Be Still

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Lord Jesus, we look to you on the throne beside your Father in heaven and ask that you be Lord of peace in our hearts. Help us to overcome ourselves again and again and to remain at peace. Then your will may be done in your disciples, a power of peace may be around us that goes out into the whole world, and your name may be glorified on earth. For you are the Lord of peace, and we await you. In difficult times faith and hope will take hold in our hearts all the more firmly, to your glory, Lord Jesus. Amen.



The Living Lighthouse

by Delia Dacanay, AOS-Canada

Peace...what is it? Peace is an unexplainable inner quietness that leaves the soul and mind at perfect rest even in the midst of an intense struggle.

John 14:27, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid."

His apostles experienced this peace in their lives when Jesus spoke to them. The storms of fear and anger in their hearts after the crucifixion were immediately extinguished when He stood and came amongst them and said..."Peace be with you!" The peace that He gave them was more than enough for them to travel through the raging storm of hatred and opposition, to the amazement of all who watched them. The peace which remained with His disciples, was nourished and sustained because of their close relationship with Him.

In our fast paced world that is enamored by neon lights and technology, the ability to find this sense of inner stillness is almost impossible. The world is changing rapidly and our lives are being altered as a result.

I spoke to Anne three months ago. She is a widow. She just told me her life story about losing her husband...and just after a few months, her mother... and again after a month, her best friend. "You don't really know my pain. I can't even sleep at night. I cannot turn my mind off. What about tomorrow?" All I did that morning was just to listen to her and we prayed just before she left. That was a difficult morning for me, but one thing I know is that the God of peace is watching over her.

We can never avoid pain, trials, losses in this world, but with God we can know perfect peace even in turmoil. It is in our daily talking and walking with God in faith that produces a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Peace...Be Still, God's love is greater than any fear.



Sea Sunday Message 2009

Maritime industry is one of the most essential activities in our society. Seafarers are responsible for bringing more than 90% of products from one part of the world to another, to satisfy our needs and make our life more comfortable.

Yet, very seldom or not all, do we think about these men and women who often work for months and years on board of vessels moving goods. Many of us had very few opportunities to meet seafarers. Most modern ports are far away from the cities, the mechanization and fast turn around leave crew ship with little time to relax and to come ashore. Maybe this is one of the reasons why we call seafarers the “invisible people”. The romantic notion of a seafarer who would travel to see the world for free is no longer valid, with sea-faring becoming even more difficult than it always has been. Even though the vessels are now fitted with the latest technology to make them more secure and safe, the life of seafarers continues not to be a easy one.

The recent global economic crisis has deeply affected the merchant fleet worldwide, with vessels sent to scrap, others lying at the anchorages in different ports. Crews are fired or abandoned by bankrupt owners and seafarers are willing to accept employment at lower wages and less benefits. Some unscrupulous vessels owners use the flag of convenience to avoid enforcing maritime standards of vessels seaworthiness and safety. Piracy is on the rise on many shipping routes, putting in danger not only the valuable cargo of vessels but more importantly the life of crew members who often suffer lasting psychological effects and leave their families traumatized. Moreover the criminalization of seafarers and the unfair treatment they receive, in the event of maritime accidents, is another hidden danger in their life.

While we celebrate Sea Sunday we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the 1,200,000 seafarers of all nationalities on whom we depend for many of our daily needs, and also to fishers, port workers and their families. In this special day the Apostleship of the Sea, faithful to its mission of service and pastoral care of the people of the sea, would like to call for concrete actions that would bring improvements in to the maritime industry.

We encourage Governments to recognize the importance and urgency of the *Maritime Labour Convention 2006* and the *Work in Fishing Convention 2007* and to have them ratified so that seafarers and fishers may benefit from them.

We plead for all the seafarers “decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity”.

We condemn piracy and call on the international community to adopt all the necessary measures not only to prevent this happening but also to provide care and support to crew members experiencing such an ordeal.

We call on the respect of the environment and the implementation of legislations to avoid incidents that could put in danger and pollute valuable sea resources.

Moreover we cannot forget the people at sea on board old, rusty and unseaworthy vessels that seek a way to better life by embarking themselves in treacherous and dangerous journeys that could end in tragedy.

We ask Mary “Star of the Sea” to guide and sustain the work of our chaplains and volunteers in their continuous dedication to announce the “Good News to all the creatures” (Mark 16, 15), therefore also to those who are seafarers.

✠ Antonio Maria Vegliò

President

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant Peoples

✠ Archbishop Agostino Marchetto

Secretary

Message pour le Dimanche de la Mer 2009

L'industrie maritime est l'une des activités fondamentales de notre société. C'est aux marins que l'on doit le transport, d'une partie du monde à l'autre, de plus de 90 % des produits destinés à satisfaire nos nécessités et à rendre notre vie plus confortable.

Hélas, c'est rarement, ou pratiquement jamais, que nous pensons à ces hommes et à ces femmes qui, souvent, travaillent pendant des mois et même des années à bord des navires marchands. La plupart d'entre nous n'ont jamais eu l'occasion de les rencontrer. Du fait que de nombreux nouveaux ports sont éloignés des villes, de la mécanisation et des arrêts rapides pour les opérations, il ne reste que peu de temps aux équipages pour se détendre et descendre à terre. C'est sans doute là une des raisons pour laquelle les marins sont considérés comme des "personnes invisibles". La notion romantique du marin qui voyage pour voir le monde, sans rien déboursier, n'existe plus, étant donné que cette profession est devenue encore plus difficile qu'elle ne l'a jamais été. Bien que les bateaux soient aujourd'hui dotés des technologies de dernière génération qui les rendent plus sûrs, dans les faits la vie des marins continue de ne pas être facile.

Certes, la récente crise économique qui a sévi et sévit dans tous les pays a profondément influencé la flotte marchande mondiale, comme on peut le déduire du fait que de nombreux navires sont envoyés à la démolition et que d'autres restent ancrées dans les rades de différents ports. Les armateurs en faillite se trouvent contraints à licencier ou à abandonner leurs équipages, de sorte que les marins sont disposés à accepter des travaux avec des salaires et des bénéfices réduits. En outre, certains armateurs sans scrupules battent des pavillons de complaisance pour éviter de se soumettre aux normes de sécurité maritime relatives aux conditions de navigabilité et de sécurité des embarcations. De plus, la piraterie est un phénomène en augmentation sur de nombreuses routes du transport maritime et elle constitue un danger non seulement pour les précieux chargements des navires, mais surtout pour la vie des membres des équipages qui souffrent souvent d'effets psychologiques prolongés dans le temps, tandis que leurs familles subissent un profond traumatisme. Enfin, la criminalisation des marins et le traitement injuste qu'ils reçoivent en cas d'accidents maritimes représentent un drame latent ultérieur dans leur vie.

Tandis que nous célébrons le Dimanche de la Mer, je tiens à exprimer toute notre gratitude aux quelques 1.200.000 marins de toutes les nationalités, dont nous dépendons pour satisfaire une grande partie de nos besoins quotidiens, ainsi qu'aux pêcheurs, aux travailleurs portuaires et à leurs familles. En cette journée particulière, fidèle à sa mission de service et à son souci pastoral pour les gens de la mer l'Apostolat de la Mer lance un appel afin que soient adoptées des actions concrètes portant à améliorer l'industrie maritime.

Aussi encourageons-nous les Gouvernements à reconnaître l'importance et l'urgence de la *Convention sur le Travail maritime 2006* et de la *Convention sur le Travail dans la Pêche 2007*, et à les ratifier dans l'intérêt des marins et des pêcheurs.

Pour tous les marins, nous demandons "un travail productif et décent, dans des conditions de liberté, d'égalité, de sécurité et de dignité humaine".

Nous condamnons la piraterie et nous faisons appel à la communauté internationale afin qu'elle applique les mesures nécessaires non seulement pour prévenir le phénomène, mais aussi pour assurer des soins et un soutien aux équipages qui ont connu un tel drame.

Nous demandons que soit respecté l'environnement et appliquée la législation destinée à éviter les accidents pouvant mettre en danger et contaminer les précieuses ressources maritimes.

Enfin, nous ne pouvons pas oublier tous ceux qui, à la recherche d'une vie meilleure, quittent leur pays à bord de vieilles embarcations rouillées et hors d'état de naviguer et qui entreprennent des voyages plein d'embûches et dangereux pouvant se terminer en tragédie.

Nous demandons à la Très Sainte Vierge Marie, "*Stella Maris*", de guider et de soutenir le travail de nos aumôniers et de nos volontaires qui se consacrent inlassablement à annoncer "la Bonne Nouvelle à toutes les créatures" (*Mc* 16,15), et donc aux marins.

† Antonio Maria Vegliò
Président

† Agostino Marchetto
Secrétaire



God's Hand at Work in the Maritime Ministry: Messages and Updates

A Message from Fr. Jocelyn Robichaud, Port of Trois-Rivières, Québec:

Désolé pour le délai pris pour vous envoyer les photos concernant la nouvelle camionnette ainsi que les auto-collants disant que la van est vraiment un don de ITF. Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier M. Lorne Sewell de ITF Londres, M. Michel Desjardins de ITF Montréal et aussi M. Albert Dacanay aumônier national de Toronto. Votre geste de générosité est grandement apprécié de la part des bénévoles et encore plus des marins. Donc encore une fois mille mercis.

Jocelyn Robichaud directeur du foyer des marins
Stella Maris division de Trois-Rivières

A Message from Fr. John Eason, Port of Vancouver, British Columbia:

I hope this note finds you well as we leave the high point of our Year of Grace and slide down to August.

Always 3-4 new vessels arrive each day at the port. Recently one crew was denied shore leave due to the Canadian swine flu. Meanwhile, all the other vessels nearby were enjoying shore leave comforts. Is there some justice out there?

Sorrow: I buried my sister who died because she couldn't leave cigarettes

alone. At least she's achieved life's goal of hugging and having grandchildren. God is good!

Happiness: A Filipino couple invited me to spend all of Christmas in their country -- my first time to the Philippines. I fell off my chair when I received their invitation. The couple is one of our club volunteers. I am excited already.

Wishing you all Jesus' fullness,
Fr. John Eason

A Message from Fr. Andrew Thavarajasingam, Port of Montreal, Quebec:

During this quarter of my ship visits, I encountered a different kind of experience and I would like to share it with you so that you may be also be aware of the feelings and emotions of the seafarers to whom we are talking to. I visited a ship with mixed crew of a container ship. This ship is a frequent visitor to our port, at least once in three weeks. After long waited months, the seafarers on board were happy to come out of the ship to enjoy the glimpse of summer season. While taking them out of the port I engaged them in a discussion. Three Chinese seafarers were sitting in front and I told them that in the present world order China is in the verge of becoming the most powerful nation even to the extent of becoming a threat to US. I also added you should be proud of the technological and economical growth of your country, because even here after buying a thing if you turn over and see you will find out that it was made in China.

After saying this I was expecting a positive acknowledgement from the side of the Chinese seafarers. But on the contrary to my expectation one of them said on behalf of others, for the outside world it may be a precious growth. The pathetic situation within China is that we are not that happy because we cannot even enjoy the freedom to have more than one child. They also added that the Chinese who live in Canada are really blessed. After this other seafarers from other countries also joined in the discussions and finally our conclusion was that any kind of achievements without real freedom cannot bring happiness. Economical and technological growth without the real happiness in the hearts and minds of the people is not worth achieving. By that time it was time for me to drop them all at china town to have the experience of the 'freedom of their own choice'.



A Message from His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

[Excerpt from the Homily of His Holiness Benedict XVI on the Solemnity of the Pentecost, 2008]

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St Luke places the account of the event of Pentecost that we heard in the First Reading in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The chapter is introduced by the words: "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2: 1). These words refer to the previous setting in which Luke described the small company of disciples that had gathered perseveringly in Jerusalem after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven (cf. Acts 1: 12-14). It is a description rich in detail: the place "where they were staying" - the Cenacle - was an "Upper Room"; the 11 Apostles are listed by name and the first three are Peter, John and James, the "pillars" of the community; mentioned with them are "the women" and "Mary the Mother of Jesus, and "his brethren", already an integral part of this new family, no longer based on blood ties but on faith in Christ.

This community was gathered in the same place, the Upper Room, on the morning of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, the feast of the Covenant which commemorated the Sinai event, when God, through Moses, proposed that Israel be his own possession among all peoples to be a sign of his holiness (cf. Ex 19). According to the Book of Exodus, that ancient pact was accompanied by a terrifying manifestation of power by the Lord when we read: "Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain quaked greatly" (Ex 19: 18). We find the elements of wind and fire in the Pentecost of the New Church carries out her service to Christ's peace above all in the ordinary presence and action among men and women, with the preaching of the Gospel and the signs of love and mercy that accompany it (cf. Mk 16: 20). Testament, but untainted by fear. The fire specifically took the form of tongues of flame which settled on each one of the disciples who "were all filled with the Holy Spirit" and through the effect of this outpouring "began to speak in other tongues" (Acts 2: 4). It was a true and proper "baptism" of fire of the community, a sort of new creation. At Pentecost, the Church was not established by human will but by the power of God's Spirit. And it is

immediately clear how this Spirit gives life to a community which is at the same time one and universal, thereby overcoming the curse of Babel (cf. Gn 11: 7-9).

In this regard, it is necessary to add another aspect: that of the theological vision of the Acts of the Apostles concerning the journey to Rome of the Church of Jerusalem. Among the peoples represented in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, Luke also mentions "visitors from Rome" (Acts 2: 10). At that time Rome was still distant, "foreign" to the newborn Church: it was a symbol of the pagan world in general. But the power of the Holy Spirit was to guide the footsteps of the witnesses "to the end of the earth" (Acts 1: 8), even to Rome. The Acts of the Apostles ends precisely when St Paul, through a providential plan, reaches the capital of the Empire and proclaims the Gospel there (cf. Acts 28: 30-31). Thus the journey of the Word of God which began in Jerusalem reached its destination, because Rome represents the entire world and therefore embodies Luke's idea of catholicity.

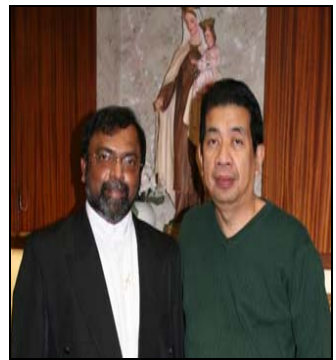
John's Gospel offers a word that harmonizes very well with the mystery of the Church created by the Spirit. The word that came twice from the lips of the Risen Jesus when he appeared among his disciples in the Upper Room on the evening of Easter Day: Shalom - "peace be with you!" (Jn 20: 19, 21). The expression "shalom" is not a mere greeting; it is far more: it is the gift of peace promised (cf. Jn 14: 27) and won by Jesus at the price of his blood, it is the fruit of his victory in the battle against the spirit of evil. Thus, it is a peace "not as the world gives" but as God alone can give it.

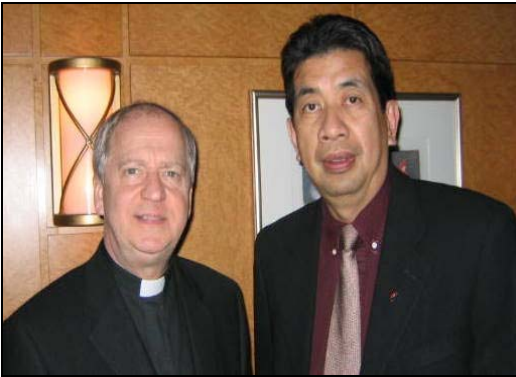
On this feast of the Spirit and the Church, let us thank God for having given to his people, chosen and formed in the midst of all peoples, the precious good of peace, of his peace! At the same time, let us renew the awareness of the responsibility that is connected with this gift: the Church's responsibility to be, constitutionally, a sign and instrument of God's peace for all peoples.

As we heard in the Gospel passage, Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20: 22-23). How important and, unfortunately, insufficiently understood is the gift of Reconciliation which sets hearts at rest! Christ's peace is only spread through the renewed hearts of reconciled men and women who have made themselves servants of justice, ready to spread peace in the world with the force of the truth alone, without descending to compromises with the world's mentality because the world cannot give Christ's peace: this is how the Church can be the leaven of that reconciliation which comes from God. She can only be so if she remains docile to the Spirit and bears witness to the Gospel, only if she carries the Cross like Jesus and with Jesus. The saints of every epoch witness precisely to this!



Photos from Across Canada





*Left page (from top): Fr. Andrew Thavarajasingam with seafarers; Deacon Michael Ho and Deacon Albert Dacanay with Seafarers; Fr. Andrew Thavarajasingam and Deacon Albert Dacanay; Fr. Marc Caron; Fr. Jocelyn Robichaud and Deacon Albert Dacanay; AOS Trois-Rivieres Volunteer in new AOS Van; **This page (from top):** Bishop Robert Harris; Saint John's Seafarers Centre; Bishop Martin Veillette, Deacon Albert Dacanay and Deacon Michael Ho; Fr. Marc Caron and Deacon Albert Dacanay, Msgr. Mario Paquette and Deacon Albert Dacanay; Fr. John Eason;*

Grant Us Your Peace

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to test your faith, as though something unusual were happening to you. You should rejoice, because it means that you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed..

1 Peter 4: 12-13

Dear Father in heaven, we ask you from our hearts to give us your peace. Grant that nothing may take your peace from us, and protect us from all that is evil. May we always be mindful that we should serve you in self-denial. May we be faithful in all our ways, looking to the great promise you have given each one of us. Keep us under your protection, as you have always done. We praise and thank you for all that comes to our hearts from you, making us full of trust and certain of your further help. Amen.

- Eberhard Arnold