



Letter from the President

by the Rev. Jim Von Dreele



This past NAMMA Conference was the one of the best in years. The Oakland Organizing Committee put together an excellent blend of practical and reflective plenary presentations and workshops. These presentations not only nourished our ministries but even challenged and stretched us in many ways.

In the Annual Plenary meeting of NAMMA we responded to the work of the Visioning Committee. Your comments were very helpful for the upcoming work of the committee in early December to create a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years for NAMMA. The areas we discussed were:

- 1) educating the public about this ministry
- 2) advocacy
- 3) raising professional standards
- 4) practical concerns – fund raising
- 5) evangelizing and pastoral care.

The committee will be developing action plans for each of these issues and will present them to the Board at its January meeting in Philadelphia. A final plan will be presented at next summer's NAMMA meeting in New Orleans prior to the ICMA World Conference.

Finally, a number of us have been working very hard of the crew detention issue, especially at the petrochemical terminals throughout the country. This fall the USCG established a new set of rules for all terminals to submit a security plan by the end of the year. Part of the requirements relate to shore leave for seafarers and chaplains' access to the ships:

For each facility, the facility owner or operator must . . . ensure coordination of shore leave for vessel personnel or crew change-out, as well as access through the facility for visitors to the vessel (including representatives of seafarers' welfare and labor organizations), with vessel operators in advance of a vessel's arrival. (33 CFR 105.200 [b7]).

I would encourage you to be in contact with not only the Coast Guard but also your terminals to share your local protocol for ship visiting and crew transportation. This can be of immense help to the terminal operators as they seek the meet the December 31st deadline.

Faithfully yours,
Jim Von Dreele



New NAMMA board members elected at Oakland, and one re-elected: The Rev. Christian Villagomez, Tampa; the Rev. Jim Keating, Chicago; the Rev. Lacy Largent, Houston; and Cdr. Michael Cicalese, USCG (ret.)

Oakland Report

Stressing the need for chaplains to work together across many boundaries, Bishop William Swing of the Episcopal Diocese of California opened the 2004 North American Maritime Ministry Assn. Conference on the top floor restaurant of the Bay Bridge Holiday in, on the Oakland side of San Francisco Bay, Sept. 21.

Trading on the rich cultural diversity of the San Francisco Bay area, conference organizers followed up with a cast of stars to explore the NAMMAC theme, "A Worldwide Ministry: Biblical Dialog with Other Faiths." The other faiths were presented, one on each of the three days, by Imam Hamid Mavani, Islamic faith; Dr. Alope Chatterjee, Hindi; and Dr. James Chuck, an exponent of Chinese spirituality.

Meanwhile Dr. LeAnn Flesher of the American Baptist Seminary of the West presented Biblical perspectives of the Christian approach to different faiths. Not a sea person herself, Dr. Flesher nonetheless tied her three presentations to issues and conditions of port chaplaincy. While sensitive in her interpretations to Biblically literal readings, Dr. Flesher also made sense of more liberal interpretive approaches. Her dynamic speaking style also held the attention of the chaplains attending.

Over the three days of NAMMAC there were also four opportunities to engage in discussion and deeper exploration of the issues in two different tracks of workshops.

Continued on page 3

Pictures from the NAMMAC, Oakland



Board Development workshop: Chaplains Aias de Souza, Jim Von Dreele, Jean Smith.



Imam Hamid Mavani



Dr. James Chuck, Chinese Culture & Religion

Houston School Plans New Class

Now that you've gotten your feet wet in your new position as a Port Chaplain, please consider bringing your experiences, questions, desire for up-to-date information, and interest in getting to know other persons engaged in maritime ministry to the Houston Maritime Chaplaincy Training Program at the Houston International Seafarers' Center.

This two-week training program begins on Sunday evening, February 8, and concludes around Noon on Friday, February 20, 2004. The curriculum includes five major areas of focus: the biblical/theological basis for maritime ministry, pastoral care skills, administration/management, seafarers' rights, and various aspects of ship visitation. Within these areas of focus, there will also be learning opportunities related to multi-cultural and interfaith ministry. The Clinical Pastoral Education component will give students an opportunity to bring particular issues and experiences to the group for personal insight, networking, and the development of creative strategies in dealing with situations common to those serving in maritime ministry.

Many resource people are being brought in to provide the breadth of information offered within this training program, including representatives of NAMMA, the Center for Seafarers' Rights, government officials, persons involved in other aspects of the maritime industry, local chaplains, and seafarers themselves.

The Training Program fee is \$200 for two full weeks of information and networking related to your ministry! If you are interested in receiving more information or an application, please contact the Rev. Lacy Largent directly at (936) 825-1436, or by e-mail at motherlacy@yahoo.com.—*Lacy Largent*

NAMMA

North American Maritime Ministry Association

Supporting Seaport Ministry in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean

www.maritimeministry.org

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Vice presidents	The Rev. Aias de Souza, Mobile Chaplain Alice Thomas, Newport News
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Oakland Conference Committee



Ecumenical Consultation: Fr. Janicky & Rev'd de Souza

Oakland, cont. from front page

The Most Rev. Terry Finlay, Archbishop of Toronto and Episcopal Promoter for MSNAC/Canada, moderated one series on "Sharing Our Faith." Archbishop Finley's workshops gave participants a chance to discuss and debate concerns rising from differing mission emphases of evangelism on the one hand and practical service and seafarers' rights on the other. Sometime a divisive issue for NAMMA, the Archbishop's style and ability to listen kept everyone together and in large measure agreement by the end of the conference.



Workshop - Sharing Our Faith: Archbishop Terry Finlay (L) and Fr. Rivers Patout (R) and friends

"Track Two" of the workshops centered on "Fund Raising and Board Development," organized by the Rev. Jim Von Dreele, President of NAMMA and Executive Director of Seamen's Church Institute/Philadelphia. These sessions mainly comprised an ongoing panel discussion with panelists centering on ways of establishing a support and fundraising base for port chaplaincies among Church leaders and maritime industry people. The first session, devoted to "Board Development and the Art of Networking," was moderated by the Rev. Jean Smith, Executive Director of Seamen's Church Institute/NY-NJ. The next two workshops centered on "Vessel Fees and Tariffs" and "Fund Raising for Smaller Centers" and were chaired by Fr. Von Dreele and the Rev. Doug Siden, President of the Board of the Seafarers' Ministry of the Golden Gate. The last session in "Track Two" featured Bob Middleton, Executive Director of Bay Area Seafarers' Service and former public relations director for the Port of Oakland, who spoke about media relations.



Bishop William Swing, Fr. Jim Von Dreele

A single workshop session was also offered, led by Fr. Sinclair Oubre, Executive Director of the International Seamen's Center of Port Arthur and President of Apostleship of the Sea USA. Fr. Oubre led a session on ministry with fishers.

Other highlights of the conference included a dinner hosted by the Korean Mission to Seafarers and a closing ecumenical service hosted by the First Baptist Church of Oakland, where Fr. Kenan Osborne, retired President of the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, preached on the hospitality ministry of port chaplaincy. *-PRM*



Banquet Program

Meeting Dates and Info

NAMMA Board, Jan. 16-17, 2004, Philadelphia.
 Houston Maritime Ministry School, Feb. 8-20.
 Gulf Coast Conference, Feb. 22-24, Port Manatee, FL
 ICMA Exec. Cmte., March 26-27, Bremen
 AoS-USA Annual Meeting, April 13-16, Traverse City, MI.
 NAMMAC 2004, July 26-27, 2004, New Orleans
 ICMA World Conference 2004, July 28-Aug. 2, 2004, New Orleans, LA.

NAMMA Looks to the Future Elects New Board

The Oakland Annual Plenary Meeting of NAMMA concentrated on Board elections, plus discussion of the work of NAMMA's Visioning Committee – guiding the priorities of the organization for the next 3-5 years.

Elected to NAMMA's Board of Directors were Cmdr. Michael Cicalese, USCG (ret.), Boston; Fr. Jim Keating, Chicago; the Rev. Lacy Largent, Houston; and Fr. Christian Villagomez, Tampa. A discussion session of NAMMA's Plenary enthusiastically responded to the planning ideas of the Visioning Committee and reported them back to the Committee for further work. (Report of the Committee was published in the Summer issue of *Waterlines*.)

The Plenary also amended the Constitution and the By Laws of NAMMA to place the Nominating Committee under the appointment responsibility of NAMMA's president, along with her other committees.

The Board of Directors also met in Oakland both preceding and following the NAMMA Plenaries. The Board received reports from the President, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary. Jim Von Dreele reported some of the actions of NAMMA and especially the work of the Visioning Committee. Jim Lindgren, NAMMA's Treasurer, reported on the status of the expected deficit for 2003, expected somewhat in excess of \$10,000; however, NAMMA's reserves will stay about the same, because of improvements in the US stock market this year. Prospects for additional income for 2003

were discussed. Also discussed were prospects for 2004. NAMMA's budget will be supported in part by administrative fees expected in connection with the World Conference in July in New Orleans. Additional income expected is \$16,000; however additional expenses will reduce the effect of this figure by about \$8,000.

Fr. Michaelson reported on his activities and the many accomplishments of NAMMA during the year. Discussion centered on his involvement as Treasurer of ICMA, NAMMA's global affiliate. It was clear the Board was not happy with the amount of time this responsibility takes, but they affirmed that it is necessary.

In separate sessions, Doug Stevenson reported on his work to improve chaplain access to ships and crew access ashore in the U.S. (See articles elsewhere in this issue for updates.) Doug serves as a member of NAMMA's Political Action Committee, and he also serves with ICMA's delegations to the International Labor Organization and the International Maritime Organization, policy making groups of the United Nations. Doug called for political pressure to be applied to U.S. government officials to accept a proposed international seafarer credential as a visa for shore visits in the U.S. With other members of NAMMA's Political Action Committee, he called for chaplains to convene local meetings of port authority people, Coast Guard, ship agents, facility operators and suppliers, to develop port policies for ship-to-shore access.

—PRM

The following report was received at the NAMMA office, of the survey conducted by Doug Stevenson, Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights of the Seamen's Church Institute of NY-NJ.

Summary of Survey of Crew Detentions in United States Ports 5 through 11 October 2003

PORT	SHIPS VISITED	DETAINED CREWS	COMMENTS
Boston, MA	27	5	No visas (3 ships); private terminal restrictions (2 ships)
Brunswick, GA	10	2	No visas (2 ships)
Houston, TX	104	13	No visas (12 ships); crewmember jumped ship in a previous port (1 ship). No data on terminals denying shore leave.
Lake Charles, LA	11	3	No visas (3 ships)
Philadelphia, PA	31	6	No visas (1 ship); private terminal restrictions (5 ships)
Port Arthur, TX	9	1	Crewmember jumped ship in previous US port call (1 ship)
Port Everglades, FL41		1	No visas
Port Manatee, FL	10	2	No visas (2 ships)
Port of New York/New Jersey		68	21 No visas (3 ships); stowaways on board (1 ship); private terminal restrictions (17 ships)
Portland, ME	7	1	No visas
Portsmouth, NH	4	1	No visas
San Diego, CA	3	0	
Seattle, WA	17	4	No visas (3 ships); Egyptian crew from sister ship jumped ship (1 ship)
Tacoma, WA	10	1	No visas (1 ship)
Tampa, FL	17	3	No visas (3 ships)

ICMA Report

The International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) was established in its present form in 1991. NAMMA is a founding member, and holds a seat on ICMA's Executive Committee, which includes the executives of each of the founding members. ICMA's purpose is to link and coordinate the activities of its members, and to perform support services for its member organizations which would be difficult or impossible for the members alone.

During the past six months ICMA resumed many of the activities of her regular mission, and also carried forward a financial reorganization.

August 31- September 13, overseas Seafarer Ministry Training (SMT) was conducted in Hong Kong, under the leadership of Chaplain Martina Platte of the German Seamen's Mission, assisted by local chaplains and resource people. Attendance included thirteen students. Four were from Europe and the remainder from ministries in the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, and Singapore. They represented at least six different agencies and societies. The cost of the SMT was paid by student fees and a grant to ICMA by the ITF Seafarers' Trust. Approximately \$21 000 USD was paid by the Trust, of a total cost of the program, of about \$28,000. Martina writes:

My personal impression of this year's SMT is: We had a "Super Course". All fitted so well and everything ran smoothly. It was hard work to prepare it but worthwhile and rewarding doing it.

From Oct. 16-19, ICMA sponsored a conference for the Mediterranean Region in Piraeus, Greece. This conference was organized by AoS Deacon Ricardo Roderigues, Barcelona. Costs of the conference were also borne by the ITF. Ricardo reported:

30 representatives attended from the following countries: Albania, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Spain, Ukraine and United Kingdom, members of different Christian churches (Anglican, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic) joined to discuss the following topics:

- Preparedness for crisis situations in port areas.
- Implementation of the ILO Conventions 163 and Recommendation 173 and the creation of Welfare Committees in ports.
- Welfare services: communications tools and transfer of money facilities for seafarers.
- The international telephone help line ISAN.
- Specific problems for seafarers missions in some countries.
- The ITF Seafarers' Trust.
- Evangelisation in a globalized world: ecumenism and interreligious work.
- Psychological aspects of a person staying months away from home.
- Relation between ICMA centers, ICMA and ILO and IMO.
- Sailing chaplains

Place and date for the next ICMA Mediterranean Middle East Conference: Port of Constanta (Romania) in October 2006.

ICMA also sent a delegation of three members of the Crisis Preparedness Committee to an ICSW conference in Veracruz, Mexico.

Financial operations were directed by the Rev. Peter Michaelson, Hon. Treasurer of ICMA and Executive Secretary of NAMMA, with help from the Mission to Seafarers staff and volunteers in the United Kingdom. On Dec. 1, a new financial management agreement was signed with an accounting firm in London

The Executive Committee met in Helsinki, Oct. 2. Members welcomed the Rev. Dr. Juergen Kanz as Interim General Secretary of ICMA, and received the application for membership of the Lutheran Assn. for Maritime Ministries (LAMM), presented by Chaplain Janet Swanson. —PRM

December Shorts

AoS-USA has opened a staff office in Port Arthur and engaged a new Secretary General, Ms. Doreen Badeau. The office contact information is:

e-mail: aosusa@sbcglobal.net

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Fr. George Dawson's report from Corpus Christi:

Charlie Brown has announced his retirement with the date open. He is meeting with the Corpus Christi clericus on September 10th to ask them to seek his replacement. The ministry continues to be funded by the Diocese of West Texas for expenses, supplies and scriptures.

Happily there are three other voluntary Chaplains and the port is well covered.

Fr. Vince Patrizi is back after his retirement and a period of "Italian" boredom. Charlie has recruited and trained two lay persons from the First Baptist Church [under his strictest supervision and guidelines]; one of them, Janet Henderson, was the first from Corpus Christi to attend the Houston Chaplain School. I have been

retired for over three years now but continue as the Thursday evening "volunteer"; Alice Milloy continues on busier than ever.

The Port of Corpus Christi continues to have minimal problems with crew detainment compared with other ports and especially Houston. None of the docks, private or public, restrict their crews in any way, due to communication of the Center with facility owners, operators and the Port Authority. Heightened security has benefited the Center by allowing only the chaplains to sell phone cards on the docks and ships.

From Deacon Patrick Lapoint, Lake Charles:

On Oct. 1, 2003 Fr. Alfredo Marco retired as Port Chaplain for the Port of Lake Charles, La. He served the Port for 13 years. He returned to his home in the Philippines. Fr. Richard Adiukwu from Nigeria has been appointed as Port Chaplain to replace Fr. Marco.



From the Secretary's Desk

by Executive Secretary Peter Michaelson

Advent is the Church season of four weeks before Dec. 25. It is a time for getting ready to greet Jesus, the Son of

God. There are lots of ways to do this, but one not optional is for us to "clean up our act." By the time you read this, Advent will be nearly over and there won't be time to waste.

The main thing is to keep Jesus at the center. This is always key but whether preparation is for the coming of Christ in the end times or the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, "Jesus is the reason for the season." This has a clear application at Christmas parties, shopping, ship visiting, doing the Christmas cards and sending out appeals for end-of-year donations.

It also has a clear application when there is conflict. Expectation of conflict is not the usual filter for Christmas but there is a lot of it around lately and perhaps God is trying to tell us something about our faith and our calling: Jesus is the reason for the season. Not to give myself too much credit, I am on the sidelines of most of the conflict and some passes me by quite miraculously. So far. God may be telling me – and you – something about our role.

Holidays are high-stress time. Families' routines are disturbed. Everyone gets too tired. Pressure is high for those with jobs and worse for those without. Seafarers and fishers ashore at holiday time have their ambivalence about being ashore and those away from home have a deep yearning to be back. Children test their limits and their parents. Everyone wants to spend but money is tight.

There is more, but that's enough for here. Jesus is the reason for the season. Like when Peter tried to walk on the water, he was

OK until he became distracted by the storm and waves around him. When we walk in faith we're fine but we're sunk when we become distracted by the storm and waves.

Conflict or no, Jesus is found in those we serve. Those we serve include each other, sea people, land people, God's people. There will be storms and Jesus is still to be found in the others in the storm.

Conflict is actually good. It is a sign of life. The only people not in conflict about anything are dead. The only chaplains who never disagree are – well, let's not go there. In any case they don't belong to NAMMA. Conflict means people care passionately and if agreement can be forged, something important may happen.

Here are a few simple Advent suggestions for dealing with conflict:

1. Look for the image of Christ in those in conflict. Scripture says it's there regardless of anger or other distractions. This places respect as a basis and context for the discussion.
2. Listen. This goes along with respect and service, and is a healing ministry on its own. Listen not only to what is said, but the feeling expressed in words and non-verbal actions and posture. Respond to the feelings first and (maybe) the words, after.
3. If the conflict is about control, don't waste time on that issue. Two people cannot both have complete control. Neither can one person, but that is between them and God. There will not be agreement on that level. However, if the motivation for control is about something else, such as money, respect, self-respect, or being loved, there may be an opportunity.
4. If you are drawn in or not, keep Jesus central. Jesus' point was being right is OK but being loving is better.
5. If people see how our needs can be met we will lower our need for control.
6. Differences are good. They enable teams to form, which can do more than singles. Can you imagine a ship full of third officers, captains, engineers, or apprentices? Or a family of uncles only?

So let's get ready. There's no time left to waste. Jesus is the reason for the season. ###

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