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Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Weekends 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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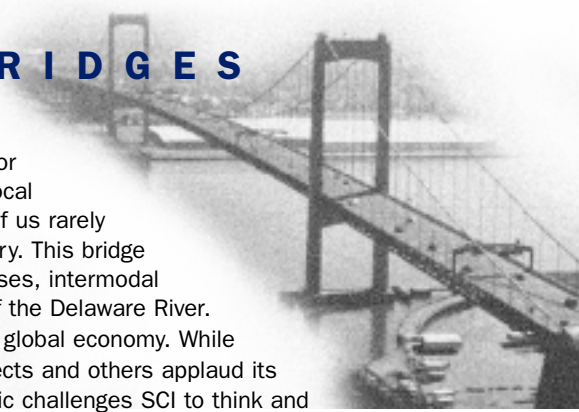
Volunteers Welcome:

Call John Szelagowski, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Phone 215-922-2562
Fax 215-922-0737

BUILDING BRIDGES

Connecting people and markets, our numerous area bridges are vital to our quality of life. While the Ben Franklin or Walt Whitman Bridge may be familiar to local residents, we have another bridge most of us rarely notice. It's the fourth largest in the country. This bridge is made up of marine terminals, warehouses, intermodal yards, and of course people - the ports of the Delaware River.

The Delaware River is our bridge to the global economy. While some denounce globalization's harsh effects and others applaud its benefits, its resulting increased port traffic challenges SCI to think and act both locally and globally to meet the evolving needs of the 21st century seafarer.



Think & Act - Locally & Globally

The Rev. James D. Von Dreele, Executive Director

This edition of *The Anchor* will focus on some of SCI's exciting initiatives of local importance and global impact improving seafaring life here on the Delaware and around the world.

Locally:

- Acting on the findings of the ITF report on seafarer welfare services (link on SCI's website, www.sciphiladelphia.org) SCI has implemented a new training program, funded by a grant from the Abington Foundation, for our ship visitors in efforts to deepen their pastoral skills.
- Pollution violations continue aboard ships. SCI cares for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of seafarers detained as material witnesses to environmental violations that are discovered and investigated. Currently SCI is working with our 8th detained crew in less than 3 years.
- With dredging nearing approval, over twenty investment companies are now vying for the opportunity to develop a new port facility in South Philadelphia. Deepening of the channel will allow larger ships to move up the river quadrupling the cargo moving through our port terminals. SCI anticipates this growth and the resulting increase in demand for our services.
- The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) has arrived in our Port. This \$132.50 card will allow SCI ship visitor access to all terminals and permit us to transport seafarers in and out of the terminals.
- SCI's documentary DVD is now available on our website. The \$15,000 production cost was completely underwritten by our local maritime business partners.

Globally:

- SCI is in negotiations with the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) for funding of *The Philadelphia School* for Center Management and Fund Raising. This international school's curriculum will focus on developing skills critical to assure the sustainability of seafarer centers around the world.
- World Maritime Day was celebrated at the United Nations in New York last October with the central theme of environmental protection and preservation. I made a presentation regarding the human cost to seafarers in the enforcement process of pollution violations. Additionally during the forum, The North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) was introduced to the global maritime community. I will be the ministry representative on its founding board.
- SCI's leadership on environmental protection issues is recognized both locally and globally. As a result of my advocacy work, I have been invited to make a presentation to the American Petroleum Institute at their annual meeting in June on the human element in shipping.

Many background papers and supporting articles can be found on SCI's website:
www.sciphiladelphia.org.

SCI Honors Uwe Schulz with the Spirit of the Port Award



"We at the Maritime Exchange like to say that a day without Uwe is like a day without sunshine, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved honor." Dennis Rochford, President of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay

Uwe Schulz, a member of the Delaware River maritime community for 35 years, will be honored with the 2008 Spirit of the Port award at an industry-wide luncheon following a morning forum on port development April 10, 2008.

Mr. Schulz is President of the Ports of the Delaware River Marine Trade Association (PMTA), an organization of steamship agents, ship owners and direct employers that negotiates labor contracts in the Ports of Philadelphia, Camden and Wilmington with the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA).

"Uwe Schulz has shown commitment, leadership and a personal dedication to the growth and success of our port region for more than a third of a century," said the Rev. James Von Dreele. "Most recently, his role at the forefront of the Maritime Stakeholders Group in working to ensure the viability of a superport for our waterfront region has brought remarkable attention to Philadelphia from interests around the world. This award is long overdue for Mr. Schulz."


Uwe is a co-founder of the Maritime Stakeholders Group (MSG). Representing labor, management and other affiliated maritime businesses MSG promotes maritime interests along the

Delaware River and fights to preserve maritime land for maritime use instead of residential and other commercial uses.

A leader in the Philadelphia Maritime Community, Uwe has served as President of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Maritime Society, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Exchange, Seamen's Church Institute and the Chilean/American Chamber of Commerce, as well as, a Trustee of the PMTA-ILA Funds.

A seafarer himself, Schulz graduated with honors from the State University of New York Maritime College and joined Local 88 of the Master, Mates and Pilots. He served as a deck officer, including Master in the American Merchant Marines. Later Uwe rendered service as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Naval Reserve. Following a stint with Waterman Steamship Company, Uwe came ashore in 1972 for a 23-year tenure in various capacities with the former Associated Container Transportation (ACT) Pace/Blue Star Line in Port Elizabeth and then on to Philadelphia, where he settled.

In other professionally related activities, Mr. Schulz currently serves as a Director of both the National Maritime Safety Association (NMSA) and the United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd. (USMX), a management group that negotiates the Master Contract on the East and Gulf Coasts with the International ILA. Uwe is a visiting professor teaching Chartering and Maritime Contracts at the Maine Maritime Academy, and a lecturer at the University of Delaware in Maritime Studies.

The industry forum and award luncheon will be held at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall in Philadelphia. Tickets, journal advertising and sponsorship information on the events are available from SCI at (215) 940-9900. 

NEWS ITEM

Investment Companies Compete to Develop Southport

With dredging nearing approval, it is reported that more than twenty investment companies are now competing for the opportunity to develop a new state of the art port facility in South Philadelphia. Deepening of the channel will allow larger ships to move up the river quadrupling the container cargo moving through our port terminals. This development will add significant cargo capacity and thousands of much needed jobs to the Delaware Valley region.

Ship Visitor Training

The 2007 report, Port Based Welfare Services for Seafarers, issued by the International Transport Workers Federation (link to report on SCI's website) corroborated what SCI has learned from years in the trenches - seafarers are expressing an increased need for personal counseling services.

Today, ship workers come mostly from impoverished, developing countries working long hours in dismal, dangerous conditions. They are typically away from home on ten-month assignments, with their port stays shortened to as little as eight hours. Currently, only 20% of seafarers are able to access dry land. 80% are confined to their ships, even while docked, for various reasons including: lack of visas, work demands, need for sleep, depression or simple inertia.

In response, SCI's services must evolve to meet the needs of 21st century seafarers, which include: 1) serving them aboard their ship, and 2) cross-culturally recognizing and addressing signs of distress within a very short window of opportunity. SCI, like it's counterparts around the globe, are the first line of defense for these vulnerable and isolated workers helping to keep commerce moving smoothly by troubleshooting personal and

employment issues, and by providing for workers' physical and mental health.

Accordingly, funded by a grant from the Abington Foundation, SCI has developed and implemented a rigorous 9 month counselor training program for its own corps of chaplains and ship visitors. Continuing education ensures consistent, quality counseling services that alleviate human suffering and catch problems before they escalate, interrupting port operations. ↓



Anne Klinger of Samaritan Counseling Center conducts SCI ship visitor training.

TRAGEDY AT SEA - The Death of a Seafarer

On Jan 18 tragedy struck the MV Mare Salernum when one of its crew members was gravely injured in an engine room accident. Sadly, six days away from port and medical attention, there was no hope. As the ship pulled into Eagle Point Terminal along the Delaware River, the captain turned to SCI for special counseling to assist the crew in coping with their grief at the loss of a friend.

Our three SCI postulants and Father Joseph Sundaram from BVM parish in Bustleton boarded the ship to pray with these merchant mariners and help them deal with their obvious emotional anguish. Most of the crew, 9 Italians and 16 Indians, just needed someone to listen. Nearing the end of their 10 month contract they had shared stories of future plans. The injured man was engaged to be married in two months. Many seafarers take this difficult lonely job to lift their families out of poverty. It is most humbling to witness the reality of the dangers these brave men face every day to deliver the goods and fuel we use every day. ↓

NEWS ITEM

SCI's Documentary DVD Now Available on our Website

View SCI's documentary DVD now available in the videos, links & articles section of our website, www.sciphiladelphia.org. We are grateful to Overseas Ship Management Group (OSG) for underwriting the \$15,000 production cost along with the support of: Moran Towing, Sunoco, Mallory, Jones, Lynch & Flynn, Poten & Partners, McAleer & Associates, Valero Energy Corporate HQ, San Antonio, Texas, Valero Delaware City Refinery, Valero Paulsboro Refinery, L & R Midland, and Aker Shipyard. ↓

World Maritime Day

World Maritime Day was celebrated at the United Nations in New York last October by senior executives of the maritime industry, high ranking government officials, and representatives of maritime ministry. The central theme of the day was environmental protection and preservation. Sponsored by The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the marine arm of the United Nations, World Maritime Day brings industry and government leaders together to discuss issues of global impact each year.

Sharing in the day with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori; IMO Secretary-General, Efthimios Mitropoulos, VADM Vivien S. Crea, Assistant Commandant US Coast Guard; and other international maritime leaders, Fr. Jim Von Dreele was asked to address the human impact of seafarer criminalization and material witness detention when prosecuting environmental violations at sea. The following are excerpts from his address. The full address is available on SCI's website at www.sciphiladelphia.org.

Seafarers are literally caught in the middle of these pollution problems. Because many ships, new and old, do not have the capability to deal with oily bilge water, the only course of action possible is to dump this toxic mix into the ocean by necessity and by direct command from a ranking officer. Seafarers would rather not do this but they have no choice. This problem is not isolated to the so called "substandard" ships, as a number of well respected ship operators have also been caught dumping oily water over board.....

....Locally, we at SCI Philadelphia provide daily services to these crews to keep them connected with their families and deal

with these everyday issues. But depression and addictive behaviors have surfaced among the crews. Recently, a defendant in one case tried to commit suicide.

These seafarers may never ever work again in the maritime industry because they cooperated with US authorities in the pollution cases. They face pressure from manning agents. Blackballing exists. This is the hard reality these seafarers face because they had the courage to reveal criminal acts of pollution on the high seas. Their home countries ultimately need to enforce the protections of this new Maritime Labour Convention.....

In many US ports we have seen a significant increase in enforcement of international pollution standards by the local Coast Guard Sectors. We applaud these efforts on behalf of the planet, but government officials and industry executives need to work together to mitigate the unintended human cost to seafarers.

Repeatedly challenged to serve the unmet needs of detained crews at SCI, Father Jim took this opportunity to reach out directly to officials of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in attendance with these additional recommendations:

- 1) Decriminalize pollution investigations. Seafarers are the wrong target and should not be penalized for the negligence of others.

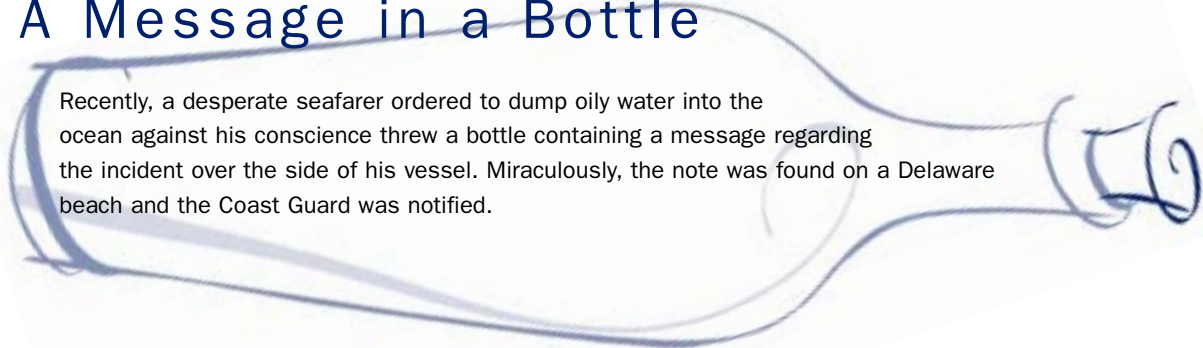


The Rev. Jim Von Dreele speaks at the United Nations

NEWS ITEM

A Message in a Bottle

Recently, a desperate seafarer ordered to dump oily water into the ocean against his conscience threw a bottle containing a message regarding the incident over the side of his vessel. Miraculously, the note was found on a Delaware beach and the Coast Guard was notified.



- 2) Streamline the DoJ and USCG investigation process so seafarers do not remain in limbo waiting to testify for 9-10 months.
- 3) Develop a more comprehensive protocol between the USCG and ship owners to assure humane treatment of material witness seafarers during their period of detention.
- 4) Reach out early and keep local maritime ministry chaplains informed of progress in investigations. The chaplain may be the only person trusted by the seafarers to provide accurate information and see to their needs.
- 5) Provide a truly independent legal counsel for seafarers, not counsel whose fees are paid by the vessel's owner.
- 6) Institute a DoJ tracking system of detained seafarers to determine how many become blackballed and how many return to sea.

In response to current environmental protection challenges, The North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) was created by the commercial maritime industry and introduced to the global maritime community at the UN during World Maritime Day. Father Jim is the ministry representative on its founding board.

NAMEPA is beginning an extensive seafarer education program on the need to preserve the environment and avoid prosecution by using best practices aboard ship. Information regarding oily water separator issues and pollution prevention are now distributed to seafarers through chaplains at centers like ours across North America to prevent further environmental violations and seafarer detentions. ⚓



NAMEPA is Launched at World Maritime Day at the United Nations



Following the worship service at World Maritime Day - The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Elias Mitropoulos, IMO Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos

NEWS ITEM

Fr. Jim to Address the American Petroleum Institute

SCI's leadership on environmental protection issues affecting seafarers is recognized both locally and globally. As a result of Fr. Jim's national advocacy work, he has been invited to address the American Petroleum Institute at their annual meeting in June regarding the human element in shipping.

SCI Hosts Another Detained Crew

For the seventh time in three years SCI is host to detained seafarers held as material witnesses by the Dept. of Justice on pollution matters. These four brave foreign seafarers must remain here for 9-10 months, unable to work, away from loved ones and familiar surroundings. Over the course of their stay, SCI will provide these men needed counseling, a network of organizations that can relieve boredom by using their labor for charitable purposes, a meeting place for activities, and an introduction to local ethnic organizations where they may feel more at home.

When seamen fall into this predicament, they have only a limited amount of clothing, often only warm weather items.

We encouraged the men to take what they needed from our clothing bank, particularly warm clothing for a Philadelphia winter. They are all from the Philippines where it is much warmer.

Grace and the Incarnation Church Outreach Committee arranged a spaghetti dinner in their honor. The feast they served fed over 25 visiting seafarers from various ships. All of the men enjoyed taking samples of the homemade desserts back to their ships.

Regrettably, as we write this article, we have received word of yet another detained crew - please visit our website for updates: www.sciphiladelphia.org

The Philadelphia School

Chaplains and ship visitors around the world are profoundly committed, often working under difficult conditions with limited resources and skills to sustain their missions. Fr. Jim Von Dreele, a faculty member of the Maritime Chaplain School in Houston, Texas, has been teaching new chaplains the basic fundraising skills required to support their seafarer centers throughout North America for the last 6 years.

Many maritime chaplains are called to this ministry from a parish setting which does not prepare them for the twin challenges of administering a non-profit corporation and fundraising to support the work. Without proper training in necessary business skills, sustainability of these missions, critical to the welfare of seafarers worldwide, is jeopardized. Endeavoring to raise

awareness of this need, Fr. Jim has enlisted the support of many advocates both nationally and internationally.

One such advocate is the International Transport Workers Federation's (ITF) Asst. Director of the Seafarers' Trust, Roy Paul in London. Last October Mr. Paul organized a regional workshop in Barranquilla, Columbia, South America for 28 chaplains and center managers from 8 Latin American countries. Fr. Jim and Doug Campanell, SCI's Operations Manager, were invited to teach basic fundraising and business management techniques. With limited business skills, commitment to their mission, and a willingness to learn, the participants demonstrated a real hunger for this training.

At the ITF's request, in February SCI submitted a grant proposal to create

The Philadelphia School for Fundraising and Center Management in partnership with Holy Family University of Philadelphia. The school has been endorsed by SCI's Board of Directors and the Board of the North American Maritime Ministry Association. Fr. Jim will be seeking an official endorsement of this project from the International Christian Maritime Association's Executive Committee at its April meeting in Bremen, Germany.

The Philadelphia School will address the fundamental need chaplains and their staffs have to achieve self-sustainability of their missions. The School will provide university level training in the skills of business management and fundraising, based on the best practices of the non-profit sector ⚓

NEWS ITEM

TWIC Arrives in the Ports of the Delaware River

The federal port security TWIC (Transportation Worker Identification Credential) program has arrived in our port and is now in the enrollment phase. By September 2008, this nationwide program will restrict all unescorted port terminal access for anyone without a valid U.S. government issued TWIC card. Imagine a seafarer at sea for six weeks with a valid American visa standing on his ship's gangway with 100 yards of terminal between him and the gate. He will no longer be able to walk the 100 yards to go shopping or make a phone call to his family from a public phone booth without an escort with a TWIC card.

By summer, SCI's security cleared ship visitors will be the most readily available escort for seafarers wanting to leave their ship. This regulation will significantly increase demand for SCI's services, requiring additional staff, training, vans, fuel, and maintenance. These regulations are here to stay. SCI must rise to meet the new challenge or consign seafarers to longer periods trapped on their vessels. ⚓



Senior Ship Visitor, Mesfin Ghebrewoldi, receives one of the first TWIC cards in our region

SCI's Board President, Mike Gabor, Receives Outstanding Service Award

SCI congratulates Mike Gabor as the 2008 recipient of the Philadelphia Business Journal's Outstanding Service to Engineering Award for his outstanding and highly specialized marine infrastructure work. With decades of experience Mike's career includes work as a project engineer, superintendent and manager spanning the construction and/or maintenance of virtually every pier facility on the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers, and Delaware Bay. Mike has played an instrumental role in high-profile projects including the Packer Avenue and Tioga Marine Terminals, the Philadelphia Cruise Terminal and the installation of deep foundations for oil refineries and oil storage facilities on both sides of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. As a result of his long exposure to the marine facilities of our region's largest rivers, Mike's expertise is unmatched. The positive impact of his work on the quality of our region's waterways is immeasurable. ⚓



SCI's Board President, Mike Gabor

Chapel for Visiting Seamen Becoming a Reality

From the day the Seamen's Church Institute relocated to our current home on North Fifth Street, Father Jim Von Dreele and the SCI Board have discussed constructing a non-denominational chapel for the thousands of visiting seamen we serve. According to Father Jim, "seamen in our busy port need a fitting place to reflect, worship and give thanks." This year, that vision will become a reality.

Plans and approvals for the 70 seat chapel have now been completed and bids are being obtained. The new chapel construction will also feature a sacristy, kitchen, and community and administrative spaces.

Under the leadership of board member Mary Ruth Talley, volunteers have raised more than \$850,000 towards the \$1,000,000 needed to construct the new Chapel of the Redeemer at the SCI center. The campaign and the chapel are expected to be completed later this year. ⚓

SCI's New Clothing Bank

Newly retired, two of our longtime volunteers, Harry and Ramona McFarland of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Burlington, NJ, offered to undertake the supervision of our clothing bank. Soon after, with inspired timing, Mr. "Quinn" Burke, a teacher at Maritime Charter School in Philadelphia, offered the services of his senior class.

In only two days, 32 high school seniors directed by Ramona, Harry and John Tieman completely overhauled SCI's clothing bank. They even created international signs so the seafarers would be able to "shop" for their clothing needs in any language! The McFarland's come back twice a week to organize and restock the bank with any new donations. We are so very grateful for the efforts of our dedicated volunteers.

SCI, recognized around the world for our hospitality, serves the needs of over 65,000 seafarers visiting the Ports of the Delaware River every year. Donations of gently used men's clothing are always greatly appreciated. ⚓



Volunteers on a Mission - The Capuchin Franciscan Postulants

Volunteers on a Mission - The Capuchin Franciscan Postulants

SCI has been blessed with the help of three Capuchin Franciscan Postulants who volunteer their time four days a week as ship visitors to the seafarers calling on the Ports along the Delaware River. Jarred Denman, Manuel Aviles and Juan Ortiz from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Padre Pio Friary located at 345 N. 63rd Street have been with us since August.

These servants of God are in the first of three stages in the process of becoming Franciscan Brothers. With warm personalities and infectious good humor, these men help to fill a void in the lonely, dangerous life of thousands of seafarers with positive spiritual reinforcement. ⚓



Volunteers, Harry & Ramona McFarland in the Clothing Bank with seafarers



MISSION STATEMENT

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF PHILADELPHIA & SOUTH JERSEY (SCI) HAS A MISSION OF HOSPITALITY, SERVING PROACTIVELY, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, THE HUMAN NEEDS OF SEAFARERS IN THE PORTS OF THE DELAWARE RIVER.

SCI provides practical, cross-cultural and appropriate spiritual assistance to seafarers, including: ship visits, land transport, international telecommunications, social and recreational programs, and counseling, both work-related and personal.

This ecumenical mission is accomplished in collaboration with area religious and ethnic communities, and also within a worldwide network of international seafarer agencies.

In addition, the mission includes pastoral support for local land-based marine interests when appropriate, facilitating the well being of the Ports and serving as ambassadors of goodwill for the region served by the ports through SCI's staff and volunteers.

Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey

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