



# The Anchor

*A window into the ministry to seafarers who keep global commerce flowing*

**Seamen's Church  
Institute**  
of Philadelphia and South Jersey

Winter 2018

## From the Executive Director

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

### TRAGEDY AND CARING

As I write and reflect on our past year of service to the seafarer, a tragic accident overshadows all the moments of joy and fellowship we have shared. Our hearts are heavy remembering 40 year-old Emmanuel Tibayan Elarde, who went into the river during bunkering (refueling) operations at the Marcus Hook anchorage on the evening of Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. His body was finally recovered two weeks later. Manny, as he is called by his family, was a motorman on the MV Concorde, a ship that has spent a good bit of time in our region, going back and forth between anchorage and alongside at Marcus Hook. Manny's homeland is the Philippines, and we are doing all we can to support his family emotionally and to help get answers to questions that are weighing on their minds. Imagine being so far away from a lost loved one and feeling helpless, as they do. Our local Coast Guard did a tremendous job on a search and has been able to provide detailed information to the family. Our hope is, now that Manny has been found, his friends and family can feel a bit of closure. Prayers, indeed, for Manny's family including his wife and brothers.



### SETTLED IN

As you all know by now, we moved this summer, and as we embark on another holiday season, we are again so thankful that our many ditty bag contributors have found us at our new location in the Philadelphia Navy Yard to continue the flow of hats, scarves, work gloves, socks, cookies, mints, ChapStick, and more that puts a smile on the seafarer's face during the hardest time to be away from family. We are so pleased, too, that we will partner with W. Payne Advisors LLC for a second year, along with the locally well-known MANNA, to provide magnificent (they really are impressive) pies to seafarers for Thanksgiving.

### VOLUNTEER!

During the year, we launched a new volunteer training program, and are grateful for the group that is forming to supplement the staff's service to the seafarer. We are highlighting our guru of volunteering, Chaplain David Reid, whose service here has been invaluable in many different ways, and most especially as the master of the ship-visitor training program. David held three classes over the course of the year, and then followed up by hosting live ship visits with our new recruits. We hope you enjoy our interview with Chaplain Reid in the pages that follow.

### PHILLY SHIP RUN

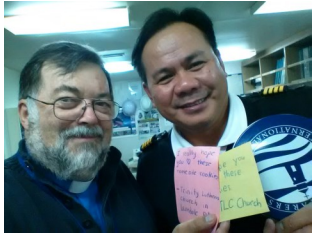
We are experimenting with a new fall event, the Philly Ship Run 5K. A huge thank you to the sponsors, our partner Holy Trinity Church of Rittenhouse Square, and our Development Director, Christine Polit, for coordinating all the details involved in launching a new event.

As we are now settled in at our new location, we are looking forward to 2019 and the start of our next 175 years of serving seafarers from around the world who sacrifice so much to enhance our local economy, and indeed our lives.

Blessings,

Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 35,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at [www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org). For gifts of stock, contact Christine Polit at 215-940-9900 x 104 or [cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org](mailto:cpolit@sciphiladelphia.org)

## Volunteer Profile



Here at SCI, we are so proud of our volunteer ship visitors and the important work they do. We'd like you to get to know them, as they truly are the face of SCI to the seafarers we serve. In this edition of The Anchor, we profile Chaplain David Reid.

Chaplain Reid has a long history connected to the work of SCI. In 1971, as a seafarer himself, he received a ditty bag while berthed in Camden New Jersey. Later, after transitioning to a career on land, he opened the Novolog Terminal in Fairless Hills in 1997 and served for 5 years on SCI's Board of Directors. When the terminal was sold to Kinder Morgan in 2004 his work took him to England for several years, and on returning to the Philadelphia area he rejoined the SCI board for another year in 2011. Chaplain Reid now serves as a ship visitor for SCI as well as our lead trainer for new ship visitor volunteers.

When asked what he enjoys most about ship visiting, Chaplain Reid's response embodies the importance of the hospitality provided by SCI ship visitors: "Seeing the smiles on seafarers' faces when I come aboard and listening to their stories. Knowing that each encounter however small can make a difference in their wellbeing." The importance of this listening ear is demonstrated when David is asked about a ship visit that really impacted him. "...the most significant was listening to a Filipino cook tell me his personal story about the loss of his infant son to Dengue fever. On that day it was the week that his son would have celebrated his first birthday. Having lost two infant sons myself, I was able to share with him in a way that he did not expect: my second son's birthday was the same week, albeit 38 years apart. The cook was sad and depressed when we began our dialogue; at the end when we parted, he was in better spirits because he too could survive the loss and learn from it, just as I have."

Chaplain Reid brings to SCI not only a special ability to connect to seafarers but also his talents as a trainer. He has spearheaded SCI's new volunteer training program, and has led three classes of volunteers this year. When asked what he wishes others knew about the work of SCI, Chaplain Reid explained, "As Rose George says, shipping is the invisible industry that delivers 90% of everything we consume. Awareness of the shipping industry and the important role it plays in the global supply chain would help all seafarer missions muster support for their work in the spiritual wellbeing of the 1.6 million seafarers that serve the needs of 7 billion." His empathy and dedication is an example to us all.

While not at SCI, Chaplain Reid runs his management consulting business, Shackleton Partners LLC, volunteers with Hospice serving Veteran patients, is a volunteer Hospital Chaplain with UPMC and is a member of the Federation of Fire Chaplains. He is working on his first book, which will focus on the connections between seven maritime disasters that have taken place over a forty-year time span. The book will explore the common threads and will include Chaplain Reid's own near miss experiences during his career at sea.

Thank you Chaplain Reid, for your dedication to SCI and to the seafarers we serve!

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM SCI!



SCI is grateful to W. Payne Advisors LLC for their donation of 60 pies for Thanksgiving from MANNA. MANNA's Pie in the Sky program at Thanksgiving raises funds to provide services for people with acute nutritional risk from a life-threatening illness such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, HIV/AIDS and more. A donation that helped serve the mission of two non-profits at once!



## DITTY BAG SEASON IS HERE



By the time you receive this newsletter, SCI staff and volunteers will have packed over 2,000 ditty bags that will be delivered to seafarers throughout the month of December. These bags, which contain essentials such as work gloves, hats and scarves, and toiletries, are a welcome gift to seafarers, who are often away from their families and loved ones during the holiday season. Thank you for all of your generous donations!

## 2018 Philly Ship Run

On Saturday, November 10, 100 runners, walkers, volunteers, and SCI supporters were at Crescent Park in the Philadelphia Navy Yard for the FIRST ever Philly Ship Run, a 5K run and 1.75 mile walk benefiting SCI's mission to serve seafarers as well as the mission of the Church of the Holy Trinity to serve those experiencing hunger in our community. Thank you to all of our volunteers, runners, walkers, and sponsors!



We are so thankful for the generosity of all of the sponsors who helped make this year's Philly Ship Run a success. A huge thank you to them all!

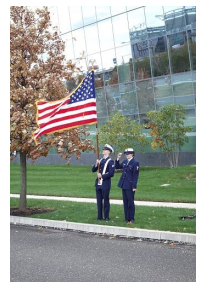
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And additional thanks to Republic Bank, Chick Fil A, Work Zone Contractors, the Cureton family, and The Philadelphia Running Company for their support!

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## **2019 SAVE THE DATES!**

**Mark your calendars:**

### **2019 Spirit of the Port Luncheon**

**March 1, 2019—Auletto's Caterers, Deptford, NJ**

### **2019 Golf Classic**

**April 29, 2019 — Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club, Fort  
Washington, PA**



***SCI is grateful for the continued support of our mission by Western Fumigation.***