

## Press Release

### The Apostleship of the Sea



## Crew of “Pride of Rotterdam” Requests Memorial Service for Lost Colleague

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 a crew member was lost overboard from the passenger ferry The Pride of Rotterdam, which was on its way from the Dutch city to The Humber. Sadly after much searching by lifeboats and rescue helicopters the search had to be called off and as of yet no body has been recovered. The Apostleship of the Sea was involved from the outset to provide welfare to the traumatised crew, and their work is still ongoing. Currently Fr. Colum Kelly, an ordained chaplain for Apostleship of the Sea in Immingham, is on standby to perform Mass for the stricken crew.**

The Apostleship of the Sea ship has active ship visitors in the Port of Hull area and are regular visitors to the Pride of Rotterdam. For this reason the crew feels very comfortable with them, so much so, that they have specifically requested that the Apostleship of the Sea return to the ship when they dock back in The Humber tomorrow, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, to visit them, care for their practical welfare and also care for their spiritual welfare by celebrating Mass. It is incidents like this that bring to the public eye the vital role that Apostleship of the Sea performs. Its chaplains are there to actively visit ships and seafarers, lend practical and comforting help, offer a friendly ear or just ‘be there’ in support.

Anne McLaren, Apostleship of the Sea lay Chaplain to the Port of Hull, has an established relationship with the crew of Pride of Rotterdam. She is unique in being the only chaplain to visit ships in this port. Seafarers do not always have time to visit the ecumenical Seafarers’ Centre so Anne makes time to go out to them, assess their needs, and do everything she can to provide practical and pastoral care to all seafarers in need.

Apostleship of the sea is a maritime welfare charity, providing vital practical and pastoral support to seafarers. The work of Apostleship of the Sea is funded wholly by voluntary contributions. For more information about Apostleship of the Sea call 07712864747.



*Anne McLaren chaplain to the port of Hull*

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### **Further information for Editors**

The Apostleship of the Sea, AOS, is a maritime welfare charity, providing practical and pastoral support to seafarers, regardless of race, colour or creed (if any).

Ninety percent of world trade is carried by ship, and some 100,000 seafarers visit British ports each year. They are commonly away from home for nine to 12 months at a time, suffering loneliness, depression and even exploitation. They also have to work in gruelling and often dangerous conditions. AOS chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores. They recognise them as brothers with an intrinsic human dignity which can be overlooked in the modern globalised maritime industry. For more information visit [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)

For further information about the work and vision of AOS please contact Sheila Bailey Director of Fundraising and Communications Tel: 07712864747 or at [sheilabailey@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:sheilabailey@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)