

Press Release

The Apostleship of the Sea



Apostleship of the Sea recognises its hard working volunteers.

Last Wednesday 26th March 2008 John Green, Apostleship of the Sea's (AOS) Director of Development visited Stephen Price, a long standing volunteer ship visitor based in Port Talbot to see how he has developed his ministry in the area.

Port Talbot receives predominantly deep sea vessels and the trade route means weeks at sea for the seafaring crews aboard ship. This makes their need for pastoral and practical support, when they arrive in port, even greater. Crews are predominantly of the Catholic faith, so AOS has a large part to play to help these seafarers. Due to geographical location of the port there is no access for seafarers to Port Talbot town except by taxi or transport from AOS. So the crews rely heavily on the AOS ship visits. Stephen has a tough job on his hands!

Over the last 4 years Stephen has given generous pastoral service to seafarers calling at the Port; and he has developed a good local network able to give wide support to his ministry. Stephen works closely with local parishes, clergy, and other AOS volunteers in the area to provide a complete service. Stephen's good ecumenical relations with other groups and charities is to be commended and has also allowed his ministry to develop and grow.

AOS is grateful for all that Stephen has accomplished so far and would like to say thank you and that we are looking forward to seeing what's next.



Stephen Price with a crewman from the Atlantic Princess, a vessel docked in Port Talbot.

Patrons: H.E. Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien and H.E. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

Chairman of trustees: Mr Eamonn Delaney
An Episcopal Agency of the Catholic Church.

National Director: Commodore Chris York

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Further information for Editors

The Apostleship of the Sea, AOS, is an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England & Wales and Scotland. It is also an independent charity wholly reliant on voluntary donations to continue its ministry.

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 - regardless of their colour, race or creed (if any) and provide them with pastoral and practical assistance. 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

For further information about the work and vision of AOS please contact Sheila Bailey Director of Fundraising and Communications, Tel: 0771 286 4747
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