



Christmas Shoebox Program

Each year around this time, the Apostleship of the Sea partners with local parishes, schools, and organizations to prepare gift boxes for seafarers that will be distributed to them “dockside”, during their calls in the Port of Baltimore during the Christmas Holiday.

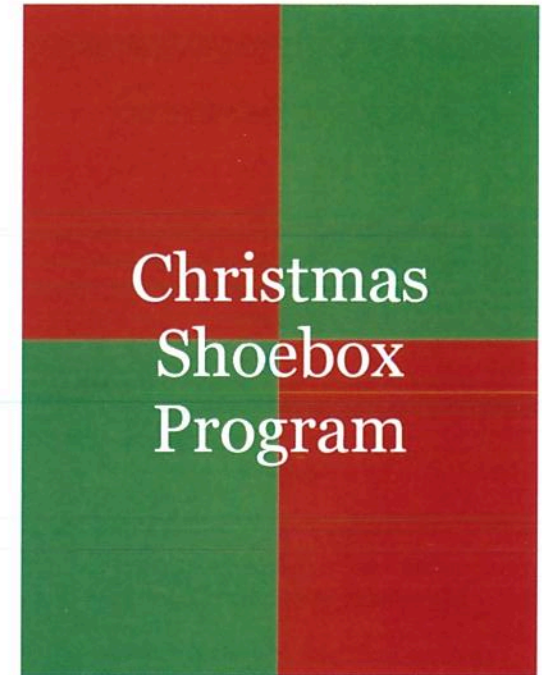
St. Pope John Paul II called seafarers “the invisible strangers in our midst” and quoted Matthew’s Gospel call to “Welcome the Christ in the Stranger”



**Apostleship of the Sea
Stella Maris
International Seafarer
Center
Baltimore, MD
USA**

**443-845-7227
aosbaltproject@gmail.com**

**ALL MAIL TO:
Apostleship of the Sea
320 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201**



And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11



*Apostleship of the Sea
Stella Maris
International Seafarer
Center, Baltimore, MD
USA*





Why the Seafarer?

The quality of American life and our economy, without the hard work of seafarers, would be unthinkable.

*

95% of international commerce depends on merchant seafaring.

About 65% of seafarers are Catholic.

*

Contracts usually require seafarers to be away from home 9-10 months of the year without leave.

*

Catholic seafarers experience very little of accustomed parish life of worship, sacraments, religious education, pastoral counseling, and parish social activities.

*

Seafaring has the highest suicide rate of any industry.

*

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is the seafarer's main source of contact with the Catholic Church.

*

Baltimore AOS reaches out to over 2,500 ships that call in the Port of Baltimore, each ship having a crew of 35-40 people.

*

98% of seafarers are males, mostly young adult males and this Christmas will be for many of them their first time away from home at Christmastime—in a foreign country at that!

What can we do?

Each year around this time, the Apostleship of the Sea partners with local parishes, schools, and organizations to prepare shoeboxes for gift-giving to seafarers who call in the Port of Baltimore during the Christmas Holiday. We would like to invite you and your parish or organization to join us!

How can we do that?

Step One:

Collect heavy duty cardboard, or plastic, shoe boxes.

Step Two:

Fill those shoe boxes with these suggested items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, combs, nail clippers, mouthwash, shampoos, conditioners, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, q-tips, disposable razors, socks, gloves, scarves, caps, pens, pencils, writing supplies, English dictionaries, calendars, pocket-sized address books/planners, scotch tape, playing cards, travel sized games, reading materials (magazines, paperbacks), non-perishable foods/snacks/candy, a small Christmas card or blessing signed from a member or members of your organization (personal notes and blessings are always greatly appreciated).

Step Three:

Wrap the boxes and call or email us to schedule your drop off date!

443-845-7227 aosbaltproject@gmail.com

Stocking Stuffers?

We're glad you asked! Telephone calling cards can also be purchased for distribution to the seafarers. These cards are available in \$5 increments. Please simply make checks payable to:

AOS/ArchBalt and write "*Christmasfoncards*" on the memo "For" line of the check

"And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me'"

Matthew 25:40

**A p o s t l e s h i p o f t h e
S e a B a l t i m o r e**

320 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

443-845-7227
aosbaltproject@gmail.com

