



# Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

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## Winter News

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### Letter from Our Board

First and foremost, we wish to heartily thank our donors and prayer partners for their support during this difficult year. The COVID pandemic has limited much of what we could do in 2020. Requirements of social distancing closed the William G. Hempel Seafarer's Center and, until recently, seafarers have not been able to leave their ships. Because of these restrictions, we have not been able to transport them to stores or other venues for needed personal supplies.

Looking ahead, we have updated our services to keep everyone safe and effective as we provide for our visiting seafarers, now and after the pandemic. We are working with agents of shipping companies that send vessels to the Port of Albany. Our mutual efforts have created a notifications system that alerts us to the arrival time and docking location of ships coming to the Capital District. Second, we will soon bring hospitality bags to every seafarer who needs it, especially those who cannot leave their ship. At least one volunteer will be available every day of the week so that every ship can be contacted and welcomed. This hospitality service will begin after Christmastide when we are stocked with needed supplies.

Through your generosity, we have been able to continue one of our most cherished traditions. Our volunteers are giving Christmas at Sea boxes to every seafarer who arrives during the Christmas season. The Seafarer's appreciate the boxes and look forward to coming to Albany during the holidays.

### A Humble Request for Much Needed Help



Ever since the pandemic has hit, our donations have plummeted even as our expenses have minimally decreased. Insurance and utility bills continue, as do payment to the agency that provides us with a skilled, volunteer port ministry coordinator. Thus, we humbly ask for your help! We are a non-profit organization (exempt from federal income taxes) under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, see [how to help](#) on our website.

Also consider providing supplies for our hospitality bags. Much needed items include:



Flowers atop the memorial stone for lives lost during the Stellamare disaster at the Port of Albany on Dec. 9, 2003; the flowers were donated by Dawn Hersey and Patia Henry for the 2019 Christmas Open House luncheon. We will never forget the lives lost, their families, and all seafarers who come to our ports.

- ✚ Secular magazines
- ✚ Ear buds (\$1.00 at the Dollar Store)
- ✚ New York State and Capital District souvenirs
- ✚ Religious items such as bibles and rosaries
- ✚ Clothing items, such as gloves, hats, tee shirts and sweatshirts
- ✚ Toiletries, such as toothbrushes and paste, floss, soap, hand salve, deodorant, soap, shaving supplies, etc.

As we move into the New Year, let us do so with the confidence that God continues to walk with us in these challenging times.

In Christ,

*The Albany Maritime Ministry Board*

Please call the office at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Albany to schedule delivery or pick-up of hospitality bag items:

(518) 463-0571

**From our Newsletter Editor:**

We remember Fr. Peter Young, whose passing was announced on December 9 of this year. Fr. Young was among the earliest ministers to seafarers in the Capital District. Long before we were a formal non-profit organization, Fr. Young was known to organize soccer games for the seafarers who came to our ports. He was a street priest in the South End, back in the 1970s, with a heart that welcomed strangers among all people in need. His big heart continued to serve the needy throughout his entire life. May our Lord bless Fr. Young's homecoming to heaven.