

Ministry to Seafarers Port of Montreal

Fall 2021

To Classis Eastern Canada and Classis Quinte

It's been a difficult season for most of us with lockdowns due to the Covid 19 pandemic. It has been more difficult for those who are seafarers. Many have been on ships, with no shore leave for many months. Most have not been home for long periods of time. We are thankful that our chaplains, Michelle DePooter and David Rozeboom have been able to continue visiting ships and providing services to the seafarers.

Our chaplains have been busy shopping for many of the mariners as they have not been allowed off the ships. The seafarers centre has seen more seafarers enjoying the space as shore leave is beginning to happen again for more ships as crew become vaccinated. With Transport Canada easing the restrictions the chaplains are looking forward to the seafarers going back to shopping for themselves.

In early July, a few seafarers who were allowed ashore, went to the nearby walk-in vaccination clinic and found they were given vaccinations with no questions asked. The chaplains, along with the National Seafarers Welfare board, have had conversations, and have seen the vaccination program formalized and by the beginning of September have assisted more than 500 seafarers to be vaccinated and granted greater freedoms. Through the vaccination campaign, the ministry has seen a strengthening in relationships within the port community.

By the end of August, there have been 486 ships in port, the chaplains have made 782 visits and have transported over 1200 seafarers to the Centre. Some local volunteers have been slowly coming back. The apartment for long distance volunteers is no longer available. Through discussion with the Ministry, it was decided to let the apartment go as it stood empty for long periods of time and the ministry administrator was having issues with the landlord. Future volunteers should contact the ministry regarding accommodations.

The Ministry is printing 10,000 copies of the "Today for Seafarers" devotional for distribution to the seafarers. Several other port ministries across Canada and the U.S. have placed orders for the devotional as well.

The Ministry is also planning a yearlong challenge for supporters and seafarers. Each month will feature a different challenge or information to engage those who participate. Some of the months will have a fundraising component (Bike Tour), but other months will be learning more about different traditions from countries or on ship. You can sign up at [www.ministrytoseafarers.org/c21](http://www.ministrytoseafarers.org/c21).

To keep up to date with this exciting ministry you can follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/theministrytoseafarersofthecrc> or their website at [www.ministrytoseafarers.org](http://www.ministrytoseafarers.org) or for those on Instagram @m2smtl .

Yours In Christ

Bert Wissink

Secretary M2S