



Ministry to Seafarers

Report for Classis Quinte

Fall 2022

Chaplain Michelle DePooter

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Ministry to Seafarers and the many seafarers we meet every day. We continue to support seafarers as they navigate ongoing pandemic restrictions and requirements by their companies.

Shore Leave

Most seafarers arriving in Montreal are now allowed to go ashore. We meet many crew members who tell us that this is the first time they have gone ashore in 2 ½ years. They are thankful that we provide transportation and a place to visit when they leave the ship, and seafarers report higher levels of happiness and satisfaction with their jobs now that they can get off their ships.

Vaccinations

Some companies only allow crew members to leave the ship if they have been vaccinated within the past 6 months, or if they have a booster shot, so we continue to facilitate requests for vaccination and provide transportation to and from the clinic. We are thankful for the good relationships we have developed with the medical staff at the clinic and for their understanding of the lives of seafarers. Since July 2021, we have assisted approximately 1600 seafarers in receiving their COVID vaccines.

Shopping

Unfortunately, we still have some ships that do not allow shore leave, so we are asked to go shopping for the crew members. In August, a Croatian seafarer asked if I could find the Titanic Lego set because he loved building Lego and he wanted this particular set. I was able to find it in the Lego store by my house and brought it to the ship. Christmas came early that day! Less than 10 days later, he informed me that he had finished building it, and 1 piece was missing.



Advocacy

Unfortunately, although shipping companies are making record profits, they are not passing it down to their crew members and we are asked often to help with situations where crew are forced to extend their contracts, or their medical needs are not taken care of, or their work conditions are unsafe. Thankfully we have a good working relationship with others who can help in these situations and most times, the crew members are able to go home.

We will be starting our Christmas parcel campaign again in September, so further information will be sent to the churches at that time. We hope to give out 1500 Christmas parcels again this year.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for seafarers.