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Stella Maris Melbourne Volunteer Newsletter

INJURED SEAFARER'S FAREWELL

Members may have seen Anatoliy over the past month hobbling along with his crutches back and forth between the main hall and garden patio. Anatoliy suffered a mild fractured spine and broken leg as well as damage to his eyes when he was involved in an accident onboard the cement carrier m/v Stadacona back on 10th November.

Anatoliy was preparing to do some work on deck when a dumped load of cement dust blinded him temporarily, causing him to fall into the hold of the vessel.

Although the cement powder in the hold cushioned his fall it caused great irritation to his eyes. Anatoliy was discharged from the Alfred Hospital on the 22nd November and has been staying here at Stella Maris since then.

A small farewell party was given for Anatoliy on Sunday and then he was whisked to the airport where he would be making 3 flights, from here to Abu Dubai, then onto Istanbul and finally to Odessa, 23 hours in all.

Due to his leg not properly healed, Anatoliy will be flying in Business Class. He is looking forward to seeing his family again but unfortunately has just missed seeing his son, who is at this moment on a plane to Australia to join the same vessel that Anatoliy had his accident on back in November.

We all wish him well and Anatoliy extends his thanks and gratitude to everyone here at Stella Maris Melbourne for their continued support.



ANATOLIY, READY TO FLY HOME, SEEN HERE WITH ANN MAREE SANFORD, NIGEL BORTHWICK (AGENT), IRENE GLASE (FAMILY MISSION) AND MATT PURCELL (ITF - ITF MELBOURNE).



With many members and volunteers heading away for the Christmas and New Year break I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year. With people being away for the holidays we will find that many evenings we will be undermanned so if anyone is available for any extra evenings to help out please ring Rom and let him know.

SEAFARER STATISTICS 2011

Seafarers for November 2011 - 1453

Seafarers for November 2010 - 1734

Year till end of Nov 2011 - 16,209

Year till end of Nov 2010 - 16,501

Ships Visited in November 2011 - 37

BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

- 4th Lota Fantonial
- 6th Stan Jones
- 8th Marie Carabott
- 31st Ivan Vysotskiy

Missed your birthday? Let me know.



STAFF CHRISTMAS DINNER

Last Friday evening, the Staff at Stella Maris, with the exception of Paul, who had prior arrangements, met to celebrate Christmas together. Dinner was booked at Max's Café at Hardware Lane in the city. The night was a great occasion and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Rom tells me that this is the first time in his eleven years here at Stella Maris that the staff have managed to get together to celebrate Christmas. On behalf of myself and the rest of the staff we would like to thank those members who came in to cover for us and make this event possible to happen.

THE STAFF CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS ENJOYED BY EVERYONE PRESENT.



REFLECTIONS by FATHER TONY COX

How do we prepare for the coming of Christ? The best preparation for tomorrow is to faithfully meet today's responsibilities. If we meet the challenges immediately before us, we will be better prepared for the future. Let us pray that God will strengthen all disciples in their daily responsibilities.

The One who comes at Christmas seeks the lost and the least.
The season of Advent which is drawing to a close has been a good time to ask ourselves who are the forgotten people in our lives.
Where would Christ go first in our neighbourhood or city? Putting Christ in Christmas might mean going to those who most need his love and care.
Honouring Christ at Christmas might mean rescuing the forgotten and lifting up the fallen.
In as much as we show love to the lost and the least we show love to him.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS and EVERY BLESSING and GRACE for THE NEW YEAR

