



Sea Sunday 2025 - Talking Notes

Seafarers' lives are hard.

Every day there are many challenges.

Seafarers share these stories with the volunteers who work at Stella Maris.

Stories of hard labour, long hours and the dangers associated with storms and shifting cargoes.

Stories of loneliness associated with being away for long stints at sea from family and friends, sickness.

Stories of unjust wages and poor working conditions.

This is why Stella Maris exists. Relying on the generosity of many people and maritime organisations, Stella Maris can address the issues that seafarers face.

Seafarers are our partners in mission. As the late Pope Francis had referred to them, the missionaries of hope, our people of the sea.

There is not a day when there is not a new experience or a new relationship struck.

There are challenges, dangers, accidents and even deaths away from home, family and friends.

Many events within the seafaring world never reach our media. Consider the reality that in 2023, 123 ships were abandoned at sea. Unfortunately, this number grew to 312 in 2024. This means that over 3,000 seafarers have been left "high and dry" during the past year.

When abandonment happens, crews are left without resources, vessels can become navigational hazards as well as threats to the environment and sea, should they break up and spew their contents into the ocean.

In Matthew's Gospel we are reminded of the importance of welcoming the stranger.

This is needed more than ever for seafarers today.

The mission work of Stella Maris is a vital source of life, support and witness. You can help by providing financial support or volunteering at a Stella Maris Centre.

As you see ships sailing our oceans, please be aware that your consciousness and concern sails with that ship. You will realise that your interest and support allows that ship to continue being afloat to ply the sea lanes of our world.