

29 September 2022

His Excellency Kitack Lim  
Secretary General  
International Maritime Organisation  
4 Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7SR



Dear Secretary General,

On behalf of Stella Maris, we would like to offer you our wholehearted support for this year's World Maritime Day theme, 'New technologies for greener shipping'.

In his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis mentions that an integral ecology encompasses the environmental, economic, and social ecology; cultural ecology; the ecology of daily life; the principle of the common good; and justice between the generations. In this sense, the environment is not regarded as something separate from us or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of it, included in it and thus in constant symbiotic interaction with it. A crisis of the environment necessarily means a crisis for humanity. A crisis of our oceans and seas necessarily means a crisis for us, especially, the *people of the sea* and local *fishers*. For as Pope Francis observes in *Laudato Si'*, "*We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*"

Stella Maris recognises that greener shipping is not only beneficial for the environment, but also for the seafarers, fishers, and families we serve and who depend on the marine environment for their livelihoods.

Thank you for using the platform of World Maritime Day to raise the profile of this critically important issue.

Stella Maris looks forward to continuing to work with you and your IMO colleagues to promote seafarers' welfare.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esteban Pacha".

**Esteban Pacha**  
Chair of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Foley".

**Martin Foley**  
Chief Executive Officer