

> Appeal Talk

Sea Sunday 2025



Good morning/afternoon/evening everyone

My name is _____ and I am here on behalf of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church, which you may also know as the Apostleship of the Sea.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your generosity each year during Sea Sunday. Your donations reach thousands of seafarers and fishers. Without it, Stella Maris simply couldn't do this vital work.

In today's Gospel we heard about the love and care that the Good Samaritan showed to the stranger that he found upon the road. For seafarers and fishers, Stella Maris is that Good Samaritan. Its chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world offer friendship and support to seafarers and fishers, in good times and in bad.

I'd like to share a story with you today that shows just how much your kindness means.

Carlo was working as a cook on a ship when he suddenly fell seriously ill. He was due to fly home to the Philippines, but instead was admitted to hospital. The ship had to leave and Carlo faced being left completely alone in a foreign country.

He spent three weeks in hospital. During that time Steve, one of Stella Maris' port chaplains, became a lifeline – visiting him regularly and supporting him as a Good Samaritan. Steve brought clean clothes, food, and a mobile phone SIM card so that Carlo could speak to his family. On his birthday, Steve arrived with a card and a small gift. It was a simple act of kindness, but it meant the world.

Three weeks is a long time to be stuck in a hospital bed, far from home, with no familiar faces. But thanks to Steve, Carlo had someone to visit him. Someone who made sure he was not alone or forgotten. He had a friend.

Even after Carlo returned home, Stella Maris' support didn't stop. Steve still checks in on him from the UK, and a Stella Maris chaplain in the Philippines is making sure he gets the care he needs there.

This is just one story. Over the past year, Stella Maris supported more than 100,000 seafarers in UK ports, and many more worldwide. But the need is growing. More crews are being abandoned. Many seafarers still aren't allowed shore leave. Mental health is worsening.

In this Jubilee Year, we are invited to be 'Pilgrims of Hope', people who bring light into dark places and show mercy in action. That is exactly what your support of Stella Maris does. It brings hope to those who feel forgotten. It reminds them they are not alone.

That's why your support this Sea Sunday matters so much. Your donations allow Stella Maris to be there for people like Carlo when they need it most.

Thank you Fr_____ for your invitation to speak here today. Thank you all for your time and may God bless your kindness and generosity.

(Seafarer name changed to protect identity)