



Eucharistic Revival!

The Dominican theologian Yves Congar quoted the first Pentecost homily of St. John Chrysostom in the first pages of the second volume of his work *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*:

“... you as initiated ones know that the priest does not touch the offerings before he has implored for you the grace of the Lord or before you have replied: ‘And with your spirit.’ This response reminds you that the one who is there does nothing by himself and that the gifts that are expected are in no ways the works of man, but it is the grace of the Spirit that has descended on all of you that brings about this mystical sacrifice Do not therefore cling to what strikes your eyes, but think of grace which is invisible.”

In the past two years, we have lived through a truly unprecedented time. The stress of daily decisions and the flood of information each day has been overwhelming. In the middle of all of these things that “strike our eyes” it can be an easy temptation to lose sight of the “grace which is invisible.”

During this past year I have been participating in a process called *Journeying Together*. In this process I have listened to young adults from a variety of cultural backgrounds. In one session some young men and women who were working towards a life on the sea were part of the conversation. One of the topics that became clear to me was the heart-felt concern of living the Catholic faith while at sea away from the Eucharist. As I’m reflecting on this pastoral concern, the bishops of the US have initiated what we are calling a Eucharistic Revival.

What is the Eucharistic Revival? I can share with you that, at one of our bishops’ meetings, we were going through



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill

our usual reports and presentations, and then one of the brothers got up and started sharing about a possible idea. How about taking a three-year period where we can focus our teaching, preaching and Church life on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? I could feel the energy increase as he presented, and, by the end, I was hoping we would be able to do it.

Well, now you will be hearing about a Eucharistic Revival for the United States for the next three years, with a bold plan to host a Eucharistic Congress with 80,000 to 100,000 people in Indianapolis in July 2024. As men and women of Stella Maris my prayer is that we involve our seafarers in the revival. I know your beautiful pastoral care and listening hearts already have been responding and trust that we will discover new ways to love our seafarers.

There already has been “grace which is invisible” flowing from the talks and sharing about this project, and I ask your special prayers to guide us all through the revival.

May the coming year be filled with grace and blessing for you and your families, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and may we all be guided by the Holy Spirit, who never ceases to bring hope and healing to our world.

+ Brendan Cahill





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We encourage you to visit our website which has user friendly navigation tools. Check out our interactive map with a list of Stella Maris chaplains and contacts, know about news and events and other relevant information.

Contact Catholic Maritime News

We welcome your comments, feedback and suggestions.
Tell us what you think by sending an email to Stellamaris@uscceb.org

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A Call for Prayers for the People of the Sea

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National Director, Stella Maris



Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ

Life at sea requires mental strength, resilience, toughness, and strength of spirit. Such invisible yet invaluable tools enable seafarers to cope, manage, and thrive in their works. Pope Francis describes the occupation of the people of the sea as one of the most dangerous in the world. He remarks that those who work on vessels are also at risk for labor exploitation, which at times rises to the level of human trafficking. Now, unfortunately, the pandemic has worsened the situation of seafarers around the world who ordinarily work under stress, fear, and anxiety. Many seafarers have contracted coronavirus. Many have lost their lives, while others have lost their jobs, houses, and/or health insurance. Many fear for their safety and bad working conditions. Many seafarers are facing unprecedented health crises emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, and mentally, and other similar challenges.

During this difficult time of the pandemic, we call for support, care, and prayers for the people of the sea. Cardinal Turkson, the prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, in a message for Sea Sunday 2021 comments that “since September 2020, an estimated 400,000 seafarers have been stranded at sea because of the COVID-19 pandemic...Coronavirus had worsened working and living conditions for thousands who have been forced to work for months longer than usual while separated for long periods from their families.” Cardinal Turkson appealed to ship owners, management companies, agents, and recruiters to regard crew members as more than “labor force” and remember that they are human beings. He also added that it is necessary to improve the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of seafarers.

The crises and problems of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overemphasized. According to the report from the International Maritime Organization, “As of July 2021, it is estimated that 250,000 seafarers are currently stranded on ships beyond the end of their original contracts and unable to be repatriated, due to COVID-related travel restrictions. A similar number of seafarers are stuck at home, unable to join ships and provide for their families.” Indeed, the pandemic has impacted “seafarers” who are on the margins yet play important and unique roles

in moving about 90 percent of the world goods – food, medicine, et cetera.

The reports from the various Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers indicate their ongoing service and care of seafarers and fishers. Port chaplains and lay volunteers at the various US Ports are offering pastoral care, providing transportation to purchase basic needs, and internet connection/phone cards to communicate with family members. Many are engaged in ship visits and see to advocacy cases. We pray through the intercession of Mary, Star of the Sea, for the protection of seafarers, fishers, and their families.

The presence of violence and piracy at sea puts the life of seafarers at risk. Many have difficulty getting permission to go ashore because of company policies or because of various restrictive and discriminatory regulations imposed by governments. Many do not have enough time to rest and relax. Many face the crisis of unpaid salaries, while many lack food, especially when their vessels and crews are abandoned in foreign ports. These situations make the life of the people of the sea difficult. In his June 2021 message, Pope Francis addressed the importance of praying for the maritime personnel and fishermen, especially for “providing our greater human family with food and other primary needs.” He observes that, “The life of sailors or fishermen and their families is very difficult.” The Pope’s August 2020 prayer intention was focused on the people of the sea. He rightly notes that, “Without the people of the sea, many parts of the world would starve.” The Pope calls on the people of God thus: “Let us pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.” With Saint Pope John Paul II, we pray that Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, may guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea. We pray that as we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost. We pray that we will never fail on life’s journey, that in heart and mind, word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, “Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?” With the psalmist, I “call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.” (Ps 17:6). Hear me Lord and answer my prayer on behalf of seafarers. Let us seek the Lord and his strength. Let us seek his presence continually, for blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

The people of the sea need our support and prayers. Their situation calls for concern and positive action from all of us. In this time of uncertainty, I ask you to join me

to pray for all seafarers. As Cardinal Peter Turkson rightly prayed in the Sea Sunday message, “We lift our prayers to Mary, Star of the Sea, to accompany those who are no longer with us to the safe harbor of heaven and comfort the devastated relatives and friends who are left behind.” We pray through the intercession of Mary, that the people of the sea who constantly face challenges and separation from family and friends may experience joy and peace in their hearts. *Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, guide them. Amen!*

Prayer inspired by the Message for Sea Sunday of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

O God the Father, who call man and woman to cooperate with their labour in the work of your creation, we thank you for the tireless dedication of the people of the sea, who in this period never stopped transporting from one port to another essential medical equipment and medicines to support the fight against the spread of the virus. Grant them strength in moments of weakness, unity in diversity, a safe and smooth sailing and, once the contract is over, happiness to be reunited with their loved ones.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, with Your grace, encourage the maritime industry to facilitate crew changes, vaccinations and strengthen the implementation of international standards to enhance and protect the human and working rights of the people of the sea. Free us from the scourge of piracy and the tragic consequences of the abandonment of seafarers.

Holy Spirit, hovering over all the waters of the world, awakens in the chaplains and volunteers of Stella Maris the appeal of the splendour of the faith, so that they always witness it with the consistency of life, revealing the caring face of the Church which welcomes and is close to the people of the sea, responding without hesitation to their spiritual and material needs.

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea, we entrust to you the wellbeing of the people of the sea and pray that you continue to protect us all from all dangers, especially from COVID-19. Assist us with Your maternal blessing, while we are sailing to the port of all our hopes. Accompany those who are no longer with us into the house of Heavenly Father and give comfort to grieving relatives and friends. Amen!

Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Prefect, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development 11 July 2021 Sea Sunday message can be viewed at: www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/2021/sea-sunday-2021-the-message-of-cardinal-turkson.html

HOMILY

Deacon Richard Longoria

Here is my homily that I preached on Ascension Sunday at St Philip the Apostle in Corpus Christi. I preached on Seafarers each Sunday at various parishes in Corpus Christi during May and June. So from no volunteers to now three in training to board ships, with about another 9 who are keenly interested. God bless your work, Deacon Richard Longoria

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature: the opening sentence spoken by Jesus to his apostles in today's Gospel just before he ascended into heaven. And these words too are directed to us today, we the Faithful of the Church. We are now the Mystical Body of Christ. We are now the hands and feet of Christ on earth. We are the new apostles, the apostolate of the Church, dedicated to the propagation of our Faith, the true Faith.



Deacon Richard Longoria

In our Baptism we now share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly being of Christ. He, our Lord of the Ascension, has given us, an assignment, a mission to our families, to our co workers, to our neighbors, to all the peoples of God, to the whole world. We are called to be 'other Christs', to be a people who wish to make known and spread the love of God and his care for his people in the world, no matter who they are. God's love is for all peoples; his gift of salvation is not just for a few, not just a nation or two, but for the whole world and this is our mission as the living Body of Christ on earth.

We are part of this grand, mystical and majestic Body. In our own physical body, no member of it plays a passive role in the life of our body. All our different parts work together, unified for our well-being. And so it is true too for the Body of Christi on earth,

The Church with diverse peoples, cultures, languages, is unified to profess to all the love of God and his care for his people in the world. There is certainly a diversity of ministries but a unity of mission: to bring the love of God to the world. We all have different roles to perform in bringing the love of God and his salvation to his people in the world.

It is incumbent on every Christian after receiving the Word of God and his grace to pass it on by our caring and loving actions and concerns for our neighbor, our co-workers, our children, our friends for sure, but also to those who are lost, who are lonely, to the spiritually damaged and wounded, to those who hunger for the Word of God and

His love, to those who need a helping hand, to those who need a friend.

The Good News that Christ proclaimed is that you are loved immeasurably, without limits. God cannot take his eyes off you, like a loving parent for his child. God loves you so much that he sacrificed his only Son for you and thereby offers you eternal life. We are to pass on this gift of the Good News. It's a treasure, not to be hidden, not to be hoarded. Everyone needs to hear and see our treasure of the Good News through our Christ like actions and concerns for all of God's children.

Show me, teach me, Jesus what it is to live in you and for you to live in me. Teach me what it means to be in love with You, to be at ease with You, to find strength in You and to teach others the brilliance that will come to them through You living in them and they in You.

The fruit of our Christian life is in our work for God's people. Do we see the life of God in others? I invite you to be ministers of kindness, of love, of courage, of endurance, a special ministry in our ordinary lives that will bear the brilliant fruit that comes from extraordinary kindness and compassion.

I invite you to consider a special ministry that Bishop Mulvey has asked me to bring to you. It's mission to the world, in a real sense the whole world comes to us here at our Port. It's ministry of the lay apostolate to seafarers here in our own city, at the Port of Christi and at the Corpus Christi International Seamen's Center. Our Port here is the third largest port in the United States. Do you know that some 6,000 ships call on the Port of Corpus Christi each year, huge tankers coming and going with oil, gas, grains and other products that people use every day from all over the world. Each year this amounts to 80,000 tons of cargo coming and going right here at our Port. 90-percent of household and personal items have come by way of international shipping.

Aboard these ships in a given year at our Port are some 150,000 seafarers, men and women. That's nearly half the population of Corpus Christi. And they are nearly invisible to us. How often have you seen them downtown, the malls? I never have. But they are here.

Our diocese is seeking volunteers to join the Diocesan Ministry to Seafarers, who are far from home, from family, from children and friends for nine to ten months at a time, missing births and deaths of family and friends, often undergoing strenuous work environments of the high seas, grueling workdays, constant exposure to the elements, lack of medical attention while on the seas and at the mercy of storms made even more dangerous through climate change, and even at the mercy of modern day pirates who still roam

the seas for plunder. And seafarers are often far from the Word of God, from Christian interaction, and prayer, far from the Eucharist, far from the spiritual life of the Church.

The majority of seafarers calling on our Port are Filipinos, Central Americans, Ethiopians, Koreans, Spaniards, Greeks, Ukrainians, Russians, Indonesians, Chinese. Many of whom are Christian, Catholics.

But while in port here, most seafarers can't leave their ship for various reasons, no visa, their work requires them to stay aboard, or the ship captain just says no, you can't leave the ship. They must remain on board. Therefore, our Diocese is in great need of lay chaplains who can board the vessels and bring Christian solidarity to the seamen, bring them spiritual comfort and prayer, bring them the Eucharist, and give them a ear to hear of their needs, to listen, to be present there for them. To be engaged in the ministry of presence.

Right now, we have no Catholic lay chaplains at our Port. There are only four lay chaplains here and all four are Baptist. God bless them for sure. Because of our shortage of lay chaplains here, seafarers in our Port lack a warm and friendly welcome and many yearn for the presence of their Faith, our Faith. Let us remember these words of Jesus he addresses to each one of us: "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

I invite you to consider joining the Diocese's effort by becoming a volunteer lay chaplain to board vessels some of which have a quick turnaround and off they go for another port. It can be strenuous walking up and down steep gangplanks from the dock to the ship.

If one doesn't have the physical ability to walk up and down gangplanks, then there's a need for donations for our Seamen's Center which is open everyday from 11am to 10pm, 362 days a year. The Center needs help during fundraisers. One fundraiser is coming up next month, June 19, a BBQ for the Center by the Downtown Lions club and HEB. Volunteers are needed in the Center's kitchen and to deliver paid for BBQ plates. Our Center is a non-profit organization. that extends a helping hand, welcoming mariners with a chapel, free WIFI, offering bibles in many languages, offering transportation from ship to the Center, offering transportation for shopping and medical visits. The Center has snacks and drinks, has a pool and football table; it has phone cards, computers and phones available for the seafarer. Our Seamen's Center here also works on arranging for COVID vaccinations aboard ship for the seafarers while in Port.

Pray over this calling you hear right now. Two Catholic seafarer organizations, the Apostleship of the Sea and Stella Maris, have on line programs to train men and women who hear the calling to become lay chaplains. Many chaplains report of long lasting international friendships they have established from their ministry.

You are invited to come to our Seamen's Center on May 27, a Thursday evening, from 530p to 7, for a reception that our Bishop Mulvey is hosting for those who would like to learn more about the ministerial and physical needs of seafarers while they are in Corpus Christi. There will be a video presentation by the Executive Director of the North

American Maritime Ministry Assn or NAMMA, and there will be port chaplains there to explain their work. And what it takes to become a lay chaplain at our Port.

The Center was established by a strong Catholic woman, Alice Milloy, who was one of the founding parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and a founding parishioner at St. Pius X. And the current executive director is Sharon Emerson, a parishioner of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish on North Beach.

At the back of the church is a table set up with more information about seafarers and the Seamen's Center and Bishop Mulvey's reception on May 27 and a sign up sheet if you like to attend the May 27 reception or would like more information on becoming a lay chaplain to seafarers here in Corpus Christi. My calling cards are back there too with my personal cell number and email. If you and yours would like to attend the May 27 reception, please email me, call me, or text me.

The Church is offering you an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and to bear fruit, to be a living and fruitful branch of the eternal Vine, to be in Christ Jesus and He in you and in those you serve in His name. Thank you and God bless.



Vulnerable to abuse and hardship, seafarers' dignity and welfare must be protected around the world, the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, said in remarks to the International Maritime Organization's general assembly. He said that seafarers are vulnerable to violence and abuse at sea, including pirate attacks and modern slavery. See the article: **Seafarers' welfare, dignity need protection, Vatican foreign minister says** in the Catholic Review: **Seafarers' welfare, dignity need protection, Vatican foreign minister says - Catholic Review**

The First Shipboard Mass in Point Comfort

Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop Promotor of Stella Maris, celebrated Mass on board the ship Star Bow at Port Point Comfort, Texas on November 3, 2021.

Bishop Cahill, Sr. Rosario and Deacon Eddie Huse arrive at the Port and are greeted at the end of the gangway and find the way to the space for Mass



Celebrating Mass



Mass aboard ship a source of joy

By Janet Jones

POINT COMFORT – Timing is everything when trying to minister to seafarers. Nov. 3 was the first time Bishop Brendan Cahill, episcopal promoter for Stella Maris in the U.S., had the chance to celebrate a Mass aboard a ship. That he happened to be available when the ship was in port was a source of joy for many.

The ship, the Bow Star, had a 28-person crew from the Philippines, with about 13 able to attend the Mass. Originally the Mass was set for a Monday, then changed to Tuesday and again to Wednesday. It's the nature of the business. And the pandemic and cargo delays haven't helped.



Bishop Cahill with those able to attend the Mass

The Rev. Tommy Chen, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf in nearby Port Lavaca, who is the chaplain for the local Stella Maris ministry, had toured the port in Point Comfort just a month earlier to be prepared if he was called on to celebrate Mass. He said he realized it would probably be call with short notice and a small window of opportunity.

When the call came from the Bow Star, Father Tommy was not available and asked Bishop Cahill, who said yes right away.

Deacon Eddie Huse of Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and Sister Rosario Resendez, Bishop Cahill's administrative assistant, went along to help set up for and serve during the Mass.



Sr. Rosario was touched by the crew's gratitude and hospitality.

Deacon Huse said he was more than surprised to get the call from Bishop Cahill the morning of Nov. 3 to assist with the Mass. But he agreed right away and was amazed by the experience.

Sister Rosario said it was like entering another city. She was touched by the crew's gratitude and hospitality as well. The captain had them stay for supper before they went back home.

Rhonda Cummins, the maritime associate with the Point Comfort Seafarers Center, helped coordinate the visit. Bishop Cahill praised Cummins for being the main minister at the port, visiting every ship that comes in, helping the seafarers get what they need – including vaccines – and coordinating the Christmas at Sea program that provides gifts to each member of the crew.

Bishop Cahill said no other port can claim that each ship gets a personal visit. He also said the captain of the Bow



The captain had them stay for supper before they went back home.

Star asked if there were Christmas gifts this time. "Those seafarers remembered that," he said. "It means a lot to them."

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LA's ministry for sailors eyes a comeback amid pandemic, port back-up

Dana Bartholomew



Father Maurice Harrigan is the pastor of Mary Star of the Sea Church in San Pedro and chaplain of the Port of LA's Stella Maris Crew Center and Chapel. (Victor Alemán)

For years, maritime crews streaming into the Stella Maris Crew Center and Chapel were greeted by a sign depicting the Virgin Mary, proclaiming “Mass – Quiet Time – Relax/Free: Wi-Fi, Coffee and Cookies.”

Now the sign beckoning a safe harbor for thousands of global sailors and hospitality workers sits behind locked doors at the Port of Los Angeles World Cruise Center in San Pedro.

Its overstuffed couches sit empty. Its care packages of shipboard necessities, from warm socks to shampoo to rosary beads, sit untended. Its coffee machine, cold, despite two Holland America and Princess ships tethered recently to a dock outside its capacious windows.

And its Stella Maris Chapel – a sanctuary for global seafarers who once eagerly received the holy Eucharist after days, weeks, or months at sea – sits empty.

“Normally, we’d have 40 to 50 people in our chapel from both these cruise ships,” said Father Maurice Harrigan, pastor of the nearby Mary Star of the Sea Church and its maritime offshoot at Berth 93.

“And now – zero. They’re not allowed off their ships. That’s a huge problem, for them and for us. They want to be served; we want to serve them. But we can’t do anything.”

The doldrums of the San Pedro chapel occur as cruise lines, stalled during the COVID-19 contagion, restarted

their engines this fall for world tours.

It also coincides with a worldwide supply-chain backup that has clogged the nation’s busiest container port, with up to 100 merchant ships idling offshore waiting to unload their cargoes.

With so many ships swirling around the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports, it’s not entirely clear why thousands of their Catholic seafarers haven’t been able to access the Stella Maris chapel and crew center.

For Stella Maris, the Latin title for Our Lady, Star of the Sea, has since ancient times been their guiding star, and the beacon for the historic Mary Star of the Sea parish, its 80-year-old maritime ministry, and for its parish priest.

“I had a direct encounter with Our Lady, inviting me to be a priest for her Son,” said Father Harrigan, whose first Mass 25 years ago coincided with the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

‘Fisherman’s Parish’

The Mary Star of the Sea Church, founded in 1889 on a hill overlooking the Port of Los Angeles, has been dubbed the “Fisherman’s Parish” for its links to the once-thriving fishing and canning industries.

A shining Mother Mary has stood for decades atop its lofty bell tower, thanks to its largely Croatian and Italian fishermen who devoted a portion of their daily catch to pay for the 10-foot bronze statue.

Her open-armed welcome has extended to thousands of sailors and ship crews streaming through the Los Angeles harbor past Angel’s Gate.

Father James McLaughlin, a Mary Star of the Sea pastor during the Great Depression and World War II, founded the Stella Maris Chapel, a parish outgrowth linked to the Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic organization that supports needy seafarers around the world.

The dockside chapel and crew lounge serve as a wheelhouse for maritime ministries in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.



The view from the Stella Maris Chapel in the Port of Los Angeles. (Victor Alemán)

For decades, a Mary Star of the Sea priest conducted daily Mass and offered pastoral guidance, including Communion. They also shuttled the mostly foreign ship crews on shore leave to doctor appointments and to visits with their respective consulates.

When not attending church in a small alcove toward the back, dozens of men and women hung out in the lounge, logged on to its computers, thumbed through its library, picked up Amazon deliveries, or received care packages of hygiene kits, prayer books, and more, assembled by local volunteers from the Catholic Daughters of America.

Up until the COVID-19 contagion, the Stella Maris Crew Center and Chapel saw as many as 4,000 mariners a year, a majority from visiting cruise ships, many of whom were natives of the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and Southern India, Father Harrigan said. The chapel was closed in March 2020 during a public health order barring indoor worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its former chaplain, Father Freddie Chua, now serves as pastor of Annunciation Church in Arcadia.

Now with the COVID-19 restrictions eased and increased cruise and cargo ship traffic, Church officials say that worshippers aren't able to return. In fact, they've simply disappeared.

"It's been in limbo," said Nicholas Vilicich, sacristan for Mary Star of the Sea, who once helped shuttle crews in a designated church van for Stella Maris. "Crews can't get off the ship – at all. We can't get on the ships. It's a great loss to crew members who need our help."

Mixed messages about crew shore leaves

For decades, foreign-born crews on ships docking at U.S. harbors could simply request a shore-leave visa, and go. Then came the pandemic, when safety protocols stranded more than 200,000 seafarers at sea for months. Now some crews are being granted shore leaves at various ports, including Los Angeles.

But Father Harrigan, who has replaced Father Chua as chaplain of the Stella Maris Chapel, was mystified as to why cruise ship crews weren't showing up at Stella Maris. The chapel is being opened once a week till they return.

He said a Princess Cruises purser told him federal customs officials were barring shore leaves because of concerns that crews from certain nations could jump ship. U.S. Customs officials say that's not the case.

"We haven't made any port-wide changes regarding shore passes," said Jaime Ruiz, branch chief for strategic media engagement for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in an email to Angelus. "Last time I checked, there were over 600 shore passes. I assume the volume will increase as the port congestion eases up and cruise lines

resume full operations."

He said CBP officers conduct an interview and risk-assessment for crew members in possession of a valid visa and passport to determine if a shore pass should be granted. It also grants leaves for crew members who are not eligible for a shore pass in special circumstances, such as a need for medical care.

He said he suspects the decrease in Stella Maris attendees may be largely attributable to the pause in cruise ship operations over the last year, given that a cruise ship can have upwards of 1,600 crew versus a container ship that typically has about 20 crew members. "Cruise ship arrivals have resumed over the last couple of months," Ruiz said, "but we're still not at pre-COVID volume."

"We have received requests from carriers, cruise ships, and vessel captains to deny shore passes," he said. "However, we still issue the shore pass based on the aforementioned risk assessment and not based on a request from the industry."

Holland America, a branch of Carnival Corporation & plc, based in Seattle, did not return calls. A spokeswoman for Princess Cruises, also a branch of Carnival, said from time to time due to operations, compliance, or safety considerations, shore leave may not be available.

A spokesman for Carnival Corporation said in an email he did some preliminary checking, and "it appears that our crew members are taking shore leave" in Los Angeles.

But according to the Sea Me Crew Foundation, a nonprofit advocate and support group for global crew members based in Vancouver, it's been very erratic on who gets to leave a ship and who doesn't, depending on the ship and port-of-call, as well as number of COVID-19 cases on board.

"To my knowledge, [Princess is] not letting crews off in LA," said Krista Thomas, founding president of the foundation, which has 60,000 Facebook crew members. "I haven't heard of anyone getting off in LA lately."

Meanwhile, Father Harrigan said he's working with Princess Cruises officials so that he can conduct services for seafarers on deck with their ships in port.

"These people have a very difficult life, being seafarers," said Father Harrigan, 58, a native of Glendale who left the business world after feeling the call to the priesthood. "And it's been especially difficult for us to serve them. Aboard ship, they don't have Wi-Fi, comfortable couches, wide-screen TVs, stuff we all take for granted."

"I'm very sad, distressed. I wish we could serve our people," he said. "Those we serve can't come in to worship – receive Mass, any of the sacraments. ... They are spiritually starving to death."

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U.S. Bishops Conduct Canonical Consultation on Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Marinus (Leonard) LaRue

BY USCCB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

JUNE 18, 2021

WASHINGTON— At their annual spring Plenary Assembly, the bishops of the United States held a canonical consultation on the cause of beatification and canonization of the Servant of God Marinus (Leonard) LaRue, professed Brother of the Order of Saint Benedict (O.S.B.).

Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI of Milwaukee, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, and Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney of Paterson, facilitated the discussion by the bishops. The bishops expressed support for the advancement of the cause of beatification and canonization on the diocesan level.

Captain Leonard LaRue/Brother Marinus, O.S.B., was born January 14, 1914 and baptized at St. Joachim Church in Philadelphia. He attended the Pennsylvania Nautical School, serving aboard the Schoolship Annapolis, graduating in 1934. In December 1950, Captain LaRue and the SS Meredith Victory were delivering military supplies to northeast Korea, when he encountered Korean refugees who were desperate to flee the oncoming Chinese soldiers. Knowing that staying behind would mean certain death, Captain LaRue did not hesitate to take the refugees onto his ship. In the end, 14,000 refugees were taken on board the SS Meredith Victory into the freezing Sea of Japan and the mine-infested waters to Geoje Island where they disembarked on Christmas Day 1950, completing their 450-mile journey.

Years later reflecting on that Christmas voyage, Brother Marinus said, "I think often on that voyage. I think how such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. And as I think the clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shores of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship."

Captain Leonard LaRue entered St. Paul's Benedictine Abbey in Newton, New Jersey in 1954 and took the name of the Brother Marinus for the Blessed Lady. As a monk, he did not follow the path to priesthood, and instead he served at St. Paul's Abbey as a religious brother, performing tasks such as dishwashing, working in the gift shop, and ringing the abbey's bell each morning to wake the monks.

When Brother Marinus was asked what influenced his

entering religious life, he summarized it: "To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances. To seek Him the greatest adventure. To find Him, the greatest human achievement."

Brother Marinus also expressed his deep love for the Church and the mission of evangelization. In his correspondence with Bob Lunney, his friend, and the shipmate, one reads that "he has accepted recent publicity about that Christmas voyage only because there is such a tremendous need for vocations throughout the world." And in the same letter he stated, "Our Lord has recommended the single life to those who can stand it but it takes the assistance of the sacraments for an individual to live a virtuous life [...] the more we attend Mass, the more we receive Holy Communion, the more Christ like we become and the more Masses will speak for us on our judgment day. Our Lord wants us to be daily communicants and if you have never done so, I would urge you to do so... you do not know what you are missing until you do. It will completely change your whole life and put things in their proper perspective." Brother Marinus died on October 14, 2001 at the age of 87 at St. Paul's Benedictine Abbey in Newton, New Jersey. The abbey is located in the Diocese of Paterson.

Bishop Sweeney has affirmed Captain LaRue's heroic actions as a Merchant Marine, and the monastic life of Brother Marinus, which was marked with simplicity and obedience, as reasons for moving forward with his cause of beatification and canonization.

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Of the 23 vessels that Captain La Rue signed on between his graduation from the Pennsylvania Nautical School and the Meredith Victory, seven were engaged in enemy actions, or 30.5%.

The Christmas Miracle of Captain La Rue and the crew of Meredith Victory rescuing 14,000 North Korean refugees from certain death is truly one of the greatest miracles of all time. But maybe an even greater miracle is that Captain Leonard La Rue survived to make it happen.

Fr. Sinclair Oubre

NOTES FROM THE PORTS

Port Arthur-Philadelphia: Joined by Two Holy People

By Fr. Sinclair Oubre

Many of us are familiar with the story of St. Katherine Drexel. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she with her two sisters became the inheritors of their father's estate

of \$15.5 million after his death in 1885. We know how, while visiting Pope Leo XIII in January of 1887, she begged the Holy Father to send missionaries to staff some Native American missions. Pope Leo XIII responded that she should become a missionary.

His challenge led her to enter religious formation, and with 13 other women, found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament with the apostolic focus on ministry to Native Americans and African Americans in the southwestern and western United States.

By 1915, Mother Katherine began visiting Port Arthur and Beaumont to inspect the parish schools her estate supported at Sacred Heart Church and Blessed Sacrament Church.

While I was pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Port Arthur (2001-2013), I was blessed to have the holy man Joseph Prevost in my parish. Not only was Joseph a lector at daily Mass, and someone who was filled with a spirit of prayer, Joseph had been a student at Sacred Heart School.

Because of his beautiful penmanship, Joseph was selected by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart School to write Mother Katherine the school's annual



francis_e_powell

thank you letter. This responsibility came with the honor of meeting Mother Katherine, and shaking her hand when she would make her regular visits to Port Arthur.

Because of failing health, Mother Katherine had to give up these visits. However, I always reminded Mr. Prevost that he was St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's second class relic because he had touched the body of St. Katherine Drexel.

So, if you go to Sacred Heart Church campus on Booker T. Washington Avenue, and walk through its church and parking lot, you will be walking in the footsteps of this great and holy woman.

A second child of Philadelphia has now begun the path to sainthood, Servant of God Brother Marinus, O.S.B., and he



Meredith Victory

too has walked in Port Arthur.

Born Leonard Panet LaRue on January 14, 1914, he was baptized at St. Joachim Church on Church Street in Philadelphia. After high school, he entered the Pennsylvania Nautical School. On graduation, he signed on to the Atlantic Refining Company ship, SS Francis E. Powell as an able bodied seafarer.

From June of 1934 to December of 1934, LaRue sailed regularly between Philadelphia and Port Arthur. The Port Arthur News records that the Francis E Powell called at least three times at what is today the Total Refinery. At that time, the spot on the Neches River was called Atreco (Atlantic Refinery Company).

The first port call was from June 27-28, 1934. The weather was fair, the high temperature was 92°, and President Roosevelt was invoking new labor powers to address labor unrest during the depression. After loading, the Francis E Powell sailed back to Philadelphia with a load of refined products.

The second recorded visit by LaRue occurred on October 25-27, 1934. Again, the Francis E Powell loaded refined products for Philadelphia. The weather was milder with the temperatures around 89°. The headline that day told of US bankers endorsing Roosevelt's economic reform programs.

The third recorded visit occurred from November 13-14, 1934. Again, she was loading refined products bound for Philadelphia. The weather was cloudy with occasional rain, and a temperature of 68°. The headline focused on the growing tensions in Europe: "France delivers ultimatum on Saar."

Unlike St. Katherine Drexel, we cannot place an exact location for where Servant of God Brother Marinus walked, but we can feel certain that he would have walked along the west bank of the Neches River where the Total Refinery docks are today. In addition, because the white shopping area and movie theaters would have been located along Procter Street, it was very normal for a seafarer to

stroll along that street. In addition, since he had a strong devotion, and was known to visit parish churches before setting out on voyages, he may have walked into St. Mary Church, at Augusta and 6th Street to say a prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

According to his own record of ship service, the Francis E Powell was the only tanker he served on. The Francis E Powell continued to regularly call at Atreco in Port Arthur until January of 1942.

While sailing along the Maryland coast from Port Arthur bound for Providence, Rhode Island, she was attacked and sunk on the morning of January 27, 1942 by German U-boat 130. Of the 32 crewmembers on board, four, including the master, were lost in attempting to abandon ship.

Leonard LaRue continued to sail, shifting to the Panama Pacific Steam Ship Lines' SS Columbia and then on to freighters. With the beginning of World War II, he had risen in rank to 2nd mate, and was the 12-4 officer of the watch on the SS Mormacmar on her run from Iceland to Murmansk, Russia as part of PQ-13 in March of 1942.

With the out break of the Korean War, now Captain Leonard LaRue took command of the SS Meredith Victory. He was part of the 100+ flotilla that supported General McArthur's Inchon Landing. A few months later, after the Chinese Communists entered the war, and the allied forces were retreating to the port city of Hungnam, Captain LaRue ordered his ship into the mined harbor to take on the remaining North Korean refugees who were pouring into the city.

Beginning on December 22, 1950, the crew of the Meredith Victory took on 14,000 North Korean refugees, and on December 23, she was one of the last vessels to depart Hungnam before the port was shelled by the US Navy to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Communist forces.

On December 24th, the Meredith Victory docked in Buson, and on December 25, 1950, she docked at the island of Geoje-do, and began to discharge 14,005 refugees. Five new lives were born on the voyage from Hungnam to Geoje-do.

Two years later, Captain LaRue left the sea and lived the next 40 years of his life as Benedictine Brother Marinus at St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, New Jersey. On March 25, 2019, Bishop Serratelli began the cause of Servant of God Brother Marinus.

We have a lot of work ahead of us on this cause, but with a lot of prayers and God's will, Port Arthur may be able to one day say that two saints have walked their streets.

Karen Parsons celebrated the 36th Anniversary of her commissioning into the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) in the Archdiocese of Detroit on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. She served in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston since 1992. Over the years she attended training in the ministry and has trained countless new port chaplains and volunteers. Although she retired from climbing gangways in December 2020, in her last year before retiring (during the pandemic) the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston assigned her three diaconate candidates to train in port ministry; Bob Milmo, Mike Carr, and Jose Guadalupe Marinez, who have been assigned to the Port of Galveston and Texas City. Karen stated "I did not skimp on their training because of the pandemic. We did masks and social distancing and online when we could. We did one on one ship visiting and I took them out to the fishing docks too. They got the best training I could give them before I left."

A New Perspective

By Robert Milmo - Galveston Seafarers Center - Galveston, Texas

After serving more than 30-years in the United States Coast Guard, my final assignment was the USCG Station Galveston, Texas. During my four years as the Officer in Charge, I drove by the Galveston Seafarers Center daily, never realizing the mission they performed or who the Chaplain was, let alone what Stella Maris meant. Fast forward to my retirement from the service and God's call to serve the Church.

I was accepted as a Diaconate candidate with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and with God's grace, will be ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church in February

2023. For perspective I wanted you to know my Coast Guard background and how in a Law Enforcement role we conducted many fisheries boarding on the inshore and offshore fishing fleet who call Galveston their homeport.

As part of my social ministry, I was assigned to the Galveston, Texas Seafarers Center where I met and became friends with Chaplain Karen Parsons. Chaplain Parsons



Bob Milmo - Mike Carr

provided intense training of Stella Maris to myself and my two other candidates. Once she felt we were ready to visit ships and fishers, she gave us the green light. On our way, we picked up another Diaconal candidate that is fluent in Vietnamese. What a great team the Holy Spirit formed; we have both a Spanish speaking as well as Vietnamese candidates. Somehow with the use of language we have been very successful interacting and making new friends as we visit the many fishing docks in the Galveston area. I must admit having spent years on the water in a Law Enforcement role, I never had the opportunity to learn who the fisherman were or where they lived. In other words, I knew nothing of their livelihood. Yet today after a couple years of ministry, I've learned these men and women are some of the hardest working individuals I've had the pleasure of meeting. You can find us on the docks most Saturday's handing out care packages which consist of; high visibility T-shirts, socks, ravioli (pop tops), cookies and protein bars, along with a rosary or a fisherman's knife.



Jose Lupe Martinez - Victor Tang

The most rewarding aspect of this ministry is building relationships with the fishers and the owners of the facilities. We've learned more from these fishermen on how to shrimp or oyster than I did in my career with the Coast Guard. I had no idea how to head a shrimp or what it takes to do so. Now I realize this is tedious – backbreaking work which can earn both the deckhand and owner of a boat more money per pound than if the shrimps head remained. Who knew – certainly not I. One of the great success stories we encountered was meeting Mr. Tony J, an owner of a large commercial Oyster Company in Texas City, Texas. This man rolled out the Red Carpet and took the time to teach us how the commercial oyster industry operates, allowing us to interact with his employees, most of who are here in the United States with work permits from Mexico. For perspective Mr. Tony is a devout Catholic and this certainly helps in gaining entry to his docks. The crews enjoy our visits since they know our Spanish speaking brother candidate has treats for them and can swap a sea

story or two reminding them of why they are here, earning a wage to support their families at home. You see, God has a strange way of placing us exactly where we need to be exactly when we're supposed to.

True, our ministry to the fishers is just one part of what the Center offers however it is very rewarding to be present in the lives of these fishers of the sea. We are truly blessed to have this opportunity and as you can see I now have a greater appreciation within my heart and soul, for my Brother and Sister fishers of Galveston, Texas.

Seattle Seafarers Center

The Rev. Cristi Chapman and Deacon Jose DeLeon



Emerging out Chaos: A Year of Rebuilding and Renewal

Like most organizations, the pandemic significantly impacted the Seattle Seafarers Center (the Center). For a brief time in 2020, the Center was unable to carry out any ship visits. Eventually, “gangway visits” started again, and by the end of the year, some visits were taking place inside vessels, especially in ships offices and tally rooms. In addition, once ship visits began (gangway visits, etc.), many of the Center's volunteers elected not to participate given the risks inherent in that work due to the pandemic. At the end of 2020, only five people were involved in day-to-day operations the Center, and all of them were paid in some way.

The Center began to find its footing again in 2021. In early 2021, the Center hired a new executive director. Additional personnel changes freed up more resources for the Center once again to appoint interns. In May, the Center worked with the Northwest Seaport Alliance and Discovery Health to develop a process for seafarers to receive COVID vaccinations. We were the first port on the West Coast to offer vaccinations to seafarers. Since then, over 4,400 seafarers have been vaccinated. That process remains a model for other ports around the world interested in developing vaccine programs. In early November,

Discovery Health rolled out a program to offer booster shots to anyone who initially received a J&J vaccination.

The Center's volunteer base is also beginning to grow again, and we are actively involved in community outreach and recruiting. In October 2021, the Center had 10 active ship visitors and 9 active volunteers engaged in other aspects of Center leadership (e.g., serving on the board) or operations (e.g., technology and communications). Of those, 1.4 are FTEs and one is an intern. At the end of October, "Team Seattle" made over 400 ship visits for 2021. Among those visits included three memorial services, several communion services, ship blessings, a Good Friday liturgy, and a house blessing of the Center by the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel. We are currently working on this year's ditty bag care package drive and are thrilled with initial donations. Our goal is to deliver another 1,000 ditty bags, one for every seafarer who visits Seattle and Everett in the month of December.

While a modified 2021 cruise ship season took place, few if any seafarers were able to take advantage of shore leave due to continued COVID protocols. As a result, for the second year in a row, the Center received no revenue from cruise ship crew driving. While that impacted the financial health of the Center, the impact was partially offset by a growing base of donors (individuals, churches, and corporations) and new grant funding.

Hope for the Future

We are excited about what 2022 will bring. The Center anticipates a more normal cruise ship season will take place in 2022. The initial schedules indicate the number of sailings to/from Seattle will approximate 2019 levels, so back to pre-pandemic levels. In addition, we anticipate ship visiting in Seattle and Everett will continue to grow. That is due to a number of factors, including a growing base of volunteers, the opening of Terminal 5 in Seattle, continued strong container traffic in Seattle, and ongoing expansion at the Port of Everett. Our goal is to visit at least 90% of ships that berth for more than 36 hours in Seattle. We are making steady progress toward that. We are also hopeful that as the global pandemic continues to subside, more merchant and cruise ship crews will be granted shore leave. We are seeing tiny glimmers of hope now.

We are grateful for the efforts of our staff and for the energy new and seasoned volunteers bring to their work. I (Cristi) want to say a special thanks to Deacon Jose who inspires me every day to do this work. He says his main job title is "gopher." I say that he is the heart of this Center, inspiring all of us to live more faithfully into our baptismal promises to be the body of Christ. Thank you, faithful one!



Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Victoria, Texas, episcopal promoter for Stella Maris in the United States, sits next to gifts he helped load into a car Dec. 14, 2021, for seafarers who dock in Point Comfort, Texas. Transporting them is Rhonda Cummins, the maritime associate at the Point Comfort Seafarer's Center, who coordinates ship visits and Christmas at Sea at the small port. Hundreds of gifts for seafarers were collected at the chancery.

Diocese collects Christmas gifts for seafarers;...

By Janet Jones

VICTORIA, Texas — Seafarers who dock in Point Comfort, Texas, won't be forgotten this Christmas with hundreds of gifts collected for them at the chancery of the Diocese of Victoria.

Victoria Bishop Brendan J. Cahill was on hand Dec. 14 to help load them up and get them ready to be transported by Rhonda Cummins, the maritime associate at the Point Comfort Seafarer's Center.

The bishop is episcopal promoter for Stella Maris in the United States. Stella Maris is the Catholic Church's ministry to seafarers around the world.

Donations came in to the chancery after the diocese listed on its website what many maritime crew members could use, like personal items — body wash, lotion, shaving cream, gloves, socks and T-shirts — as well as nonperishable snacks, cards and games.

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Director buoyed sailors' faith for decade

Denis Grasska

It was a simple ceremony because of COVID-19 restrictions, but the Diocese of San Diego couldn't let the opportunity pass to recognize Joe Bartel for the key role he has played in ministering to a community on the margins.

Bishop Robert McElroy and Father James Boyd, chaplain of the Port of San Diego, on Feb. 16 presented Bartel, 81,

with a framed certificate in honor of his decade of service as director of the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center.

Located at the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal, the center represents the local Church's participation in the Apostleship of the Sea, an international ministry of pastoral care to those who make their livelihoods on the world's oceans.

The bishop praised Bartel for his work, describing it as "a sign of hospitality" to seafarers, "reaching out (to them) ... with the loving arms of Christ."

The Stella Maris Seafarer's Center temporarily suspended all of its activities late last March, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, its doors had been open to the crew members of the many commercial vessels that dock at the port, including the Dole ships that arrive weekly with cargoes of tropical fruit.

The center also arranged for Masses to be celebrated for Catholic crew members aboard their vessels. Because more than 50 percent of international seafarers are from the Philippines, which is predominantly Catholic, Bartel said, Catholics are well represented among their ranks.



Joe Bartel, left, receives recognition from Bishop Robert McElroy and Father James Boyd on Feb. 16 for his service to the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center

The center's volunteer staff also delivered donated magazines to the ships, and they escorted crew members through the terminal and provided transportation to and from local shopping centers.

Bartel said that he "started off as just a simple volunteer," before being asked about a year and a half later to serve as the center's director.

"Joe accepted my invitation to temporarily direct the center about 10 years ago when the previous director retired," recalled Rod Valdivia, then diocesan chancellor and now vice-moderator of the diocesan curia. "Our intention was to quickly identify a new director, but Joe did such a great job and was willing to stay that (it) kept us from trying too hard to find one."

It was a tough job.

For a substantial portion of his time at the center, Bartel estimates that he put in 30 to 40 hours a week. For the nine months before his retirement on Jan. 6, however, he essentially served as a caretaker for the temporarily shuttered center and its two diocesan-owned vans.

Bartel did an "outstanding, wonderful job taking care of the waterfront," said Father Boyd, who noted that, as a U.S. Navy veteran, Bartel had personal experience of seafaring and was "sympathetic with the sailors."

Bartel, who served in the Navy from 1961 to 1989, said the average seafarer is away from home for between six to nine months of the year. As such, he said, seafarers are "totally reliant" on ministries like the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center and, "without the center, there is no support."

The center has a need for volunteers and financial donations. To learn more about how you can assist this ministry, contact Manny Aguilar at (858) 490-8294, or maguilar@sdccatholic.org.

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Port of Charleston, SC

In the article by Deacon Paul Rosenblum "Port of Charleston Dedicates New Seafarers' Center Honoring Fr. Len Williams" written for the MERE Report, Deacon Rosenblum writes: "The Father Arthur Lenwood Williams, Jr. Center is hereby named on the 23rd day of September 2021." With those words, the Charleston Port and Seafarers' Society (ChaPSS) officially opened its newest dockside seafarers' center at the Hugh Leatherman Terminal in Charleston, SC, dedicating it in honor of the society's Chaplain Emeritus, Fr. Len Williams.

He (Rosenblum) also wrote "Like the other three ChaPSS dockside centers, the new center is easily accessible to crew members who are able to walk from their vessels to the center. There they have access to free WiFi and computer use, free transportation to local shopping areas and other sites, and a chance to enjoy a little time of rest and relaxation off of their vessels. ChaPSS is grateful to the continuing generous support of the South Carolina State Ports Authority for providing the space for the center in the Vessel Operations building on the pier."

Deacon Paul Rosenblum is the regional coordinator for Stella Maris, the Church's ministry to Seafarers. The article can be found at: [Port of Charleston Dedicates New Seafarers' Center Honoring Fr. Len Williams - The MARE Report \(namma.org\)](https://www.namma.org)

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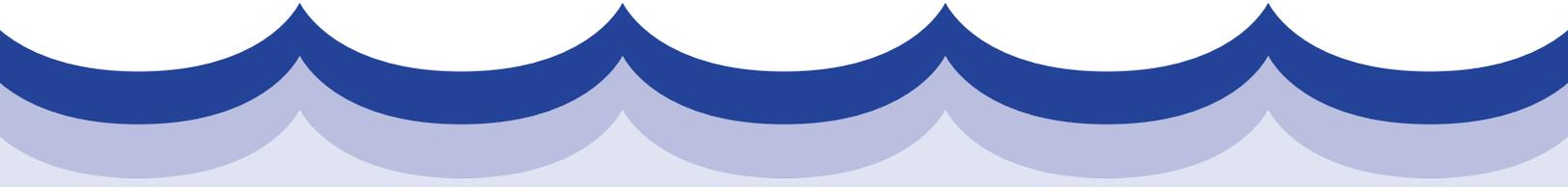
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Upcoming Events

May 21, 2022

Mass for Day of Remembrance for
 Mariners and Peoples of the Sea

July 11, 2022

Sea Sunday

September 27, 2022

Feast of Our Lady
 Star of the Sea

May 22, 2022

National Maritime Day
 Washington, DC

August 9-11, 2022

NAMMA Conference
 Baltimore-Washington

November 21, 2022

World Fisheries Day

