



# STELLA MARIS

## (Apostleship of the Sea)

Cape Town, South Africa

Supporting Seafarers and Fishers around the world

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Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father

7 June 2022

### SEA SUNDAY : THE WEEKEND OF 9 / 10 JULY 2022

It is that time of the year when we acknowledge, pray and support the People of the Sea around the world, especially those who have come and will come to the port of Cape Town. Less than half the annual number of seafarers who arrive in the port of Cape Town are Catholics, but are our brothers and sisters, and they need our pastoral care to kindle and nourish their faith.

To this end, the Port Chaplain and volunteers of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) visit them on board ships, in hospitals and sometimes we bring them to the parishes of St Agnes and Holy Cross for prayer, blessing and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For the non-Catholic seafarers, while respecting their faith, we also visit and assist them with whatever needs they may have – be it work, material, medical or social. In other words, we try and look after the wellbeing and welfare of all seafarers who come to our shores. Where necessary we ensure that their rights are promoted and protected through advocacy programmes.

**On Sea Sunday – the weekend of 9 and 10 July 2022 – we ask you and the Catholic faithful in our parishes to pray for seafarers and to be generous with your financial contribution and where possible to volunteer and help in the ministry to seafarers.** Stella Maris Cape Town needs funds and more volunteers to enable it to continue running the programmes and activities for the benefit of the seafarers.

This year – 2022 – Stella Maris in South Africa celebrates 99 years of ministering to seafarers. For the period June 2021 to May 2022 the Port Chaplain and volunteers visited 341 ships, talked to 753 seafarers; overall our programmes and services have reached 3 886. On a spiritual level, 60 seafarers were blessed, 52 attended Holy Mass, 16 Bibles were distributed along with 558 rosaries and 486 scapulars. Our ministry would have reached a greater number of people but for the strict restrictions of Covid.

I appeal to you to assist the ministry of Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) by announcing and distributing the **Sea Sunday** envelopes to your parishioners and entreating them to support the ministry.

Sincerely in Christ

**Fr Rico Almedilla Talisic cs**  
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