



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF PORT MINISTRY



World Maritime Day



Have you ever looked at the labels on the clothes you wear, your cellphone and computer, the foods you eat, or countless other items you use each and every day? So much of the goods we use come to us from overseas on the thousands of cargo vessels that sail the open seas and inland waters. Without the men and women who serve on those vessels, our lives would be very different from what they are. As a way of saying thank you to them, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) annually celebrates World Maritime Day.

World Maritime Day was first held in 1978 to mark the 20th anniversary of the IMO Convention's entry into force. Celebrations are held throughout the world to focus attention on the invaluable contributions that mariners and port workers make to the lives of every person, the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment, and to emphasize some particular aspect of IMO's work. This year World Maritime Day will be celebrated on Thursday, September 26. This year's theme is: "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community." This will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of employment equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to highlight the important contributions of women all over the world to the maritime sector.

As part of this celebration, parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to host their own "Seafarer Sunday" on the Sunday preceding or following World Maritime Day. This will be a great opportunity to say thank you to mariners, port workers, and their families for all they do for us, and to pray for their safety and wellbeing. We ask that you please include an announcement about World Maritime Day in your parish bulletin and add a prayer for all the People of the Sea and their families in the Prayers of the Faithful.

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