

Sailors Society and Mission to Seafarers Collaboration

Both societies are collaborating to promote each others' global services onboard ships visiting ports where Mission to Seafarers and Sailors Society have an active presence.

Sailors Society has over 70+ Online Peer to Peer Support Groups through the Whats APP platform. Groups are based around common-ground like rank, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.

Mission to Seafarers administers a Global Happiness at Sea Survey that gathers real-time data on crew well-being that helps provide welfare insights to the sector and policy makers.

Stella Maris was invited to have their services promoted but did not have a global service to promote.

Mass onboard MV UNION FUJI

The Union Fuji was alongside at the Chelsea Sugar refinery for over a week, which allowed sufficient time to arrange a Catholic Mass to be conducted for the Filipino crew.

Father Glen Lowe was accompanied by Stella Maris Auckland volunteer Philip Gabriel .

The Captain expressed his gratitude for the effort made to meet the spiritual needs of his crew.

Auckland International Seafarers Centre Christmas Party

This year over 50 people visited the Centre to celebrate the work in 2024. Supporters, families, agents and seafarers all joined in the festivities. Chaplain Aaron explained to the gathering that the motivation for the Centre was "Philoxenia" - the love of the stranger.

Visit from the Stella Maris National Council

Sarah Dench, from the Stella Maris NZ National Council visited the Centre to meet with National Welfare Manager Aaron Ironside. Ms Dench expressed her enthusiasm for the work in Auckland and enjoyed relating to several seafarers who were visiting that evening.

Sailors Society Tauranga Chaplain influences Port Workers

Isley Te Aotonga works as a senior crane operator at the Port of Tauranga. In 2024 he was inducted as a volunteer chaplain for Sailor's Society, and accompanies Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Joel Pearce on ship visits. He says the experience has highlighted his past prejudice towards seafarers.

"Over time, I've also had the chance to talk with other stevedores about how I used to treat the seafarers and how that has changed now because of my understanding of what they go through. It's been encouraging to hear great reports from the stevedores about how seafarers are now treated with greater care and respect. This shift in understanding has made such a difference, not only in my own heart but also in how others approach their work with the crew" he explained.