# **Appeal Talk**

Good morning/evening everyone

My name is [xxx] and I am here to speak about Stella Maris, formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church.

In today’s Gospel we heard Jesus say ‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.’ Stella Maris has over 1,000 chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world, who help seafarers and fishers when they are overburdened and in need of rest.

I’d like to share with you one recent story of how Stella Maris’ work, supported by your prayers and generosity, can make a huge difference.

A ship arrived at Teesport in North East England last year with 22 seafarers on board. Two Stella Maris ship visitors conducted a routine visit, taking with them welcome packs and bags of clothing.

It transpired that the crew was under huge mental and physical strain. One confided that, during the voyage to Teesport from the USA, he had only been getting two hours sleep a night because he was so stressed and overworked. He was also concerned that the crew were no longer able to operate the vessel safely as they were all exhausted.

The Stella Maris team contacted the relevant authorities and a vessel detention notice was served that afternoon.

As a result, the seafarers were able to go ashore for the first time in many months and spent time relaxing at the seafarers’ centre in the port. 11 of the crew were repatriated to the Philippines later that month.

Stella Maris’ ship visiting can only happen because of your support - your generosity helps its chaplains and volunteers to support over 137,000 seafarers in ports around the UK and to reach 70,000 ships around the world.

Please donate today. Your generous contributions will help this work to continue and grow. They will be an expression of God’s love, helping to bring rest to overburdened seafarers and fishers.

To donate, please:

• Text SEA to 70460 to donate £5; or

• Use the envelope provided, if you are a taxpayer, to make your gift go 25% further.

Without your support and prayers, Stella Maris would not be able to do the work it does on behalf of the Church. Thank you to Father [xxx] for allowing me to speak here today about this important, but often forgotten, ministry.