

## Navigating the Future: Safety First

Today, as we celebrate the annual Day of the Seafarer, let us acknowledge the important role and contribution of our seafarers. Their dedication and sacrifices have contributed significantly to the world economy. The focus of this year's Day of the Seafarer is to highlight the seafarers' contribution in keeping their workplace safe.

To you, our dear Seafarers, I encourage you to continue to perform your job diligently in keeping your workplace safe and protecting our marine environment. Stay committed to your work. You play an important role in protecting your work environment and the ocean wellness by enhancing maritime safety and security. Whether you are an experienced Seafarer or a new one, be faithful to what God has called you to do.

The sea is your life. Let me encourage you: just like our life here on earth is our voyage, there are times as you sail, you will experience or encounter waves that are rough and violent. Being out in the sea can pose many challenges and difficulties. But no matter how rough the sea may be, it will return to its reassuring calmness.

Our dear seafarers, the Philippine Church and Stella Maris-Philippines, journey with you. You have our prayers for your safety, strength and sound health. In our hearts and minds, we appreciate and very much grateful for your sacrifices and services to our country.

**+RUPERTO CRUZ SANTOS, DD**  
Bishop of Antipolo and  
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