

Year 2000: For The First Time A Jubilee On The High Seas

*Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People
Press Communiqué*

Good news for hundreds of thousands Catholic Seafarers in the world and their Families

By Decree 86/99/I of the Tribunal of the Paenitentiaría Apostolica, the Holy See grants to Seafaring people who will not be able - because of their long terms at sea - to attend the Celebrations of the Great Jubilee 2000 in the designated Sanctuaries of their country, in Rome or in the Holy Land, the privilege to obtain its spiritual benefits even while on the high seas.

This text was signed in Rome on November 1 1999 by Cardinal William Baum, Paenitentiaríus Maior. The Holy Father, showing once more his paternal concern for the particular situation of Seafarers who live and work far from their home Christian Community and their families, in conditions particularly difficult and often dangerous, has wanted to make the celebration of the Jubilee easier for them and has decided that this faculty which he offers them be promulgated in an official document of the Holy See.

The People of the Sea therefore will be able to gain the Plenary Indulgence of the Great Jubilee which all Catholics obtain by a Pilgrimage, when they do the following: making an act of perfect contrition accompanied with the firm intention of receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist as soon as it will be possible reciting the Our Father and the Credo in front of a religious image and praying at the intention of the Holy Father

By this Decree, the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People which has the high authority on the Work of the Apostleship of the Sea is given the mission to disseminate this good news in the whole maritime world. This same Pontifical Council organises also an International Jubilee Pilgrimage of the People of the Sea in Rome, from June 1 to 3, 2000

It is now up to the local and national Councils of Apostolatus Maris around the world, to launch as from today a campaign to invite especially all Catholic seafaring people who will be on the high seas on June 2, 2000, to enter spiritually into communion with their brothers and sisters assembled in Rome around the Pope on that day, and to make their own Great Jubilee at the same time as them.

This piece of news will be received with joy and gratitude by the hundreds of thousands Catholic seafarers who, on board fishing, merchant and passenger vessels, furrow untiringly all the oceans of the World.