

## **Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia In Oceania (Short Extract Only)**

*Promulgation Of The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation  
"Ecclesia In Oceania"  
Address Of The Holy Father  
Thursday, 22 November 2001*

***Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise. (Ps 96:11).***

*Prayer*

O Mary, Help of Christians,  
in our need we turn to you  
with eyes of love, with empty hands and longing hearts.  
We look to you that we may see your Son, our Lord.  
We lift our hands that we may have the Bread of Life.  
We open wide our hearts to receive the Prince of Peace.  
Mother of the Church,  
your sons and daughters thank you  
for your trusting word that echoes through the ages,  
rising from an empty soul made full of grace,  
prepared by God to welcome the Word to the world  
that the world itself might be reborn.  
In you, the reign of God has dawned,  
a reign of grace and peace, love and justice,  
born from the depths of the Word made flesh.  
The Church throughout the world joins you in praising him  
whose mercy is from age to age.

O Stella Maris, light of every ocean  
and mistress of the deep,  
guide the peoples of Oceania  
across all dark and stormy seas,  
that they may reach the haven of peace and light  
prepared in him who calmed the sea.  
Keep all your children safe from harm  
for the waves are high and we are far from home.  
As we set forth upon the oceans of the world,  
and cross the deserts of our time,  
show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb,  
for without your Son we are lost.  
Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,  
that in heart and mind, in word and deed,  
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,  
we will always look to Christ and say,  
"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"

Our Lady of Peace, in whom all storms grow still,  
pray at the dawn of the new millennium  
that the Church in Oceania will not cease to show forth  
the glorious face of your Son, full of grace and truth,  
so that God will reign in the hearts of the Pacific peoples  
and they will find peace in the world's true Saviour.  
Plead for the Church in Oceania  
that she may have strength  
to follow faithfully the way of Jesus Christ,  
to tell courageously the truth of Jesus Christ,  
to live joyfully the life of Jesus Christ.  
O Help of Christians, protect us!  
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!  
Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!