

# ***Christmas-at-Sea***

*A Holiday Initiative of*



## **Seafarers International House**

***Let seafarers know you care for them this Holiday Season 2021***

Some seafarers have been stuck on sea on extended contracts with no shore leave due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Others get vaccinated with help from our port chaplains to return home safely, especially if they hail from countries with high infection rates and little access to vaccines. Seafarers are the “invisible essential workers” during this pandemic and are keeping our supply chains moving. Most of them are overworked, frustrated and lonely.

Therefore, we invite you, your business, school group or congregation to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Our port chaplains safely deliver the satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please),
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. **For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms.** The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew.

And, please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side.

If it is more convenient, **you may make a donation** and have us purchase the items for you. Typically, a completely filled satchel costs about \$35.

**To order empty satchels and to coordinate delivery or pick up, please contact:**

**For Baltimore area:** Rev. K. Robert Schmitt, 410-746-0236, [k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net](mailto:k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net)

**All other regions:** Jeni Janis, [jeni@sihnyc.org](mailto:jeni@sihnyc.org)

or visit us at [www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea](http://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea)