



*To Cardinal Peter Turkson  
Prefect  
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development*

On the occasion of the World Conference *“Moving Forward with Seafarers and Their Families”*, to be held online from 21 to 22 June 2021 under the auspices of the International Christian Maritime Association, CrewConnect Europe and the Apostolate of the Sea, I would ask you to convey my greetings and prayerful best wishes to the organizers and to all taking part.

The Conference provides an opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of seafarers to international trade and the world economy. Amid the current pandemic, maritime workers have continued to transport essential goods, including medicines and hospital equipment, throughout the world, often at great cost to themselves and their families. At the same time, the pandemic’s effects on the maritime industry have made all the more evident the need for a workplace marked by care for our common home and, above all, respect for the dignity of seafarers.

It is my hope that, in the aftermath of the current health crisis, the Conference will address the pressing need for those at sea to return home to their loved ones and those at home to resume their livelihood at sea. So too, I trust that in the months ahead chaplains will increasingly be able to provide pastoral care to all involved in the maritime industry.

With gratitude for your efforts to enhance the wellbeing of seafarers and their families, I cordially invoke upon all taking part in the Conference God's blessings of wisdom, strength and peace.

Francis

Rome, from Saint John Lateran, 6 May 2021