

# Christmas-at-Sea

A Holiday Initiative of



## Seafarers International House

*Show that we care for the unseen essential workers this Holiday Season, our seafarers!*

90% of global trade is transported on the high seas by crew members on containership who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their service. Because of COVID-19 related travel restrictions, seafarers have been stuck on sea on extended contracts with no shore leave. 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 “unseen essential workers” and 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** to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew.

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)

**For New England:** Ruth Setaro, 203-687-2177, [ruthsetaro@snet.net](mailto:ruthsetaro@snet.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)

**The deadline and destination for filled satchels will be announced in the fall of 2022.**