

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

A Seafarer's Story



The Rev. Mary Davisson, Director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, explains the mission of the Baltimore Seafarers' Center and introduces the video.

In this recording, seafarer Joseph Carlos speaks to a large gathering at the 2005 Lutheran Global Mission Event in Baltimore, Maryland.

He reflects on the importance of faith in his life at sea and expresses his gratitude for the support of the Seafarers' Centers.

At a Lutheran Global Mission Event in Baltimore in 2005, a seafarer, Joseph Carlos, addressed the assembly in an impromptu talk. Following are excerpts from his remarks:

Brothers and sisters, it is my first time to talk in front of [a large] audience like you, but God brought me here and gives me courage so I can do this. . . . As we leave our home to do our job as seafarers, we spend our whole lives [at] sea. . . . We encounter a lot of storms [and] big waves, which give us emotional, physical, and mental stress. . . . The only thing that keeps us strong . . . is our faith in God. . . . As we sail through these strong storms and violent waves, . . . God is our pilot, God is our captain that will bring us safe to arrive in the port. . .

We all know that God is with us. There are you, brothers and sisters – we all know that you are praying for us. Most especially, there are Seafarers' Centers . . . waiting for us when we arrive at port. . . [that] provide us a quick means of communication . . . [with] our families, . . . transportation, and other services.

I . . . want to thank you . . . for supporting the Seafarers' Center. . . . In exchange. . . we carry a thousand tons of salt... [so that] when the winter comes, . . . you can drive safely . . . [take] your children to their school, [and] go to your jobs safely. . . .

I am thanking Ms. Mary Davisson from the Seafarers' Center of Baltimore, who brought us here. . . . We are thankful for all of you for supporting the Seafarers' Centers [that] give us services As [we] sail from port to port around the world, we are bringing the love of God, which keeps us strong enough to serve people like you, the way you [have served] us. God bless us all, brothers and sisters.

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