

GOODNEWS

From The Ministry to Seafarers

January 2025, No. 102

Focus 2025



To be ordinary people who encourage human flourishing through love and respect.

— Inspired by Jimmy Carter

by Chaplain Michelle DePooter

January is a time to reflect on the year that finished and to look forward to the year ahead. As I looked back on the past few months, two things became apparent. The first was **teamwork**, and the second was **recognition**.

I am happy to say that M2S has a great team and we work well together. If one person is missing, we notice — we can't do our jobs without each other. Our team is made up of three core people: chaplains **Michelle** and **David**, and administrator **Patty**. But our crew also includes many **volunteers** and **supporters**.

This larger network becomes especially evident in November and December during our Christmas Parcel campaign. Supporters send us parcels — either physically or virtually. Volunteers shop for the virtual parcels, and groups and individuals come to the Seafarers' Centre to help sort and pack all these items. After delivery to the ships, pictures are posted on social media of happy seafarers!

parcels available. She makes sure the shelves in the storage room are kept full of blue Ikea bags filled with 10 gifts each, so that each morning, we can take the amount we need to deliver to ships.

Special Recognition

Teams are often celebrated without naming individual contributors. But this year, special recognition went out to our wonderful administrator, **Patty** (shown here with her husband, **Daniel**).

Over the 7 years that Patty has been with M2S, we have come to know and love everything she does for us and the seafarers, but in November 2024, she was recognized on a *national* level!

Canada's National Seafarers' Welfare Board (CNSWB) inaugurated the annual *Elizabeth Bertrand Humble Servant Award*. This award posthumously honours **Elizabeth Bertrand**, a Transport Canada civil servant who was instrumental in convening the board. She spent her life working for the welfare of seafarers and guided Canada's policy on shore leave for seafarers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CNSWB presented Patty with the award in Ottawa at the **Canadian Marine Advisory Council**. It was a pleasure to see her recognized for the many contributions she has made to M2S and the care she has given to seafarers!

Scan the QR code to read more.



Looking in from the outside, it might not seem like much. But we would **not** be able to deliver all these gifts without volunteers of all ages joining our team before Christmas.

Special mention goes to Patty who coordinates the Christmas parcel campaign like clockwork! She communicates with churches, drop-off points, and volunteers to ensure that when the chaplains need gifts to deliver to our first ship around November 20, we have

Christmas Parcels 2024

Thanks to more than 100 churches, schools, businesses and individuals, we delivered 1330 parcels to 62 ships. Virtual donors gave \$5870.

We are deeply grateful to each one of you who played a part. Special thanks to **Sheila, Rob, Parisa, Jessica, Carmela, Julien, Ting, Lucien, Timothy, Emre, Roshan, Micaela, Asha, Kiran, Daniel, Brigitte, Diane**, the **Catholic Women's League**, the **EMSB Professional Sales** class and the group from **Chinese Family Service** for their boots on the ground here, ensuring smooth operations.



Scan the QR code to read more about the campaign in *Le Devoir*.

Reflections from 2024

by *Becky Mallet, 2024 Summer Intern*



One of Jesus' metaphors for the Kingdom of God came to mind a lot over the summer: that it is like a small amount of leaven (yeast) that a woman mixes into a large batch of dough (Matthew 13:33). The leaven's process takes time, it doesn't seem like a lot compared to all the dough, but in its gradual, unspectacular way, it changes everything.

This bristles against my inclination that an all-powerful, all-sustaining God should reveal himself to people by exploding in fireworks with pizzazz to get their attention and dramatically turn their lives around in an instant. But instead He spreads His kingdom with so much meekness. He gives glimmers, He whispers, He lets us choose him. He works through normal people and shows up in normal conversations on rides to Walmart.

I've been so blessed to witness a small slice of the steady, faithful presence **Michelle** and **David** are to seafarers in their chaplaincy work, and I love to think of them as that leavener, filling the seafarer's lives with the love of God, one car ride and one ship visit at a time.

If you would like to learn more about being a **summer intern** at M2S, visit our website or contact chaplain **Michelle**.

2025 Events | Join Us!

Tuesday, March 18

3rd Annual **Cabane à sucre** joint fundraiser with **Mariners' House** at the cruise ship terminal. Come to volunteer or buy a ticket and enjoy a traditional French Canadian sugar shack meal.



Wednesday, June 25

Day of the Seafarer 2025 will spotlight the need to create safe, inclusive work environments — persistent issues that impact the well-being and productivity of maritime workers. We will mark the occasion with the help of school children and volunteers who will prepare gifts for distribution. We'll end the day with a buffet dinner at the Seafarers' Centre. All are welcome!



Saturday, September 13

Our **6th Annual Seaway Bike Tour Fundraiser** will take riders along the seaway, highlighting the great network of bike paths from which to enjoy the port and the passing ships. Come learn about our work and raise funds for seafarers' wellbeing all at the same time.



Update from the Board

We are seeking two board members from **Classis Eastern Canada** and one for **Classis Quinte** for Spring 2025 openings. Meetings are held a few times/year. Treasurer skills would be an asset. Interested candidates should inquire with **Shawn Brix**, Board Chair (srb08@calvinseminary.edu) or **Michelle** (chaplain@ministrytoseafarers.org).

We will finish 2024 with a shortfall of revenue over expenses. Results of our audit will be available on our website in Spring 2025.

You can donate by **e-transfer** (donations@ministrytoseafarers.org), through the **PayPal Giving Fund**, at **CanadaHelps** or by **cheque**. Visit our Donate webpage for details.

Better yet, you can get one charitable receipt for **all** your yearly donations by setting up an account with **Christian Stewardship Services** (www.cssservices.ca). Give to any Canadian charity. Give anytime. Top up your account as needed. Get one tax receipt from CSS for all your donations. Visit the **CSS MemberNET** website for details (www.amimembernet.com/css/login).



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