



The Reason for the Title "Star of the Sea" or Stella Maris,

I have always liked the Marian title, "Star of the Sea" or Stella Maris, but there is another reason for this title and it has to do with the Church. Pope Paul VI dedicated the Second Vatican Council to Our Lady and gave her the title of "Mother of the Church" and later, in Evangelium Nuntiandi, called her "The Star of Evangelization". Pope John Paul II consecrated the Catholic Church, world-wide to the Mother of Christ and it is clear that she has a very important role in interceding for the Church, and all Christians, in these times. Traditionally, the Church has been compared to a boat - the "Barque of Peter" - or the fishing boat of the Apostles caught in the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Mary is our "protectoress" and our guide. She is the Mother of all Christians and therefore has a vital role to play in the cause of Christian Unity. In the storms of our lives and in the difficulties and challenges of these times she helps us to turn our eyes towards Her Son, the One who changes water into wine and who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit that we may live a "True Life in God".