

Fleet blessing this Sunday

BAR HARBOR — Earning a livelihood from the sea can be a dangerous proposition and, through the years, many lives of Maine fishermen have been lost due to the violence of the sea and uncertainty of the weather. Each year, the governor of Maine declares the second Sunday in June as Seafarer's Memorial Day.

In what has become a Bar Harbor tradition, the Maine Sea Coast Mission and area clergy will recognize and remember residents who have lost their lives at sea from the deck of the Sunbeam V at the Bar Harbor Town Dock. The event begins at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, June 11.

Those conducting the service and doing the blessing include Rev. Gary DeLong, executive director of the Maine Sea Coast Mission; Sandra Reed, minister of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church; Jonathan Appleyard, Rector of St. Saviour's Church; and Father Jack O'Hara of the Holy Redeemer Church.

Families with loved ones they would like to have remembered are urged to call Terri Rodick at the Maine Sea Coast Mission, 288-5097.

Following the remembrance service for those lost at sea there will be a "Blessing of the Fleet" for both commercial and pleasure craft. Coordinated by harbormaster Charlie Phippen, the boats will pass by the Sunbeam V to be blessed by the clergy. The diversity of the vessels being blessed and the solemnity of the occasion make for a very special occasion on the Bar Harbor waterfront.

This year, the tour boat *Lulu* will take passengers out to observe and participate in the Blessing of the Fleet. The full amount of the ticket price of \$15 will be donated to the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Reservations can be made by calling 963-2341. The *Lulu*, captained by John Nicolai, will board at 11:45 a.m. at the Harborside dock in Bar Harbor.