

Port Walk #18



The Chapel

The Fishermen's and Seamen's Memorial Chapel was built in 1979 as a memorial to those lost at sea. Built with money and labor donated by Bay Area fishermen, the Chapel contains plaques bearing the names of more than 200 men and women lost at sea. A Catholic Mass is said in Latin every Sunday. Other religious services are also regularly held at the Chapel.



Blessing of the Fleet

A boat procession honoring those who have died at sea is part of the annual Blessing of the Fishing Fleet at Fisherman's Wharf. This Italian fishing tradition begins with a memorial Mass on the first Saturday of October. The boat procession follows that afternoon. On Sunday, after an onshore parade, a priest offers blessings to each boat in the fleet.



Memorial at Sea

Grieving family members and fellow fishermen prepare to drop flowers onto the waves where a fishing boat and its crew were claimed by the sea. Today, as in the past, such ceremonies play an important role in the healing process for those left behind when fishermen are lost pursuing their livelihood.



Alessandro Baccari, Historian

"The Fishermen's and Seamen's Memorial Chapel stands as a memorial to those lost at sea. It was built in 1979 to remind and inspire San Franciscans and dedicated their lives to the sea and its harvests, and of the rich legacy they have given us. Today, the walls of the chapel bear plaques with the names of hundreds of men and women who lost their lives at sea. Flags and banners hang from the ceiling, attesting to the numerous religions that currently use the Chapel."