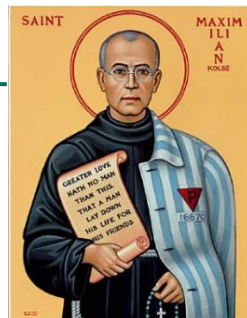


Sunday, 31st July 2016,
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

 <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

 www.facebook.com/PenhaDeFrancaChapel.Funchal



The Roman Catholic English Service Mass In Madeira:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França! Father Bernardino Andrade is our priest for the English Service Mass on Sundays. He was born here in Madeira, but spent many years as a priest in Oakland, California.

This small Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, *almost 400 years ago!* It was built on a "*penha*" or peak, by the sea, originally to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. As of last year the Franciscans have moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel has reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. The nave roof of the Chapel has recently been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass.

Today's Scripture Readings

(Eccles 1:2, 2:21-23... Ps 89:3-17... Col 3:1-5, 9-11... Lk 12:13-21)

The "Preacher" struggles with the contradictions of life and the vanity of created things which give no lasting satisfaction. Good people suffer, sinners enjoy life and prosper. At a time when there was no idea of rewards after death, the "Preacher" has no solution to offer except to trust that God will make it right in the end. The Psalm echoes our need to rely on the Lord.

This final extract from Colossians hints at Paul's very detailed moral teaching. The Christian's life is now "hidden with Christ", but when Christ is revealed "you too will be revealed in all your glory". Paul then spells out how we should live our lives focussed on Christ. So that we will grow in knowledge and maturity towards the images of our creator that God intended us to be. We must put away sins of both sex and speech, which damage individuals and the Christian community.

Luke's Gospel answers the Prophet's problem in the first reading: good actions in this life are rewarded after death, and evil will be punished. The rich man's approach was sensible in capitalist terms, and not immoral. But Luke's gospel frequently insists that we must help the poor in this world, while we can!

- Brought to you: by *Chris Oliver*

Psalm Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.



Hymns: **Entry: 302** (*Kum ba yah, my Lord*)
Offertory: 104 (*Come, Lord Jesus, come*)
Final: 82 (*Christ be beside me*)

Brought to you by: Fr. Bernardino Andrade

V. P. Menon was a significant political figure in India during its struggle for independence from Britain after World War II. Menon had a splendid reputation for personal charity. His daughter explained the background of this trait after he died.

When Menon arrived in Delhi to seek a job in government, all his possessions, including his money and I.D., were stolen at the railroad station. He would have to return home on foot, defeated. In desperation he turned to an elderly Sikh, explained his troubles, and asked for a temporary loan of fifteen rupees to tide him over until he could get a job. The Sikh gave him the money. When Menon asked for his address so that he could repay the man, the Sikh said that Menon owed the debt not to him but to any stranger who came to him in need, as long as he lived. The help came from a stranger and was to be repaid to a stranger. Menon never forgot that debt.

His daughter said that the day before Menon died, a beggar came to the family home in Bangalore asking for help to buy new sandals, for his feet were covered with sores. Menon asked his daughter to take fifteen rupees out of his wallet to give to the man. It was Menon's last conscious act.

Menon ministered to strangers because a stranger had ministered to him. [Robert A. Fulgham, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (New York: Villard Books, 1988).]

Why have Christians been historically so charitable, so caring? It is because once we were lying beside the road, broken and bleeding, and nail-scarred hands reached down to us and ministered to us in our need. While we were unworthy, Christ the Divine Good Samaritan died for us.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



V.P. Menon

POPE FRANCIS at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp



Pope Francis passing the main entrance to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp on Friday.

Pope Francis has been in Poland since Wednesday this week. His visit is part of the 31st World Youth Day celebrations, which ends today. **One of the places Pope Francis visited during this week's five-day trip was the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp** (a death camp operated by Nazi Germans in occupied Poland during World War II). The pope spent many moments in contemplation and prayer there. He visited the death cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe, met with 12 survivors of this former death camp, and left a written message in the Auschwitz guest book: **'Lord, forgive so much cruelty'**. With this visit, Pope Francis became the third consecutive pontiff (after Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI) to make the pilgrimage to the place where Adolf Hitler's forces killed more than one million people, most of them Jews. Right before his visit, Francis said he

"would like to go to that place of horror without speeches, without crowds." He said he intended to go **"alone, enter, pray,"** adding, **"And may the Lord give me the grace to cry."** ■

Read more: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3714136/The-Latest-Pope-arrives-Auschwitz-death-camp.html



Father Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in 1941 in the German death camp of Auschwitz.

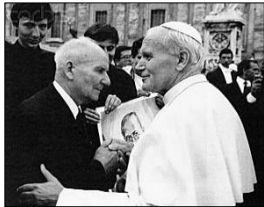
Pope Francis visited Father Maximilian Kolbe's death cell this week during his visit to Poland, where he sat in a chair in the middle of the cell, bent his head and prayed for some time.

In July 1941, Franciszek Gajowniczek and nine fellow prisoners in Block 14 of the German concentration camp at Auschwitz were selected by guards to die in retaliation for the escape of another prisoner. They were to be starved to death in an underground bunker. **When Mr. Gajowniczek, a sergeant in the Polish Army, cried out that he would never see his wife and children again, Father Kolbe, who was a prisoner in the same block, broke out of line and offered himself in the soldier's place.**



According to an eye witness, an assistant janitor at that time, in his prison cell, Father Kolbe would lead the prisoners in prayer to Our Lady. **Each time the guards checked on him, he was standing or kneeling in the middle of the cell and looking calmly at those who entered.** After two weeks of dehydration and starvation, only Father Kolbe remained alive. «*The guards wanted the bunker emptied, so they gave Father Kolbe a lethal injection of carbolic acid on August 14th, 1941*». He is said to have raised his left arm and calmly waited for the deadly injection. His remains were cremated on August 15th, the feast day of the Assumption of Mary.

St. Maximilian Kolbe is often depicted in a prison uniform. **He is the patron saint of drug addicts, prisoners, families, and the pro-life movement** and his feast day is celebrated on August 14.



Pope John Paul II meets Franciszek Gajowniczek at the canonization of St. Maximilian in 1982.

He was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II in 1982. The solemn and moving ceremony was attended by 1,500 to 2,000 people. Among them was Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man whose life had been saved.

So what happened to Gajowniczek - the man Father Kolbe saved? He died on March 13th, 1995, at Brzeg in Poland, 95 years old - and 53 years after Father Kolbe had saved him. He never forgot the man who saved his life. After his release from Auschwitz, Gajowniczek made his way back to his hometown, with the dream of seeing his family again. He found his wife but his two sons had been killed during the war. Every year on August 14th he went back to Auschwitz. He spent the next five decades paying

homage to Father Kolbe, honouring the man who died on his behalf. ■

Every Saturday at 1:00 PM, a warm meal is provided for a small group of needy people in the Social room of the Chapel of Penha de França. This project is called "**The Back Door Ministry**". If you'd like to join Fr. Bernardino, and enjoy a delicious free lunch with the homeless (no strings attached), please give Fr. Bernardino a call during the week (before Fridays) at 916192783.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

People Helping People (PHP) is a **small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need.** Our Bishop D. António once said, *“One must find new ways of helping the poor”*. A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that! In a short period of time we have created partnerships with restaurants and supermarket chains, we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families from going hungry, getting their electricity cut off, running out of gas, losing their homes.

We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, keep them dreaming...



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

Moynihans Irish Bar, located on the corner up the road from the Chapel, accepts any Donations, as well as food, toiletries or clothes for the PHP project.



A big Thank You to the owners, Sinead and Tadhg, and their staff who are always ready to help, and have been a great support to the Chapel. It is very much appreciated!!

P.S.: The food they serve is great, and staff are very friendly! Definitely worth a visit!

CONTACTS:

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Madeira, Portugal.

email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras,
60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561.

If you would like to make a donation towards PHP, the bank details are below:

Bank: Banco Santander Totta
IBAN: PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75
BIC (SWIFT): BNFPTPL
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710
Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A,
9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

**Tea and Coffee
After Mass in the
Social room across
the garden - please
join us.**



**Please sign our
Visitor's Book
in the
Social Room**

- We'd love to know
where you're from!



**Tall?
Please beware low
door lintels in the
Chapel**

Don't forget to **leave your
yellow Hymn Book**
and **Order of the Mass sheets**
at the Chapel entrance
after mass 😊



Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch! This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers: Father Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (*Scripture Readings*); Josefina and Larysa (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, layout and newsletter printing*). To receive our newsletter in your inbox every Sunday, please send an email to penhafanca.newsletter@gmail.com and we will add your name to the weekly distribution list.