



17th June 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

 **Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

The Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, and originally built 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. 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. In 2015 the Franciscans moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. We are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests here at Penha de França: Father Bernardino, who celebrates the English Mass every Sunday morning at 10h00, and Father Vitor who celebrates Mass in Portuguese at 11h30. Over the years it has been necessary to carry out repair work inside the Chapel, which was made possible through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass. At the moment, repair work is again taking place on the ceiling above the altar as it has been in danger of falling down.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. (www.bible-groups.info)

(Ezekiel 17: 22-24; Psalm 91(92); 2 Cor 5: 6-10; Mark 4: 26-34)



Ezekiel has many chapters about Israel's failure to keep faith in God, culminating in the Babylonian exile. But God keeps his promises: He will restore his people to Israel. A remnant will survive and return to Zion, to build a renewed and perfect creation. The Psalm extolls the Lord's just deeds: "the just" are so steadfast they appear rooted, flourishing "in the courts of our God", while "evildoers shall be scattered". Paul has described some of his difficulties, accepting that "while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake". He encourages the Corinthians to have confidence in the Lord: whatever problems we face in our earthly lives, we look forward to making "our home with the Lord". Then our reward will be affected by our behaviour in this world. In Mark's gospel Jesus describes the kingdom of God in parables. All around us are examples of transformation, seeds becoming unimaginable plants. We have got used to thinking of the kingdom of God as "somewhere else" – in "heaven" rather than on earth. But Jesus' parables do not suggest this, and in the Lord's prayer we ask every day that God's kingdom come "on earth, as it is in heaven". Do we mean it? What are we doing about it?

PSALM RESPONSE: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "Bind us together, Lord" – n. 65

Offertory Hymn: "Blest are you Lord" - n. 69

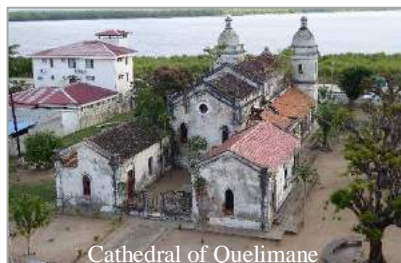
Communion Hymn: Instrumental

Thanksgiving: Instrumental

Final Hymn: "Go, the Mass is ended" - n. 175



Last week, to celebrate Father Bernardino's 53rd anniversary as a priest, we shared with you PART 1 of his journey from a young boy to his ordination as a priest in Quelimane, Mozambique. We have decided to repeat Part 1 again, and continue with the rest of the story (for those who missed the newsletter last week Sunday)!



Cathedral of Quelimane

AN EXCITING AND PASSIONATE 53 YEAR JOURNEY – Part 1

Yes! It happened on **June 12, 1965**. It was 53 years ago this week! In a sports field, in the city of Quelimane, Diocese of Quelimane, Mozambique (Africa), the **Bishop D. Francisco Nunes Teixeira**, who always maintained with me a father and son relationship, **imposed his hands on me and on two other young African men (Vasco and Benjamim), anointed our hands and told us that we were ordained priests forever.**



(1965) Fr. Bernardino at his 1st mass after Ordination



Bishop of Quelimane, D. Francisco Nunes Teixeira

Since then I have embarked on a fascinating and passionate journey. I felt like when God called Abraham, telling him: «Go... to the land I will show you» (Gen. 12:1). No maps, no GPS, no travel checks, no hotel reservations, no Insurance plans. He just said «Go». And Abraham went.

He just said «Go». And I went without knowing the roads and not knowing where I was going to. Abraham just knew one thing: Abraham knew Whom he was walking with. I knew just one thing: I knew Whom I was walking with. I was walking with God, Who is my Father and my Mother and my Abba, and Who was guiding me and had a special plan for me.

2.

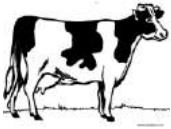
The youngest of eleven children, I was born in Madeira Island, in Ponta do Sol, on November 29th, 1937. I came from a place where very few children attended school. Most of the adults were illiterate, including my parents and my oldest brothers. It was a poor farming community. Most of the children had no shoes to go to school or to walk around. But we didn't know that we were poor because all of us had the same way of life. Some rules and traditions like family meals, daily Rosary and Sunday Mass were not negotiable. The children had no toys but we knew games and how to play together.

The only Christmas gift I had in my childhood was an orange. I don't remember where it came from. Also I don't remember if I ate that orange. It looked so yellow, so beautiful, so attractive that I spent my Christmas day showing it to my friends who were surprised to see such a beautiful Christmas Gift. I never had a dream of continuing my studies after my four years of primary school. I didn't even know why I had to go to school when I «knew» that I would have no choice in my life but digging the land, watering the plants and everything my parents and my brothers and sisters were doing.



3.

Then all of sudden something happened. One day, without any plans, I was in my kitchen in the company of my mother and my sister, Agostinha. I don't remember what I was doing. I was 12 years old and had finished my four years of my primary school and I was very happy that I didn't have to go to school again. My philosophy was that I didn't need studies to milk a cow



(my father had just one cow to milk, and one cow to work), to plant potatoes, beans, corn, sugar cane and so on. But **that day my sister asked me a very unexpected question.**

She just asked: - «*Bernardino, wouldn't you like to be a priest*»? Without thinking, my answer was «*Yes*». I don't know why she asked me that strange question and I still don't know why I gave her that quick and strange answer.

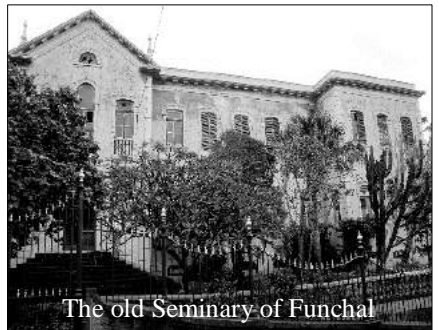
I was just 12 years old.

[One day, in America, a news reporter asked me: «*But when you were 12 years old, what did you understand about priesthood?* » My answer was: «*Now I am almost 70 years old and I still do not understand. Priesthood is a mystery that is being revealed to me daily, through prayer, through my ministry to the world and especially to my service to the poorest of the poor.* »]

My mother started inquiring about the requirements to enter the Seminary and on October 15th, 1950, my father and my mother took me to the Seminary of Funchal. It was an agonizing transition. I was just a child and *Ponta do Sol*, because of lack of communications, was so far away from *Funchal*.



October 8th
1950 - Fr.
Bernardino
as a young
boy, with his
mother and
father, one
week before
entering the
Seminary.



The old Seminary of Funchal

There is a tradition in Portugal of doing what we call "Solemn Communion" or "Profession of Faith". After our First Communion, we (the children), started a program of catechesis to prepare for the "Profession of Faith". On Sunday, October 8th, 1950, one week before I entered the Seminary, I made my "Profession of Faith" (or "*Comunhão Solene*" as it's called in Portuguese). All the children who were making their "*Comunhão Solene*" wore a white bow on their left arm as a symbol of purity of their souls. (In the photo above, taken on that day, you can see this white bow on my arm).

AN EXCITING AND PASSIONATE 53 YEAR JOURNEY – Part 2

4.

Being born poor, very early in life I felt the call to dedicate my life to the poor and the call to alleviate the suffering of the world. Very early in life I fell in love with Jesus and His project. I felt inspired by the «*Mission Statement*» of Jesus that is: «*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour*». Luke 4: 18.

I finished my Seminary course on 1963. I was surprised, confused and hurt because my two colleagues had been invited to be ordained and I was not. My superiors were just ignoring me, my confusion and my pain. Nobody was talking with me about this strange situation. Until one day, on July 23rd, 1963, my superior called me and said: «*You have to put away your priestly career because you are disorganized in doing charity to the poor*». Just that. No suggestions and nothing in concrete. Not even an example of my disorganization in helping the poor. Actually he was right. After 53 years of serving the poor I still haven't learnt how to be organized in my service to the poor. They are my Masters and every day they teach me new things.

I was 25 years old. It seemed that the world had ended for me. It's **because when I entered the Seminary my purpose was not to study my vocation. My only purpose was to be a priest.** I felt lost. But I never forgot what my aunt Matilde told me after us crying together. «*Don't worry Bernardino. When men close a door, God opens a gate*». It was true. God opened for me a very large gate.

5.

Quitting is not part of my vocabulary. I asked a Bishop in Africa if he could take the risk of accepting me. After waiting for some time he said yes. On March 1st, 1964, I said good-bye to my family and I became a Missionary. Being a Missionary in Africa had always been one of my dreams when I was a young seminarian. Everything started working together. **After spending five months in a very poor Mission, the Bishop called me to the city to teach religion in the secondary school and to be in charge of the youth ministry.** It was a fascinating experience. Many youth retreats and the creation of the Juvenile Centre mobilized all the youth of the city, Catholics, Protestants, Hindus and Muslims working together and praying together and together helping the poor. Following my Master, the poor have been always the centre of my ministry.

6.



Then a big jump. From one of the poorest countries of the world to one of the wealthiest countries of the world. In 1973 I left Mozambique for a period of vacation in Portugal. **Then I visited the USA with a round trip ticket of two weeks. Things changed. Instead of two weeks, I spent 32 years.** My Parish was always a point of reference to the poor. Even undocumented immigrants, arriving from Central America, knew about our Parish. They knew that in California there was a Parish that would welcome them. Many of them slept in my garage, in the class rooms, and in the rooms of my residence. They wore my clothes, ate my food in my dining room and took their showers in my bathrooms. It was a fascinating life. **It was in my St. Anthony's**

Church in California that we started the project "People Helping People".

7.

In 2006 I came back to Madeira where I was assigned to be the Pastor of a country Parish. After two years I became the chaplain of the Hospital. **In 2010** we started in Madeira the project "*People Helping People*" whose main goal is to mobilize many people to help many people. (Especially those families and people who don't qualify for help from official institutions, and especially to be an open door when all the other doors close).

Now I am 80 years old and **I am celebrating my 53rd Anniversary of priesthood.** I don't know if I have been a good priest. But one thing I know: I have been a very happy priest. If I could go back in life and if I could choose, I would choose the roads I have travelled until now.

«*Men closed one door but God opened a gate*».

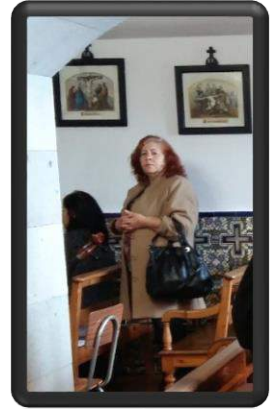
Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Maria Zizina de Freitas Marques, beloved mother of our talented musician sisters, Cátia and Helena, passed away unexpectedly on the 18th of May. Our hearts and thoughts are with her husband, and daughters. Please pray for her family and friends. *May her soul rest in peace.*

For those who may wish to attend, there will be a **30th Day Memorial Mass** in her memory tomorrow evening at 5pm in the **Colégio Church**, which will be concelebrated by Father Bernardino.



THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK – FROM PRIESTS



Live at Peace, and do not worry about anything.
Jesus is with you and loves you.
– **St. Padre Pio**

You don't know how to pray?
Put yourself in the presence of God,
and as soon as you have said,
"Lord I don't know how to Pray"
You can be sure you've already begun..."
– **St. José Maria Escriva**



"The greatest love story of all time
is contained in a tiny white host."
– **Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen**

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

People Helping People 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 after the floods in 2010! In a short period of time we created partnerships with supermarket chains and restaurants; 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, and keep them dreaming...**

The Mission Statement of People Helping People is... through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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BANK: Banco Santander Totta

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

Bible Group:

**Joint Anglican - Roman
Catholic Bible Group:**

Thursdays 2:00pm-3:30pm at
Holy Trinity Church, in the
Library.

Where: Rua do Quebra Costas
nr.20, Funchal.

Studying: the Pilgrim Course.
21st June onwards - "The
Beatitudes". Everyone welcome.
Further questions contact Jean
Faulkner at:
shallomhouse@freeuk.co.uk

Tea and Coffee After Mass

**Please join us in
the Social Hall
across the garden
for a cup of coffee
and a chat.**



Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Hall

leave us your comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺ We also have a **map** where you can place a pin on your home town! Our Social Hall has a Free Little Library: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, leave one in exchange, or contribute with a small donation for the book you take ☺



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*); Prof. Cátia and Prof. Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*Stories of interest, newsletter layout*). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. We can email this newsletter to you every week. If you would like to receive the newsletter, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com , or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org