

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 former 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:

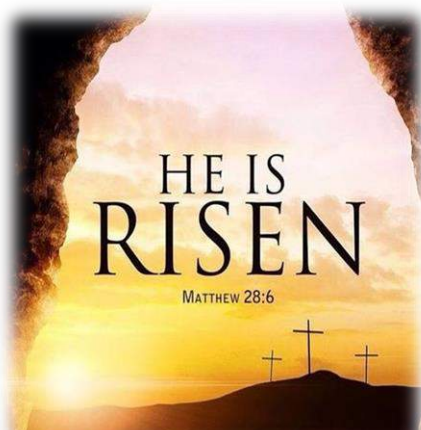
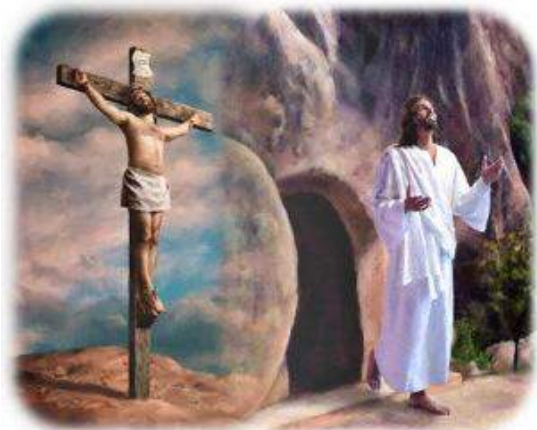
EUROPE: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice and Larry Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

Bank and PayPal details for donations are on the inside pages of the newsletter today. When donating, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino can confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received.



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*); Larysa, Rui, Cátia and Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy (newsletter layout & stories of interest). **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 it by email every Sunday, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com , or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ©


JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 211

12th April 2020

Easter Sunday, Year A

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

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

 **Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

 **Instagram:**
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Today is Easter Sunday! This is the 3rd week of our "digital" format newsletter. This just means that instead of a *printed* issue handed out at Mass, there is only this "digital" version. We decided to do this after all Masses were suspended due to the current coronavirus pandemic. You can also find some older issues of the Chapel's newsletter on the internet by visiting the Chapel's website/blog. The website is <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>. We hope you will enjoy reading today's newsletter and that it will continue keeping us all in touch during these uncertain times.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)



Acts 10:34, 37-43

Psalms 117 (118)

Romans 6:3-11 / Colossians 3:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Matthew 28:1-10 / John 20:1-9

Luke's **Book of Acts** describes Jesus' continuing activity on earth through his Holy Spirit. A vision shows Peter that all animals and birds are suitable for eating - the restrictions of the Jewish Law are ending. He can then enter the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. The Holy Spirit interrupts Peter's speech by welcoming the Gentile community into the church. Peter then realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name. This dramatic **psalm** gives thanks when the Lord responds to prayers for salvation. Verse 26 is the "Benedictus" of our Sanctus. The short reading from Paul's letter to the **Colossians** draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: their focus should be on the life to come when they "will appear with Christ in glory". The alternative reading is an early Easter homily. In the Jewish calendar, Passover was followed by the feast of Unleavened Bread. In the three synoptic gospels, three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles. But in **John's gospel** Mary of Magdala is alone. She finds the stone removed from the tomb. Without going inside she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

PSALM RESPONSE: This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

* *These Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these included in your parish newsletter, or sent to you, please contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net*



A TURBULENT TRIP

Part of Mozambique, where I started my priestly life, makes frontier with the country of Malawi. It was not uncommon for me to travel between the city of *Quelimane* and a village called *Milange*, next door to Malawi to help with some pastoral service or just to accompany my Bishop in his Pastoral visits to this local Mission. The trip could be done by car which would take hours, or by small airplanes.

The most beautiful trips in my life happened in between these two places. The airplanes were very small. Like in a car, my favourite seat was on the side of the pilot, listening to his stories and having him like a tour guide. But the most fascinating thing was to look down and see herds of buffalos, elephants, lions, large tea and palm tree plantations, black people working and walking around and other wonders that make the beautiful green Africa so peculiar.

This was the kind of trip that I had on that sunshine day, from *Quelimane* to *Milange*.

I spent a few days doing my job and returned home during the Holy Week. It was a very frightening experience. This time, I was seated in the back of the plane. There was no sun during the entire trip. The clouds were dark, the rain was heavy, and the wind was violent. Nobody had strength to talk. Not even to cry or to scream. The only strength we had was to hold on hard to the chairs and be silent. Some were praying, and some were just deadily scared and silent. **The airplane was dancing like a dry leaf falling from a tree.** If the airplane fell, nobody would find us. I knew that if we found a little sunshine, the airplane would stop going up and down and we would have a smooth trip. I was praying and always thinking: *«I know that after that dark cloud there will be sunshine»*. But after that dark cloud, instead of sunshine, there was another darker cloud. Then the same routine as if I was praying the Rosary: *«I know that after that dark cloud there will be sunshine»*. *«I know that after that dark cloud there will be sunshine»*. But after that dark cloud there was no sunshine. Finally we approached the airport. And we never saw any sunshine. But... alleluia... We got something much better than sunshine. We got a safe landing. Then I relaxed. And thought: **«Better than sunshine is a safe landing»**.



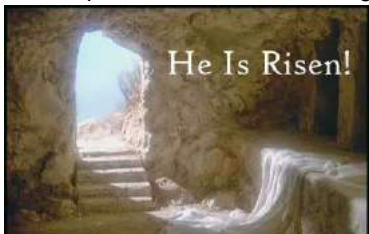
We are so used to the story of the Passion and death of Jesus that it is hard to feel the torture and the agony of that week until Jesus was nailed on the cross and died like a criminal. But three days later he rose from the dead. A healthy and vibrant man again. Death never had the last word. Jesus is alive. *«I will be with you always»* (Mat. 28:15). Shalom. Peace. Do not be afraid.

A small virus is keeping the world in a scary agony, in the middle of very dark clouds. The Risen Lord tells us that after Good Friday there will be Resurrection Sunday. After a dark cloud there will be a safe landing. Scientists are working twenty four hours a day to save their children, their spouses, their parents, and the entire world. I know that pretty soon, very soon, the world will be surprised with a bombastic good News: *«A vaccine was found»*. Alleluia. The bells of the churches are going to ring, people will hug each other and will run to fill up the churches and pray and sing ALLELUIA.

«GOD'S DELAYS ARE NOT GOD'S DENIALS» (Rev. Dr. R. Schuller).
HAPPY EASTER!... HAPPY EASTER!... HAPPY EASTER!... JESUS IS IN CONTROL!

Love & Peace,
 Fr. Bernardino Andrade

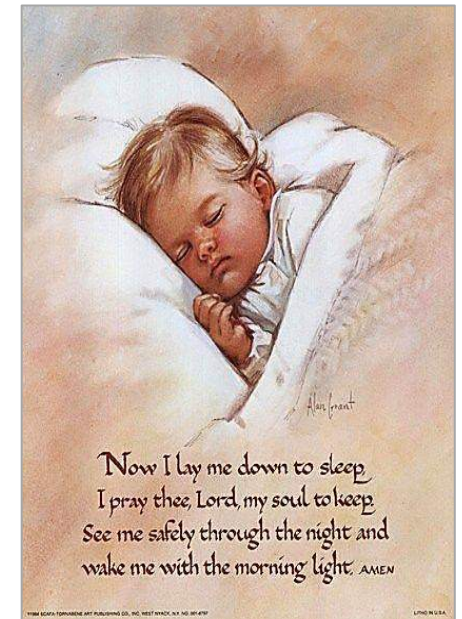
April 12th, 2020



36 New Orleans
 September 11, 2002

Tip-toeing to Mary

Amy and Andrew J. DiMaggio Jr. of LaPlace don't have to be told that their 1-year-old daughter Anna Maria is special. They get a glimpse of it every day when the toddler walks out to the front yard of her house and begins an animated conversation with the Blessed Mother. "Whenever she is with us in the front yard, she will always stop playing at some point and walk up to our statue of Mary," the DiMaggios said. "In this photo, she was holding her hands up and talking to Mary in her own babble language. We hope that this picture will inspire your readers to remember the words of Jesus who said that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be as open as a child."



A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FEET WASHERS

A DRAMATIC RESPONSE TO A DRAMATIC APPEAL

Thank You to everyone who has been touched to donate after reading Fr. Bernardino's appeal in the newsletter two weeks ago. You have all been helping to make a difference in someone's life right now. Thank you! «People Helping People» has received a dramatic response from many people who have donated. Father Bernardino decided to call this group of people who have been sending in donations to help the poor, the «Community of Feet Washers». He has been making a list with all your names to put on the little altar where he says his daily Mass at home with his niece.

In today's newsletter you will see the complete list of everyone who has sent in a donation, either by bank transfer or through PayPal. Yes! *People Helping People* has a PayPal account now! There are also another two options for those who struggle with making bank transfers to Madeira. (More info on these options are explained on the next page).

The «Community of Feet Washers»:

Below is the complete list of people who have donated to People Helping People and made it possible help the needy families with food, medication and also part of rent payments (after job losses). To respect confidentiality of those of you who have donated, we are using only the first names and the initial letter of the surname of the donors. If you sent a donation and don't see your name on the list below, please let us know by emailing penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com.

Donations received this week:

- 06 April - Sean De B.
- 06 April - David and Joanna B.
- 06 April - Harry C.
- 07 April - Neil and Dena S.
- 07 April - Hugh S. and family
- 08 April - Graham B.
- 08 April - Michael Andrew B.
- 09 April - David Arthur V.
- 09 April - Christine and Tom M.
- 09 April - Ron and Janet H.

Donations received last week:

- 30 March - Julie Marie S.
- 30 March - James Bernard S.
- 30 March - Graham and Mary H.
- 30 March - Michael Andrew B
- 31 March - Jayne H.
- 31 March - Froydis G.
- 31 March - Stefanie L.
- 31 March - Helmut U. and Sieglinde K.
- 31 March - João Carlos S.



- 01 April - Lurdes S.
- 01 April - Francis and Joan C.
- 01 April - Michael and Patricia K.
- 01 April - Nationwide Building Society
- 01 April - Patricia and Terence H.
- 02 April - Anthony S.
- 02 April - Jim and Morag
- 03 April - Manuel Adolfo B.M.
- 03 April - Alan OB

For those who didn't see Father Bernardino's appeal in the newsletter, he wrote about the Association «People Helping People» which has a good number of families that for years have depended on its help for food, medication, house rent, transportation and other basic needs. The only regular source of income for *People Helping People* has been a collection taken at the end of the English Mass that Fr. Bernardino celebrates every Sunday, at the Chapel of Penha de França, and also a monthly donation from a generous couple who are the parents of three children. Now, since all the Masses have been suspended for an undetermined period of time, this income has been lost.

After Fr. Bernardino's appeal, every donation that has been received in the last two weeks from all of you around the world, has increased their hope, and as Dalila says **“In relation to our dear families, we have done the best and all those who have been helped are eternally grateful, especially in this situation that the world is going through. It is a joy both for them and for me. It is so good to see the transformation of a sad face and soon you see a sparkle in their eyes and a slight smile. Thank you on behalf of these families, for all the good that the benefactors are doing for them”.**

If you would like to help, there are 4 options available:

>> PAYPAL:

Donations can be sent to: genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com



>> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

ACCOUNT NAME: Associacao Gente Ajudando Gente/PHP
BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020
IBAN: PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94 **SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL
NIB: 0018 0003 49381759020 94
Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.



For those in the UK and the USA who have trouble doing bank transfers to Madeira, we have these alternatives:

>> DONATIONS FROM THE UK:

ACCOUNT NAME: Sinead Moynihan
BANK: Lloyds Bank **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 02461743
BRANCH: Univ. of Cambridge **SORT CODE:** 30-13-55
IBAN: GB05 LOYD 3013 5502 4617 43 **BIC:** LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira. Any questions or concerns about transferring to this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan at: sineadmoyhian7@icloud.com

>> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

Instructions for sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA:

Write a check made out to: Fr Bernardino Andrade PHP
 in the bottom of the check in Memo area add: **PHP**

Mail the check to: Mr. L.A. Contreras
 60 Meeks Lane
 Oakley, Ca 94561



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira. Any questions or concerns please contact Larry Contreras at 707-333-5501 or email him at: la.contreras@sbcglobal.net