Vol. 3, number 212

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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. 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

# >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

ACCOUNT NAME:

Associação CEDSSG Ajudando Gente

**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.



# >> 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: sineadmoynihan7@icloud.com

>> <u>PAYPAL:</u>

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com

# >> <u>DONATIONS FROM</u> 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: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

When sending any donation, please send an email to **penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com** with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

# **JOYFUL GIFT**

# 19th April 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A

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

Website and Blog:

http://rcmassmadeira.org/

f Facebook:

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

(instagram:

www.instagram.com/capela\_penha\_franca/





#### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Today you are receiving the **4**<sup>th</sup> **issue** 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 bring a bit of hope, and also help to keep us all in touch during these uncertain times.

#### **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Brought to you by:

Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info

Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 117 (118) 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31



Between Easter and Pentecost, readings from the Old Testament are replaced by the **Book of Acts**, about the beginnings of the Church as the Holy Spirit continues Christ's work on earth. Today Luke describes the early believers' close-knit community, holding their resources in common, and practising their Jewish faith before meeting in their homes for Eucharist. More verses from the **psalm** used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king. This year the second readings during Eastertide are from the First Letter of Peter, the only time this letter is read on Sundays. Written from Rome to the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor. God gives us a new birth and a hope based on the resurrection. We must try as good citizens to maintain Christian standards amid pagan people. Suffering can purify our faith, enabling us to imitate Christ more. God cares for us while we look forward to our inheritance in heaven. This first week of Easter ends with the first ending of **John's Gospel**. Jesus appears twice to the apostles, sending them out to forgive sins. After doubting without seeing, Thomas utters the most complete expression of faith. The brief accounts of Jesus' ministry are that we may "believe that Jesus is the Christ, and "have life in his name".

# PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

\* 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

(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



#### A CAN OF WATER INSTEAD OF A BIBLE

A soldier, during World War II, was hit by a bullet and was agonizing in a trench. A very dedicated priest, the army chaplain, taking all the risks, went towards his direction and found him.

He was really in pain and could hardly move. The priest, who was carrying the Bible, approached him and asked: "Would you like me to read something from this book»? The soldier looked at him and said: «Father: what I most need now is some water to drink. I am so thirsty

and my mouth is so dry. »

The priest left the Bible over a rock and went around looking for a container and some water. He was very happy to find water. The priest brought the water and helped him to drink

It was very apparent the relief that the soldier felt after drinking that water.

Then, after relaxing for a few moments, he addressed the priest again and asked him: «I need

something under my head. Could you please help me»? Gently the priest took his own sweater, folded it under the soldier's head, made a pillow and slowly tried to accommodate the soldier's head over his sweater an make his as comfortable as possible.

Then the priest, knowing how important the touching of a hand is in moments of suffering, held his hand, and stayed beside him without mentioning the «book» anymore. Moments later the soldier said: «Father, I am so cold». Without any hesitation the chaplain took off his over-coat, covered him and gently tucked him like a mother does with her baby.

The soldier enjoyed the warmth of this overcoat, closed his eyes for a few moments while the priest kept holding his hand with hope that some help would arrive soon.

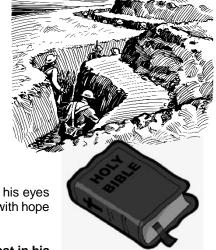
After a moment of silence the soldier looked the priest in his

eyes and said: «Father, if that book teaches to do for others what you just did for me, please read from that book. I am very very interested in listening».

Today, second Sunday of Easter is the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

Love & Peace, Fr. Bernardíno Andrade

April 19th, 2020



Father Bernardino would once again like to say a sincere "Thank You" to everyone who has been donating towards People Helping People the past 3 weeks. With the suspension of Masses, the usual income to help the poor, was lost.

After his appeal for help in the newsletter, there has been an amazing and overwhelming response from you all. The donations you have been sending will be helping so many families who are having a really hard time right now. A sincere Thank You to you all.

Father Bernardino has decided to call everyone who has been sending in donations to help the poor, the «Community of Feet Washers» in remembrance of the moment when Jesus washed the feet of his Apostles. Father Bernardino 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.



### The «Community of Feet Washers»:

Below is the updated list of everyone who has donated to People Helping People and made it possible to help struggling families with food, medication and also part of rent payments. 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, please let us know by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

All the names below are of donations received through bank transfer or PayPal, so if you don't see your donation please do get in touch. This week we managed to track a donation after we were contacted for this reason, and we were able to find the "lost" transfer this way. ©

#### Donations received this week

- 14 April Michael Andrew B
- 14 April Philip and Brenda F-P
- 14 April Ron and Julie G.
- 14 April Dirk and Margaret Van G.
- 15 April Veronica and Peter B.
- 15 April JH & PM Holden
- 15 April Maurice L.
- 15 April Antonio Fernandes F.
- 18 April D. Vierra

#### **Donations received last 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.

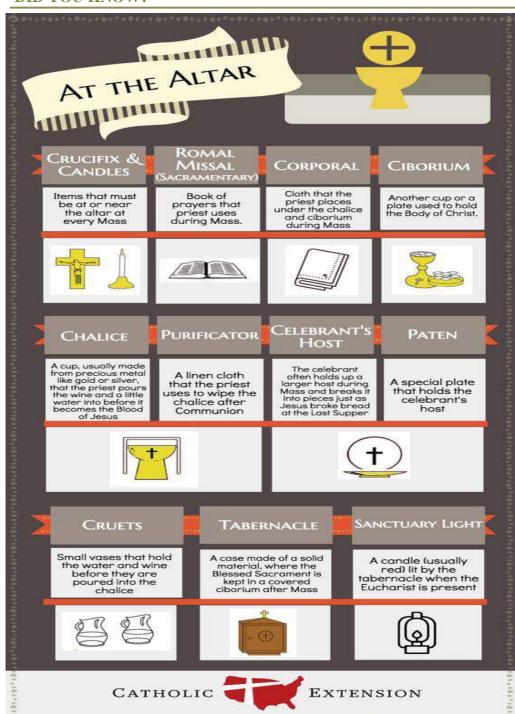
### Donations received 3 weeks ago:

- 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

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**



# ST. FAUSTINA AND THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. She was born in 1905, and belonged to the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; she was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic. Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, of which she wrote in her diary. On the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her: « Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" [ in

Polish: "Jezu, ufam Tobie"]. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.". Jesus also told her that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be "solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy."

Not knowing how to paint, Faustina approached some other nuns at the convent for help, but received no assistance. Only three years later, after her assignment to Vilnius (Lithuania's capital



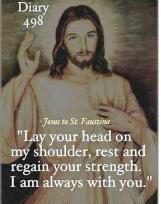
city), the first artistic rendering of the image was performed under her direction. The painting now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Symbolic meaning: The coloured rays streaming out from the heart of Jesus have symbolic meaning... red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The brightest point in the picture is the heart. The light on the forehead signifies the presence of the Father. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.



The original Divine Mercy image

#### WHAT JESUS TOLD ST. FAUSTINA:



Here are some quotes from St. Faustina's diary

