

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:34)

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: Larry and Janice 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.



>> PAYPAL:

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.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
the People Helping People account in
Madeira, at no cost.

Any questions or concerns please
contact Larry Contreras at
707-333-5501 or email him at:
l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

>> 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: sineadmoynihn7@icloud.com

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.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

5th of July 2020

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Hello! After an absence of 1 month (June), the newsletter is now back! We have some news to share in today's issue: the Mass in English has now been resumed after masses were suspended due to the coronavirus. And this week, on Saturday July 4th, marked the 55th anniversary of Fr. Bernardino's first mass in Madeira after being ordained as a priest in Mozambique on June 12th 1965! Read all about this in Fr. Bernardino's column!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Zech 9:9-10

Psalms 144(145)

Rom 8:9, 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30



From the fifth century BC, after the return from the exile, **Zechariah's** apocalyptic oracles look forward to the restoration of Israel, when all the nations will look towards Jerusalem. The Davidic king to be restored by God will bring release from captivity, but repentance must come first. Later Matthew misinterprets the idiomatic repetition of "riding on a donkey, on a colt" and has Jesus riding into Jerusalem on two animals at once (Mt 21). **The Psalm** praises the Lord's kindness and care for creation and exhorts all creatures to thank the Lord. Over the next few weeks Paul's letter to the **Roman** describes "life in the Spirit". Unable to "do the good I want!", Paul sees that we serve sin through our "flesh", our weak, earth-bound, human nature. But by coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, God's Son has enabled us to walk "according to the Spirit". The Spirit of God dwelling in us enables us to participate in divine life. After Jesus' proclaimed the gospel in Galilee, he went on to preach "in their cities" but met opposition to his teaching, and he upbraided them for their lack of repentance. Those reputed to be wise do not understand, but those with the simple trust of children do. Learn from him, for his "burden is light".

PSALM RESPONSE: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

* 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



MY FIRST MASS FIFTY FIVE YEARS AGO

It was June 12th, 1965, in a football field of the City and Diocese of Quelimane, Mozambique, very very far away from Madeira Island, my home land. My Bishop imposed his hands over my head, anointed my hands, and I became a priest forever. It was the day of my Priestly Ordination. Not counting the day of my Baptism, there is no doubt that the day of my Ordination was the most special day of my life.

After the Mass of my ordination, the Bishop, who always treated me like a son, asked me to give him a special blessing. The same thing happened with Father Vasco and Father Benjamim, two other priests who were ordained during the same ceremony. **It was a very emotional and special moment... except for one thing.** I am a member of a large family. Together we were thirteen members: my father, my mother and eleven brothers and sisters including me. But not one of them was present at my Ordination.

Only three weeks later, on July 4th, 1965, in my home Parish in Ponta do Sol, after travelling from Mozambique to Madeira, surrounded by my family, many friends, many neighbours and many Parishioners, I celebrated my First Mass in Madeira Island. Exactly in the same church where I had been baptized, received my First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

On the day of my first Mass, one of the most touching moments for me happened just before leaving to go to Church. It really was not part of my plans. My mother called me to her bedroom, closed the door, and asked me to hear her Confession and give her Absolution. She did this in such a natural way as if she had done this during her entire life. I was nervous but she was not. She knew that I was a priest and she knew that I could give her Absolution and say «Your sins are forgiven. Go in Peace». **I was not ready for this.** I almost felt like asking God: «Lord, can I do this? Do I have to do this?». I sat down on her bed, my mother knelt before me and together we had one of the most special celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation of my entire life. After that it became normal for my mother and my father to come to me for Confession every time I visited them on holiday.

Sometimes she would come to Confession and after that she would call my father to come to Confession too. Then I would tell her: «Mother, you don't know if he wants». Her answer was: «Of course he wants». And then she would call my father again and tell him: «Manuel, come. Bernardino is waiting». And I had no choice, but I was not sure if my father also had no choice. But maybe it was his choice, because even after my mother died he continued coming to me for Confession.

This was on the fourth of July of 1965. This was 55 years ago. I am not sure if I have been a good priest but one thing I know: I have been a very happy priest. And everything started when I was 12 years old, and my sister, Agostinha, asked me: «Bernardino! Wouldn't you like to be a priest?» and I said «Yes». And that YES has been, and will be, repeated for the rest of my life.

Love & Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



After a gradual lifting of restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, Mass in English here at the chapel was resumed on the 10th of May. (The Chapel had been closed since March 15th). To ensure the safety of everyone attending Mass now, some restrictions have been put in place, which include: cleaning of the pews and hymn books before the start of Mass, sanitizing of hands before

entering the Chapel, and an obligation to wear a mask. Here are a few pictures from the last few weeks....



Since Mass has been resumed, we have an average of 15 to 19 people at the Chapel every Sunday morning.



STATUE OF LIBERTY... JESUS... POPE FRANCIS...

1.

I am pretty sure that many people, all over the world, know and feel inspired by the poem written by Emma Lazarus that is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty:

«Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless tempest-tossed to me»

2.

I am pretty sure that most of the Christians all over the world feel fascinated and inspired by the words of a «Feet Washer» called Jesus who calls Himself the «Good Shepherd», that are written in the Gospel of Matthew (Mat. 11: 28-30):

«Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light».



3.

I am pretty sure that almost all Catholics all over the world are familiar and feel inspired by the revolution launched by Pope Francis. It is what he calls «REVOLUTION OF TENDERNESS»



Fr. Bernardino Andrade
2020-07-05

A HUGE THANK YOU – Friends and “feet washers” donations make a difference!



Most of you know that at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Father Bernardino made a dramatic appeal asking for your help. Many local families were having a really tough time, struggling to survive and to put food on their tables. Many lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic, which made their situations worse.

Thanks to the generosity of those of you who read the appeal, and have sent in a donation, “People Helping People” has been able to help the struggling families with food and medication, and also help to pay some of their essential bills (water, electricity, gas) as well as part of their rent payments too. Every donation received, no matter how small, has made a huge difference. On behalf of all these families, “Thank You” very much!

Father Bernardino has made a list with all of the names of those who have donated, which he puts on the little altar where he says Mass every day.

If you sent a donation and don't see your name below, please let us know by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com so that we can check what has happened. Thank you.

Donations received in May:

- 04 May – Ron & Julie G.
- 04 May – Marie & John W.
- 04 May – Manuel Adolfo B.M.
- 04 May – Alan OB
- 04 May – Anthony S.
- 04 May – Jane & Peter C.
- 05 May – Anthony & Jaquine D.
- 05 May – David Arthur V.
- 05 May – Michael Andrew B.
- 06 May – Annemarie M.
- 08 May – Debra & David V.
- 08 May – Denis and Mary D.
- 08 May – Patricia K.
- 08 May – Maria Arlinda S.
- 11 May – Helmut U. & Sieglinde K.
- 12 May – Robert John M. OBE
- 12 May – Michael Andrew B.
- 13 May – Lurdes S.
- 13 May – Alastair R. & Ann T.
- 15 May – Mike & Veronica B.
- 17 May – John & Joan T.
- 20 May – Maria Francisca F.
- 25 May – David Arthur V.
- 26 May – Michael Andrew B.
- 27 May – Jayne Marie H.



Donations received in June:

- 01 June – Joyce P.
- 01 June – Anthony S.
- 02 June – Michael Andrew B
- 03 June – Alan OB.
- 03 June – Manuel Adolfo B.M.
- 03 June – Barry J.
- 03 June – John & Marie W.
- 08 June – Ron & Julie G.
- 08 June – fFlow Mr. Michael
- 09 June – Anthony & Jaquine D.
- 10 June – Dr. Ron A.
- 12 June – Michael Andrew B.
- 12 June – Gerard G.
- 15 June – Maria Francisca F.
- 23 June – Jayne Marie H.
- 29 June – Michael Andrew B.
- 30 June – Maria Francisca F.
- 30 June – Helmut U. & Sieglinde K.

Donations received in July:

- 01 July – Lurdes S.
- 01 July – Maria Arlinda S.
- 03 July – Alan OB
- 03 July – Manuel Adolfo B.M.
- 03 July – Michael Andrew B.
- 03 July – Marie W.

(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).

UPDATE ON OUR LAST SPECIAL REQUEST – from May 31st newsletter

In our last newsletter, we let you know about two special requests that were received for help for second-hand clothes for a baby girl (10 months old), and also a second-hand car seat for a baby. We are happy to inform that we were contacted shortly afterwards, and baby clothes were sent by post from the UK! (Thank you!) And a baby car seat was also donated. Thank you very much! The families that received these items were so grateful.



This is the true meaning of “People Helping People”.



COMPUTER NEEDED FOR A YOUNG LADY - are you able to help?

Many of the families helped by PHP have pressing needs like food and medication, but sometimes there are other needs too, and this is when we make an appeal with a “special” request. This week we heard of a 14-year-old girl who needs a computer so that she can do her schoolwork. During the lockdown (due to coronavirus pandemic), when everything was to be done online, as her family can't afford a computer, she had to struggle to get all her work done by hand, and then would take a photo of her completed work and send it to her teacher via Whatsapp phone message.



We would like to help make things easier for her, if possible.



This is why we are appealing to anyone who may have a 2nd-hand computer that you no longer use (but still works perfectly), if you would you consider donating it to this young girl.

If you are able to help, or know someone that can, please get in touch with Fr. Bernardino (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com) or email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com.

Thank you! ☺

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT TODAY

