

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: sineadmoynihnan7@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

Vol. 3, number 221

2nd of August 2020

18th 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/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! We hope this newsletter brings you some inspiration, and that you are all keeping safe and well. Hope to see you all back at the Chapel very soon!



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)
(Is 55:1-3; Ps. 144 (145); Rom 8:35,37-39; Mt 14:13-21)



Second Isaiah encourages the Israelites exiled in Babylon by reminding them that God had not forgotten his everlasting covenant with them. They are still invited to turn to him and to enjoy the heavenly banquet in the end days. But

they must "listen, and your soul will live". The Psalm praises the Lord's care for creation: God – of his nature – must be "just in all his ways", but he is also "kind and full of compassion". Paul has now arrived at the tremendous conclusion he has been working towards through these four chapters of his letter to the Romans: "nothing can come between us and the love of Christ". We have been justified by our faith in the gospel. God is on our side. Jesus himself prays on our behalf. We can be certain that, no matter who we are, nor what we do, God never stops loving us. How difficult it can be to accept this! This is what God's covenant means: we will never cease to be his people. The Gospel shows how readily God provides for our needs, just as he provided the manna in the desert. The feedings of the multitudes give us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come. Foreshadowing the Eucharist, the disciples begin to take on some of Christ's work.

PSALM RESPONSE: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

* 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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)

Entry Hymn: "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder" - n. 419

Offertory Hymn: "In bread we bring you, Lord.." - n. 258

Communion Hymn: "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528

Final Hymn: "Colours of day dawn into the mind..." - n. 93





I DIDN'T KNOW MY FATHER

Margarita, a 17-year-old Mexican immigrant from Mexico, was my parishioner when I was in California. One day, very worried, she approached me for comfort and guidance. Something very serious had happened in her life. Margarita was pregnant and confused.

When she shared her concerns and her fears with me, one of the first things I did was to congratulate her for being a mother and thank her for not having had an abortion. Her sister, Diana, and her brother in law were the only people who knew about her situation but they also were confused. How

to tell her parents? Her father was one of those «strict and classic macho men» who smile very little. **After some tears of desperation I told her: «Do you want me to tell your parents?»** Her answer was an immediate «Oh yes, please».

I called her parents, her sister, her brother in law and also the father of the baby. We all got together in my Parish residence. I am not a straightforward person. Sometimes it takes me a long period of time to tell what some people would tell in just a few moments. Especially in dealing with sensitive issues I see the other people's feelings as a «sacred land». After offering a warm cup of coffee I started going around until I broke the news. I still remember her mother interrupting me to say: «Do you mean Margarita? I thought you were talking about Diana». The shock was inevitable. The silence that followed took longer than I expected.

We kept talking but with lots of fear for her father' response. Then he started talking with words of understanding for his daughter and how happy he would be by helping her to raise that child. I had mentioned adoption. But instead he also thanked her for not having had an abortion and adoption wouldn't be an alternative. «We will take care of our baby», he said.



Everybody was shocked and in tears when all discovered that inside of that tough and «macho» Mexican man there was such a tender heart. And I never forgot the moment when Diana in tears said: «Oh my God! I didn't know my father. My father was a tremendous surprise for me. He is such a good man and I didn't know it».

In June the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Mystery of the Holy Trinity is the fundamental mystery of our faith. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in intimate relationship with one another. They are three persons and one God.

When I was a child I learned, for my First Communion, that «a mystery is a truth revealed by God that we must believe but we can not understand». But I only fell in love with the holy Trinity when I discovered that a mystery is not something that I can not understand and period. I fell in love with the Holy Trinity when I discovered that a mystery is something that we can understand a little bit but that understanding will never be exhausted. The more I know about God the more I discover the immensity of God surrounding me with his unconditional love.

And it is in little stories like what happened between Diana and her father that I learn about my relationship with the Holy Trinity. Diana thought she knew him until the day she had this profound experience of a loving father that she didn't know. God is a loving and daily surprise. But I need to be open to that surprise especially by spending time in long periods of prayer and service to others.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade,

August 2, 2020

FRIENDS & FEET WASHERS – Thank you!

A huge Thank you to everyone who has sent in a donation to help the poor after Fr. Bernardino's appeal for help. Every donation (no matter how small) has made such a huge difference in the lives of those being helped by *People Helping People*. It's been possible to help pay medication, food, groceries, gas and utility bills to help these struggling families survive during this terrible pandemic. Father Bernardino has continued to add your names to the list which he has put on the little altar where he says Mass every day at home, and also places the list on the altar during the English Mass here at the Chapel every Sunday morning. Below is the updated list with the names of those who donated recently. Thank you very much!



Fr. Bernardino with the list of names on the altar at the Chapel

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

Donations received during the month of 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.
- 06 July – Anthony & Jaquine D.
- 06 July – Anthony S.
- 09 July – Maria Francisca F.
- 09 July – Ann T. & Alastair R.
- 11 July – Germaine F.
- 14 July – Graham & Ann B.



- 15 July – Neil & Dena S.
- 15 July – Michael Andrew B.
- 15 July – John & Anne A.
- 20 July – Helmut U. & Sieglinde K.
- 20 July – Joyce P.
- 20 July – Michael B.
- 20 July – Patricia and Mike K.
- 23 July – Chrissie M.
- 23 July – Jane and Peter C.
- 28 July – Terence and Patricia H.
- 28 July – Michael Andrew B.

(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).

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK



Three Stories

Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all people gathered but only one boy came with umbrella.
-That's Faith.

When you toss a one year old baby in the air, he laughs because he knows his father will catch him.
-That's Trust

Every night we go to bed, we have no assurance to wake up alive next morning, but still we set alarm for tomorrow.
-That's Hope