

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 Gente 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.

JOYFUL GIFT

4th of October 2020

27th 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/

E-mail: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! Today, as every Sunday, we are blessed to have Fr. Bernardino Andrade celebrating mass in English for us. After an absence of almost 6 months, **the Portuguese masses have now also resumed at the Chapel:** Saturdays at 18h30 and Sundays at 11h00.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isa 5:1-7; Ps. 79(80); Phil 4:6-9; Matt 21:33-43

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.)

www.bible-groups.info



First Isaiah was writing before 700 BC, when Assyria threatened and eventually overwhelmed Israel, the northern kingdom. Isaiah insists that only being faithful to God will protect the nation from disaster. The unproductive vineyard is the house of Israel, where, in spite of the care lavished on it by the Lord, there is bloodshed and injustice. **The psalm** beseeches the Lord to protect his vine, Israel. Transplanted from Egypt, it has been severely damaged, but Israel promises not to forsake the Lord again. In his affectionate farewell to the **Philippians**, Paul urges them to "rejoice in the Lord always", not anxious, but thinking about all that is good, letting the Lord know all their needs. They should imitate Paul in the way he relies on the Lord. Then God's grace will bring them peace. Our God is the God of peace. He is not seeking to catch us out, but longs for us to accept the peace he offers and to rely on him totally. This parable in **Matthew's Gospel** about a vineyard owner follows immediately after last week's story of the two sons. Matthew has brought Isaiah's tale up to date with the murder of the prophets and even the Lord's son. As with Isaiah's prophecy, Israel would again be devastated, in AD70.

PSALM RESPONSE: **The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel..**

** 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 **Keyboard:** Larysa Makarova (The Ukraine) & **Voice:** Margarita Pestana (Venezuela)

Entry - "Bind us together, Lord..." - n.65

Penitential - "Lord, have mercy" - n. 663

Offertory - "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528

Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n. 704

Agnus Dei - "Lamb of God" - n. 737

Communion - "A new commandment I give unto you..." - n.2

Thanksgiving - "You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord..." - n.647

Final - "Go, the mass is ended..." - n. 175





WHERE IS YOUR WEDDING RING?

I met Dora (not her true name) in the Hospital. I was working there as a chaplain and she was a Hospital employee. Her job was to be in permanent contact with the people. I used to see Dora almost every day. I have to confess that I don't remember seeing her without a smile; welcoming people, talking with them and comforting them. I had even seen her with tears in her eyes, but even with tears in her eyes she never lost her beautiful smile which made her an extremely beautiful lady. Her husband joked with her saying *«you are this young and beautiful because I take good care of you»*. And she replied saying the same to him.

I left the Hospital five years ago. Since then I have met Dora only twice. One day I was in a restaurant and saw one of those beautiful scenes that I most enjoy seeing in a couple: it was a romantic scene. I saw a couple seated at a table, eating together, but in that moment they were feeding one another. It is not very common, but I have seen a few times couples having a meal or a simple ice-cream, and the husband takes something from his dish and, with his own spoon, puts it in the mouth of his wife... and the wife does the same. Because I have worked a lot with couples, because I strongly believe in the Sacrament of Marriage, and because I believe that love is not love until it is expressed, when I see a scene like this I feel as if I am in a Church attending Mass and this is the moment of Communion.



Without recognizing them, I left my table (I always do this), approached them, apologized for interrupting, introduced myself as a priest and complemented them on that simple but powerful, little but symbolic gesture. When couples get married they don't «receive» the Sacrament of Matrimony. More than that, they «become» a walking Sacrament and I believe that this is what makes the Sacrament of Matrimony so fascinating. The Sacrament of Matrimony is the symbol of the

passion that God has for His people. That's why it is so important that their love for one another should become visible wherever they are. After I complemented them, Dora recognized me, introduced me to her husband and we were happy to see each other again.

Last week I was at home and I got a telephone call from Dora. She had heard about *People Helping People*. With the usual embarrassment, she asked me for help. We decided to have a cup of coffee together and that's when she started talking about her situation. Her financial situation was in trouble and she needed help. But one thing that caught my attention was the absence of her wedding ring. That reminded me when a divorced friend of mine told me that *«divorce is a passport to poverty»*. I couldn't believe it. I was sad, but at the same time I was too shy to ask. But I was «sure» that Dora was already in the list of the divorced people. But how? How can a couple like that end in divorce?

Then after a few moments, Dora started talking about her husband and how solid and romantic her marriage was. She told me that they met in school when she was 14, he had been her first and only boyfriend; married when she was 17 and their marriage was followed by two beautiful children. I was confused. What she was telling me didn't match the absence of her wedding ring. That's when I got the courage to ask: *«What happened to your wedding ring?»* Her answer was *«I sold it. I had to sell all my jewelries and the last one was my wedding ring»*. I confess that I almost cried.



Again it came to my mind what I read in a magazine at the beginning of this pandemic which was: *«Corona virus is going to be a genocide among the poor»*. When one gets to the point of selling a ring of a thirty-three years solid, happy and romantic marriage, God knows how many other essential things have gone. Food, medication and house rent are always on the top of the list.

But our community at Penha de França has become a *«Community of Friends and Feet washers»*. The Community of Penha de França cares.



Every Christmas, we are reminded in the midst of plenty that for many families in Madeira Christmas is a continuing time of scarcity and struggling to survive. By planning early this year, we are hoping to present each family under the care of the *People Helping People* charity, with a surprise hamper. To do this, each month we are asking people to contribute specific items.



In October we are asking people to bring along toiletry items such as soaps, lotions, body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. which may be placed in the basket at the entrance of the chapel. Supermarkets often have specials where these items can be bought at a discount. By starting early, we hope that we will be able to provide each family with a hamper at Christmas especially suited to their needs.

EVERYONE IS BEAUTIFUL IN GOD'S EYES – says Pope Francis

Source: <https://cathnews.com/cathnews/39154-everyone-is-beautiful-in-god-s-eyes-pope>

On the 21st of September this year, Pope Francis received in the Vatican a group of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder. He told them that everyone is beautiful in God's eyes. The Pope was delighted at meeting the group of 42 which included the children, their parents, and staff of *Ambulatorium Sonnenschein* (Sunshine Outpatient Clinic) from Polten, Austria. This clinic's treatment combines diagnosis, advice and therapy for children and adolescents with special needs. *«Your house is called "Sunshine", a beautiful name!»* the Pope told them, adding, there's a reason behind it: *«It is because your house is like a magnificent blooming meadow in the sunshine and you are the flowers of this "Sunshine" house»*. He explained that God created the world with a great variety of flowers of all colours, and every flower has its beauty, which is unique. *«Each of us,»* the Pope said, *«is also beautiful in God's eyes, and God loves us.»*



He told the children they can also ask Jesus to help their parents with their work or comfort the grandmother who is a bit sick. They can ask Jesus to help children around the world who have nothing to eat or even help the Pope to lead the Church well. *«If you ask with faith, the Lord will surely hear you,»* the Pope assured them.



THOUGHTS
FOR THE
WEEK
AHEAD

