

## 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).

"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14).

### >> 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: sineadmoyhian7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

31st of January 2021

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org>  
[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel).  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Deut 18: 15-20; Psalm 94(95): 1-2-6-9; I Cor 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28)

The fifth and final book of Pentateuch, Deuteronomy brings up to date the earlier Law books, and seeks to persuade Israel that their only salvation is to obey God's Law. Today's reading, promising that the Lord will raise up a Prophet like Moses, was seen by Jesus and his followers as pointing to Jesus. The psalm invites us to worship God, who is our king and our shepherd, warning us to be more faithful than the Israelites in the desert. In last week's reading, Paul emphasised to the Corinthians that the world is passing away and they should stop arguing among themselves. They should consider carefully before giving themselves extra worries by more responsibilities. Hence the advice this week for unmarried people to remain in their present state so they can give all their time to the Lord's affairs. But Paul goes on to make it clear he is not against marriage. After the calling of the first disciples, Mark's Gospel continues with Jesus teaching in the synagogue. His teaching and healing authority is immediately recognised. But spirits recognise Jesus so he tells them to be quiet. Their words can have no meaning to human beings during his lifetime. Mark insists that we can only know Jesus through the Cross.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** **;** O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts".  
(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.) [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

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

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

**Entry** - "Bind us together Lord..." - n. 65  
**Penitential** - "Lord, have mercy on us all...." - n. 663  
**Offertory** - "One bread, one body, one Lord of all..." - n. 449  
**Sanctus** - "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n. 704  
**Peace** - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495  
**Agnus Dei** - "Lamb of God..." n. 737  
**Communion** - "Let there be love shared among us..." - n. 317  
**Final** - "Lord, the light of your love is shining..." n. 344





**A BREAD DISTRIBUTOR WHO INSPIRED ME**

Even if my neighbours and my family lived in a poor environment we didn't know that we were poor because everybody had the same life style. Wearing no shoes was not a problem. Having no bread to eat was normal. Not having Christmas toys we didn't even know what was that. We ate lots of sweet potatoes, potatoes, beans, corn, vegetables. Once in while we even had fish.

Meat was for special holidays. Everybody ate whatever could be grown in the fields. Sometimes we even had bread for desert and cake for Christmas and it was excellent. It was a treat. The soup that was left from the supper was used to make a wonderful breakfast in the next morning. But we had a very happy childhood. Playing together our traditional games was fascinating. Christmas was and it is still called «The Feast».

There was this bread distributor that everyday used to walk those steep and narrow roads carrying big wick baskets full of loaves of bread and distribute them by a few small grocery stores. He was not selling bread to people but only to those little grocery stores. Then those who had the money would go there and buy it. If the bread was fresh, if it was from yesterday or the day before yesterday it didn't make any difference.



Those families who had wheat, depending on the quantity, were able to bake bread once a week, some once a month and some for special occasions only.

All this to say that bread was not necessarily part of the daily menu of the farming people. Not because we didn't like it but because we didn't have it.

But when we were on the roads and this man walked by, carrying his basket full of loaves, that bread was spreading around a delicious aroma. It smelled better than any perfume bought today in any shop. And I thought: «I wish I had a job like that».



Nowadays there are at least two vans that, at different hours pass daily, close to the house where I live, selling bread to people who are waiting for them on the road sides. A few weeks ago when I was leaving home I saw this man with his van selling bread and I told him: - «If I were not a priest I would like be like you, a distributor of bread». - «You are», he said. «You distribute another kind of bread. You distribute spirituality. You distribute bread for the souls». It was like a two by four over my head. It reminded me of the words of Jesus in the desert: «Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceeds through the mouth of God».(Math. 4: 4).

This bread distributor inspired me and made me think about our Christian methods of Evangelization. Some people think that giving food, medicine and a house is enough. Other people think that prayer and preaching is the only way of transmitting the Good News. They even blame the poor for being poor. If they are poor and sick it's because they don't have enough faith or don't pray enough. But the Gospel is full of Jesus' messages where we clearly see that Christian Evangelization is taking good care of our bodies and our souls together. Jesus didn't come to save souls. Jesus came to save people with their bodies and their souls together. I will not be surprised if the members of the Association People Helping People or any Christian, when they distribute food, medicine and rent houses for the poor they start distributing Bibles, rosaries and inquiring if their children are attending Catechesis or if they made their First Communion or if they attend the Sunday Mass or if they need help to enquire about this kind of programs or spiritual experiences.

The good news of Jesus is feeding the poor, healing the sick and being a witness of a living and loving God by word and action.



**GRATITUDE – John Maria expresses his gratitude**



Two weeks ago the Newsletter brought an appeal for warm clothes for John Maria (not his true name) who lives in extreme poverty and on the verge of becoming homeless. The response was, as usual, a big success. He got everything he needed to protect him from the cold that was hitting Funchal in those days. Then, realizing that two neighbours were going through the same situation, John Maria shared with them part of what he got. Very proudly he is showing his gifts that were still in the trunk of my car. I asked him to smile and he did it. I insisted with him to smile because I was not seeing his smile and it was when he explained that under that mask there was a very grateful smile to all who helped him. I am glad he explained because I was not seeing it, ahahah.



From our heart to your heart, a big thank you! Fr. Bernardino Andrade



**UPDATE – Friends and Feet Washers Donations received**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in a donation to the People Helping People charity. Every donation, no matter how small, has helped to make a difference. Father Bernardino still has all your names placed on the altar when he says Mass every Sunday morning. Thank you for your generosity!

**Update of donations received during the months of December & January :**

**DECEMBER 2020**

- Alan O'B.... Anthony S...
- Angela P... Anne T. & Alastair R...
- Anthony John D... Brian D...
- Bruno & Elisabeth H... Sharon B...
- Christie & Tom M... David & Joanna B...
- Graham & Anne B... Isabel O...
- Jim & Morag M... John & Marie W...
- Julie & Ron G... Jose Henrique A...
- Manuel Adolfo B.M... Maria Lurdes S...
- Patricia & Terence H... Sheila C...
- Philip & Brenda F-P... Walter G. B...
- John A, John P, Robin H, and Neil and Dena S.

**JANUARY 2021**

- Alan O'B.... Anthony S...
- Anthony John D... Barry & Pat J...
- Christie and Tom M... Eileen D...
- Graham & Anne B... John & Marie W...
- Julie & Ron G... Manuel Adolfo B.M...
- Mary & Denis D... John & Janet H...
- Sheila C... Walter G. 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. If you sent a



donation and don't see your name listed, please let us know by sending an email so that we can check what's happened, to: [penhafraanca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafraanca.newsletter@gmail.com)

**SMILE YOU ARE IN CHURCH – Some humour to brighten your day!**



**A man is praying in Church.** He looks up to Heaven and says: "God, could you answer a question for me? God what is a million years to you?" God answers, "Well, a million years to me is as a second." "Hmm," says the man. "I guess I understand. So what is a million dollars to you then?" "My son," God says, "a million dollars to me, is as a penny." "Hmm," says the man. He goes back to praying, but after a while he looks up again. "God," he asks "can I have a penny?" "Sure," God says. "Wait a second."