

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:

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Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Larry and Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: la.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: la.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 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

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14th of February 2021

6th 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..
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31(32): 1-2,5,11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mark 1: 40-45)

Leviticus, the third book of the Pentateuch, describes rituals used by the priests. Laws and rituals kept Israelites in the state of legal purity to which they were called, as a sign of their union with the Lord. A leper had to live apart in a dishevelled state, warning people to keep away. A cleansing ritual was specified for anyone cured. This penitential Psalm celebrates the joy of confessing sins and knowing forgiveness. An omitted verse describes the misery of deferring confession. Paul continues his theme of not placing obstacles which might hinder the spreading of the gospel. The Corinthians should eat whatever is put before them. They should not risk giving offence to their host, even if they suspect some food is ritually unclean by being offered to heathen gods before being sold in the market. But they should not eat food that they are told has been offered to idols – because that would offend their informant's conscience. Mark's gospel continues with another healing, this time Jesus shows enormous tenderness in insisting that – of course – he wants to heal the leper. And he does so by touching the unclean leper – so becoming unclean himself. Jesus makes very visible how much God wants to heal us.

PSALM RESPONSE: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.) 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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "I will sing, I will sing a song unto the Lord..." - n. 251

Penitential - "Kyrie, eleison...." - n. 330

Offertory - "One bread, one body, one Lord of all..." - n. 449

Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy Lord..." - n. 699

Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

Agnus Dei - "O Lamb of God..." - n. 739

Communion - "I watch the sunrise lighting the sky..." - n. 248

Final - "I will be with you wherever you go..." - n. 249





JESUS TOUCHES THE UNTOUCHABLE

1.

The lepers in the time of Jesus were untouchable. They had to live apart from their communities, and even from their families. Being sick with leprosy was considered a punishment from God because of their sins. Lepers were considered unclean. Those who were touched by them, or who touched

them, would become unclean.

If I had to make a list of my most favourite passages of the Gospels, there is no doubt that Mark 1: 40-45 would be almost at the beginning of the list.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: «If you want to, you can cure me». First of all, he should not have approached anyone. He broke the law. And for the Jewish people the law was everything. But, feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. Jesus knew that by touching an unclean person he would become unclean. What shakes me inside is that Jesus could have cured him at a distance. But he voluntarily broke the law and touched the leper. And the leper was cured with a touch. With a simple touch, and lots of compassion and unconditional love.



2.

Today there are around us many untouchable people. A few days ago I heard a Muslim engineer saying that 80% of what is said on TV about Muslims is negative. The Gypsies are another community seen with suspicion. Blacks and other colours are supposed to live apart. They don't belong. And other minority groups like gays, the homeless, the poor. This creates a profound sense of loneliness. Nobody can function well in loneliness. Life is about relationships.

3.

Fr. Tony Kadavil tells the following story.

Michael Kirwan, a longtime member of the *Catholic Community Worker Movement* in Washington DC, who was highly respected for his work of feeding and caring for the homeless in that city, once told the story of how he began his work:

«One night I brought down a large gallon plastic jug of split pea soup and set it down on the cement block near the heating vent where the poor and the homeless people gathered. A rather rough looking fellow picked up the jar of soup by surprise and in one motion broke the jar over my head». Instead of running away, I asked the man why he had done that. These were probably the first words I had ever spoken to any of them.

He told me that I was doing nothing more than bringing food to the dogs. I was bringing food, setting it down like out of a pet dish and then just walking away.

He said: «Talk to us. Visit us. We don't bite».

From what happened that night, Michael said, I realized that these men and women on the street only wanted to be loved and respected and listened to. They cared that someone cared about them, but just giving food and a blanket was not enough.»



Fr. Bernardino Andrade
14/02/2021

DID YOU KNOW? – Lent begins this week!



Lent begins this coming week on Ash Wednesday (February 17th)! Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter.

Good Friday falls on April 2nd, and Easter Sunday falls on April 4th this year.

Did you know that Lent is not only observed by Catholics? It is also observed by other religions such as: Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans, Methodists, Moravians, and Presbyterians.

SAINT VALENTINE – Where some of his relics are kept



Happy Valentine's Day! On February 14th every year, many countries around the world celebrate Valentine's Day. Did you know that there is a Saint Valentine? From the High Middle Ages his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of epilepsy. Saint Valentine was a clergyman - either a priest or a bishop - in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery on the *Via Flaminia* to the north of Rome, on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since 496 AD.



The skull of Saint Valentine in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome.

Relics of St. Valentine were kept in the Church and Catacombs of San Valentino in Rome, which remained an important pilgrim site throughout the Middle Ages until they were transferred to the church of *Santa Prassede* during the pontificate of Nicholas IV. His skull, crowned with flowers, is exhibited in the *Basilica of Santa Maria* in Cosmedin, **Rome**. Other relics of him were taken to *Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church* in



Shrine of Saint Valentine in Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland.

Dublin, **Ireland**, where they remain to this day. That church continues to be a popular place of pilgrimage, especially on Saint Valentine's Day, for those seeking love.

SUNDAY SMILE



«The correct response is 'I do' — not 'it's worth a try.'»

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



SOME DAYS ARE BETTER,
SOME DAYS ARE WORSE.
LOOK FOR THE BLESSING INSTEAD
OF THE CURSE. BE POSITIVE, STAY
STRONG, AND GET ENOUGH REST.
YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL,
BUT YOU CAN DO YOUR BEST.