

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: sineadmoynihan7@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

21st of February 2021

1st Sunday of Lent, 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

(Gen 9: 8-15; Psalm 24(25): 4-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1: 12-15)

Genesis describes how, after the Great Flood, God established the first covenant with humanity, promising not to destroy all living creatures again. Every rainbow reminds us of God's care for all creation. **The Psalm** asks for God's guidance and pardon, before meditating on God's goodness towards the just. **Peter** applies the Genesis story to Jesus. We should not "repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse" but repay hurt with a blessing. If God wills that we suffer, then it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. God's promise to Noah is fulfilled in Christ, who "in the body was put to death, in the spirit was raised to life". Just as Noah was saved by water, so we are washed in the water of baptism and make "a promise to God from a good conscience" rising into a new life in Christ. **In Mark's gospel**, Jesus' baptism is followed immediately by this very brief description of his temptation in the desert. Angels guided the Israelites during the Exodus. Now angels look after Jesus as he rejects Satan and remains obedient to God, announcing the Good News to begin his human ministry.

PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

(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 the wondrous story..." - n. 252

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

Offertory - "Lord, accept the gifts we offer..." - n. 332

Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy Lord..." - n. 702

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

Agnus Dei - "O Lamb of God..." - n. 740

Communion - "O God, you search me..." - n. 405

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





1.

A BASKET OF GARBAGE TO GOD

I grew up before the Council Vatican II, in a very clericalist Christian Society. The only non-priest person I met teaching about Jesus was my Catechist when she prepared me for my *First Communion* and my *Confirmation*. Otherwise, only priests talked about God.

I was already a Seminarian when I heard, for the first time, this married young lay man talking to the Seminarists about God and about Spirituality. I was fascinated. His words and his intimacy with God had a great impact on me. He didn't tell us how good he was, but how good God was. He talked about his prayer life and his daily walking with God. I remember him telling us about his moments of joy and also about his «dark nights» in his relationship with Jesus. But what I never forgot was when he said:

«How many times my days have been so bad that my evening prayer was simply: - «*Here I am Jesus, at the end of this day, in which everything went wrong and the only thing I have that I can offer to you is a basket of garbage. I have nothing else to offer you*». I wouldn't be surprised if most of us have felt like that. I have.

2.

A SAINT WHO FORGOT TO GIVE HIS GARBAGE TO GOD

St. Jerome lived for twenty-five years in the cave where the Child Jesus was born. One time he addressed to Jesus this prayer:

«Dear Child, you have suffered much to save me; How can I make emends?» - «*What can you give me Jerome?*», a voice was heard. - «I will spend my entire life in prayer, and I will offer all my talents into your hands», Jerome replied. «*You do that to glorify me, but what more can you give Me?*» The Voice asked again. «I will give all my money to the poor». Jerome exclaimed. The Voice said: «*Give your money to the poor; that it would be just as if you were giving it to Me. But what else can you give to Me?*». St. Jerome became distraught and said: «I have given You everything! What is there left to give?» - «*Jerome, you have not given me your sins,*» the Lord replied. «*Give your sins to Me, so I can erase them*». With these words Jerome burst into tears and spoke: «Dear Jesus, take all that is mine and give me all that is Yours.»

3.

LENT, A TIME TO CLEAN THE GARBAGE

Lent is a time to be more aware of our weaknesses and our sins. It is a special time to offer to God our sins. It is a time of renewal. God has many ways to forgive our sins. God never gets tired of forgiving. God, knowing our weaknesses, has even a special Sacrament to reconnect us. To heal us. To embrace us. The *Sacrament of Reconciliation* with Confession to a priest is not the encounter of a sinner with a judge. The *Sacrament of Reconciliation* confessing our sins to a priest and receiving the absolution is the meeting of two sinners who get together to celebrate the forgiveness and mercy of God who has no limits.



4.

CONFESSIONS AT MOYNIHANS

Every Sunday of Lent, after Mass, I will be available in the privacy of the **UPPER ROOM** of the Moynihans Restaurant (up the road from the Chapel) **to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation** with Confessions. Those who are not planning to go to Confession (including non-Catholics and children) are welcomed to approach the priest for a special blessing in the **UPPER ROOM**.



Fr. Bernardino Andrade
21/02/2021



Lent began this week on Ash Wednesday (February 17th). Under normal circumstances, Catholics would walk out of Ash Wednesday services with a cross-shaped smudge on their foreheads.

This year, with the coronavirus pandemic, things are a little different. There was no Ash Wednesday Mass at the Chapel, but today you will be receiving a small packet of blessed Ashes to take home.

Father Bernardino has an idea which he would like to suggest this year. His idea is for people to prepare in their homes a "Little Corner of Lent" to keep the ashes, that would be like replacing the "Christmas Tree" for Christmas. It would remind them to pray together, even if it is a very short prayer. That would be a daily reminder of this special season of Lent.

THANK YOU - Donations received & Special Appeal

FEBRUARY DONATIONS RECEIVED



- Alan O'B.... Anthony John D...
- Bernadette & Stephen S...
- Chrissie & Tom M... Graham & Ann B.
- John & Marie W...
- Manuel Adolfo B.M... Patricia K....
- Sharon B... Sheila C...
- Walter Gerhard B.

* Kathleen H. (donation rec. on Jan. 19th)

Thank you to every single one of you **who never tire of helping** whenever there is a special appeal in this newsletter. Every donation (no matter how small) makes it possible to put a smile on someone's face, fill an empty stomach, and restore a little bit of hope and faith they may have lost.



It's heartbreaking when there isn't enough money in the PHP account, like this week, where "Sofia" desperately called from the hospital, in tears. She was taken there as her blood pressure was too high. She had passed out. She was in tears as this month

she hasn't been able to buy her blood pressure medication, and confessed that her family has been going hungry. She doesn't have money even for food. Her son suffers from COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and every month she has to make a choice between her medication, or her sons'. She needs 120€ every month for medication, which she can't afford. **If you'd like to help us to help Sofia**, please consider donating even a little, through one of the ways mentioned on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you, may God bless you.

SUNDAY SMILE

BULLETIN ERRORS -

From Father Ferreira's bulletin from Our Lady of Good Council in San Leandro, California, there's this pungent note: "If you find errors, please consider that they appear for the benefit of those readers who always look for them... We try to print something for everybody!" – *The Priest Magazine*.

Taken from the book: "Jokes Priests can tell, Vol.4" - by Msgr. Arthur Tonne



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

