

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 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

7th of March 2021

3rd 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

(Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 18(19); 1 Cor 1: 22-25; John 2: 13-25)

In Genesis, God promised to shower blessings on Abraham and his descendants. Today **Exodus** spells out the people's part of the covenant. In the Law given to Moses on Sinai the ten commandments are followed by 10 chapters of detailed rules about behaviour and ritual. Meanwhile, back at the foot of the mountain, the people became bored, and built a golden calf to worship! **The Psalm** praises God's moral law, underlining the irony of worshipping a golden calf: God's decrees "are more to be desired than gold". Paul began his letter to the **Corinthians** by telling them to stop squabbling among themselves. They should not divide into opposing groups, saying "I belong to Paul" or "I belong to Apollos", and so on. They must follow only the crucified Christ, who brought the Law of Moses to completion by his command to love one another. He demonstrated this love by dying on the Cross – "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles". In **John's gospel**, Jesus cleanses the Temple at the beginning of his ministry, instead of towards the end, as in the other gospels. Jesus claims he will rebuild the Temple in three days, replacing it with himself and antagonising the Jewish leaders. From the start of John's gospel Jesus' death and resurrection are foreshadowed.

PSALM RESPONSE: You, Lord have the message of eternal life.

(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 - "...the old rugged cross..." - n. 442
Penitential - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 654
Offertory - "O God, we give ourselves today..." - n. 403
Sanctus - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 654
Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495
Agnus Dei - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 654
Communion - "O bread of heaven..." - n. 392
Final - "Praise to the Holiest in the height..." - n. 467





1.

When I started reading the Bible, one of Jesus' expressions that shocked me the most was when I read in Math 10:32 Jesus, the Prince of Peace, saying: *«Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword»*. But this expression started making sense to me when I heard that Alda and Robert (not their true names), had ended their Marriage in divorce. I could not believe it. When I blessed their vows some time earlier I was convinced that they were going to make a perfect couple and a perfect family. I think I understood the words of Jesus when Alda, who was pregnant, told me the reason why their

Marriage had ended. One afternoon they were at home when Robert told her: *«Be ready tomorrow at 10:00 AM. I have an appointment for you in an abortion clinic in San Francisco. I don't want that baby»*. Alda almost died. Their Marriage ended that afternoon. And a beautiful girl was born a few months later and has been a successful lady.

2.

Archbishop Óscar Romero, who is already canonized as a Saint, seemed to be the ideal Bishop to lead the Diocese of San Salvador in El Salvador. The Politicians were very happy about the Pope's choice to give them a «good» Bishop. Bishop Romero left them in Peace. He was not one of those Bishops who would interfere with politics. They could persecute and kill the poor without any church's interference. But something happened that opened Archbishop Romero's eyes and his heart. He received many death threats for defending the poor and the oppressed. One day he was saying Mass and in the moment of consecrating the wine a bullet hit his heart and killed him. Romero had understood the words of Jesus *«Do not think that I have come to bring peace»* and then he paid the price.

3.

Everything was fine. In the Temple of Jerusalem they were just doing what they had always done, with no problems. People were used to that and they had never complained. And John tells what happened that caused this havoc: *«Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon sellers: «Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market»*. (John 2: 14-16). (3rd Sunday of Lent-B).

4.

WAS JESUS INFURIATED ABOUT THE TEMPLE OR ABOUT THE POOR?

The merchants sold the animals and birds for sacrifice at unjust and exorbitant prices (18 to 20 times the regular prices) outside the temple. The animal-inspectors, bribed by the merchants, disqualified even the healthy animals brought by poor shepherds and farmers for sacrifice. This was an unjust extortion at the expense of the poor and humble pilgrims who were practically blackmailed into buying animals and birds from the Temple booths. Jesus considered this a glaring social injustice, aggravated by the fact that it was perpetrated in the name of religion. The Temple authorities, by sharing the profit made by the merchants and money changers, converted it into a hide-out of thieves. Jesus' symbolic attack on the Temple would have a meaning not unlike that of the terrorists who flew planes into the World Trade Centre, symbolically attacking a building that was widely seen as the «nerve center» of an entire network of political, economic and religious power. Considering the crowd and the damage, it is one of the unsung miracles of Jesus' ministry that he was not set upon and killed by a mob of outraged businessmen and Temple Police.



5.

I was already in Mozambique when the armed movement of liberation started in that former Portuguese colony. It was not uncommon to hear some white Portuguese people blaming the missionaries, including me, for that war. Because until then, the Black people were humble and submissive. There were no problems. But they changed after the Missionaries started telling them that Blacks and Whites, Portuguese and Africans were all equal, with the same dignity and the same rights, because all are children of God. Trying to liberate the oppressed is always unpopular, and making trouble. I also belonged to the group of the trouble makers.

- Fr. Bernardino Andrade - 07/03/2021



On Friday, 5th of March, Pope Francis travelled to war-torn Iraq, on a historical 4-day visit. This is Pope Francis' first visit outside of Italy since the pandemic began. Covid and security fears have made this **his riskiest visit yet**, but 84-year-old Pope Francis insisted he was "duty bound". Before travelling, Pope Francis and his entourage were all vaccinated against the coronavirus. While in Iraq, Pope Francis will be protected by one of the largest security deployments in recent Iraqi history: ten thousand Security Forces personnel, by some estimates, including special forces, 24-hour drone surveillance, and undercover intelligence officers, in addition to the Pope's own group of bodyguards. **This is the first ever visit by a Pope, to Iraq.** Christians in Iraq have been persecuted by Islamic fighters over the last years, when Islamic State (IS) militants overran northern Iraq in 2014, destroying their historic churches, seizing their property, and giving them the choice to pay a tax, convert, leave or face death. The Pope's visit aims to encourage and reassure Iraq's dwindling Christian community. **Before 2003, there were an estimated 1.5 million Christians in Iraq, but now only around 250 thousand are left.** Approximately 67% of those are Chaldean Catholics, whose Eastern-rite Church retains its own liturgy and traditions but recognises the



A poster of Pope Francis & Grand Ayatollah Ali as-Sistani

authority of the pope in Rome. Another 20% are members of the Assyrian Church of the East, believed to be the oldest in Iraq. The rest are Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Armenian Apostolic, as well as Anglican, Evangelical and other Protestants. On Saturday, Pope Francis, hoping to foster inter-religious dialogue, met Iraq's most revered Shia Muslim cleric, 90-year-old Grand Ayatollah Ali as-Sistani, and prayed at the ancient city of Ur which the Bible suggests is the birthplace of Abraham.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



CONFESSIONS DURING LENT – At Moynihans Restaurant

Every Sunday of Lent, after Mass, Father Bernardino will be available in the privacy of the UPPER ROOM of the Moynihans Restaurant (which is 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 also welcome to approach the priest for a special blessing in the UPPER ROOM.