

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: sineadmoynihian7@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

25th of April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter, 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



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622 (almost 400 years ago!) This mass on Sunday mornings is the only Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English on the whole Island of Madeira. Many people from all over the world have attended Mass here at this Chapel throughout the years.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 4: 8-12 ; Ps 117(118); 1 John 3: 1-2 ; John 10: 11-18)

After healing the cripple in Jesus' name and calling on the people to repent, Peter and John were put in prison overnight. Peter then repeats his preaching to the Jewish leaders. The leaders cannot deny "a notable miracle has been worked". Undecided, they order the Apostles not to speak in Jesus' name again, and release them without punishing them – at least this time.

The Psalm is from the Passover Psalm heard on Easter Sunday, thanking and praising God for repeatedly saving us.

John's first letter insists that the love the Father has given us makes us his children now, anticipating already in some way what we shall be "when he appears". John goes on to contrast the righteous who do not sin with those who commit sin. You are either for God or against him – there is nothing between.



In John's gospel, after healing the man born blind, Jesus describes himself both as the door through which we can enter and be saved, and also as the good shepherd, whom the sheep know and follow. In contrast to the false shepherds criticised by Ezekiel, the good shepherd cares for his sheep, even at the cost of his life. Jesus emphasises that he is in control of his life, causing division among the Jews.

PSALM RESPONSE: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

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

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN SIX LITTLE STORIES



1.

I went to Africa in 1964 without any preparation to deal with cultural differences and different religions. I believe that the same thing happened to many good missionaries who left their lands and the house of their parents and embarked on this fascinating adventure with the purpose of "bringing God to uncivilized pagans".

2.

When I was ordained as a priest I had the privilege of being ordained with two other Black African colleagues. I still remember a statement of my Bishop when he said: "I am not ordaining European Priests to serve European People, and African Priests to serve African People. I am ordaining Priests of God to serve the Church of God and the People of God".

3.

One of those two African Priests told me that when he was attending his primary school he used to walk a few kilometers back and forth from his family's hut to school with three other colleagues. And he saw the three of them being attacked and killed by wild animals. He was the only survivor. One of the things that this story taught me was that walking through those long paths of Africa was something that had to be done but always with extra precautions.

4.

One day I saw, for the first time, a scene that in my colonialist mind was barbaric. That's when I concluded that those people were really "uncivilized". This was the first of many events like this. One family of four people were walking. The husband was walking alone, ahead of his family. His wife was following him. Not side by side like "civilized people" do but behind him. Besides she was carrying their baby on her back, holding the hand of a small child and carrying a bag over her head. Adding to my shocking experience and revolt, I noticed that he was a strong man and was carrying a staff on his right hand "to make his walking easier". The staff had a spear on the upper extreme as "decoration".



Fortunately it didn't take too long to learn the real meaning of all this scene that was labelled by me as wild, cruel and male chauvinist.

When I learned the meaning of this tradition that had been labelled by me as cruel and chauvinist it was transformed into sacrificial love and tenderness.

The reason why this and other men walked in front of their families was to be ready to take all risks, even lay their own lives, to defend their families from any dangerous attack from any wild animal.

5.

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is called the "Good Shepherd Sunday". Reflecting about that episode of the African tradition I see a page of today's Gospel talking about Jesus the Good Shepherd. Jesus always walks in front of us not always to make our lives easier but to make our lives safer. In the time of Jesus there were four political and religious parties. And Jesus was the Shepherd of all of them.

6.

"I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd is one who lays down his life for His Sheep. The hired man, since he is not the Shepherd and the sheep don't belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep... I am the good Shepherd and I lay down my life for my sheep. (John 10: 11-18)



With many stories like this I didn't civilize Africa. Africa civilized me and many people like me. I believe that one of the biggest surprises for many Missionaries who went to Africa was that when they arrived to Africa, God was already there.

Love & Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade
25/04/2021



Today, April 25, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is when the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Good Shepherd**.

Last year, on September 12th, a dream of Fr. Bernardino's came true. The LITTLE CORNER OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD was blessed and inaugurated in *Bica da Cana* (up in the forest areas of the Serra, almost an hour's

drive from Funchal) by the Bishop of Funchal, D. Nuno Brás. The statue that is inside the glass cabinet was gifted by Father Bernardino. It had been given to him in 2015 by the then Bishop, D. António Carrilho, when Fr. Bernardino celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a priest.

This afternoon at 2:30 PM Father Bernardino will be celebrating Mass there.

All are welcome!



UPDATE - Friends and Feet Washers Donations received

Since last year, when an appeal was made, many of you sent in donations to help the poor families in the community. Every donation, no matter how small, has helped to make a difference Thank you to everyone who continues to help in any way (whether by bringing food items to the Chapel, or by donating money). Father Bernardino has a list of all the names of people who donate, placed on the altar every Sunday morning when he says Mass.

Update of donations received during the months of March & April :

MARCH DONATIONS RECEIVED

- Alan O'B.... Anthony S...
- Anthony John D.
- Alastair & Ann T
- Christine S.... Chrissie & Tom M...
- Eileen D... Graham & Ann B.
- Jose Henriques A.
- John & Marie W...
- Manuel Adolfo B.M...
- Ron & Julie G.
- Sheila C...
- Walter Gerhard B.

APRIL DONATIONS RECEIVED

- Anthony S...
- Chrissie & Tom M...
- Graham & Ann B.
- Hunter & Anne J...
- John & Marie W...
- Jose Henriques A.
- Manuel Adolfo B.M...
- Patricia K....
- Sharon B...
- Sheila C...
- Patrick & Judy L.

