

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: sineadmoynihnan7@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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2nd of May 2021

5th 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! **Today is Mother's Day in Portugal.**

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers reading this newsletter! Did you know that this 10am 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 throughout the years.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 9: 26-31 ; Ps 21(22) ; 1 John 3: 18-24 ; John 15: 1-8)

Much has happened in **Acts** since last Sunday's reading: Peter and some apostles have been imprisoned and beaten before being set free again. Seven Greeks were appointed to look after the Hellenists – apparently Greek-speaking Christians. Stephen was arrested and his speech to the Jewish leaders suggests that the Hellenists were persecuted by the Jews because they did not join in the Temple worship. They were driven out to Judea and Samaria – and so the Gospel began to spread. Today we hear how Paul returns from his conversion near Damascus. He is accepted by the Hebrew Christians, but not by the Hellenists, so has to be hustled out of town. The ending of this Messianic **Psalm**, uttered by Our Lord on the Cross, rejoices in the triumph of God's justice: God's promises to Israel are fulfilled in Jesus. In his first Letter, **John** insists that we must show our faith by our actions: keeping God's commandments. We can be sure we are doing right if we obey our conscience guided by God's Spirit dwelling in us. In **John's gospel**, Jesus gives his disciples detailed teaching at the last supper, just before his arrest. We must be bound closely to Christ: He is the vine, we are the branches, gaining sustenance and support from him.

PSALM RESPONSE: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Scripture Readings 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 - "God is love: his the care..." - n. 185

Penitential - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 652

Offertory - "Now the green blade riseth..." - n. 389

Sanctus - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 652

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

Agnus Dei - "Lord, have mercy..." - n. 652

Communion - "Richer than gold is the love of my Lord..." - n. 353

Thanksgiving - Concerto em La maior n°2. A. Komarovsky

Final - "Lord divine, all loves excelling..." - n. 352





WHAT MOTHERS TEACH ME ABOUT GOD

Nelly had a very turbulent and destructive marriage. After this turbulent Marriage, she had to face an even more turbulent divorce. And to make things worse, she had to be a single mother raising a wild and rebellious daughter. There was no rest for Nelly.

Her daughter, Agnes, was seventeen years old when one day Nelly received a telephone call that left her completely frozen: «Hello! This is from the Police Station. Your daughter is here with us in the Police Station. We would like you to come and pick her up. We also want to talk with you». «Thank you! I will be there right now». «Oh my God... what happened, again?»

When Nelly arrived at the Police Station she was told that her daughter had been caught driving under the influence of alcohol. She rested for a while. The Captain talked with her in a severe manner and it seemed that she was ready to go home, and that she understood the consequences waiting for her in case she was caught again.



Nelly brought her daughter home without saying one word to her. The following day both of them spent all day without exchanging a word. The atmosphere was somber and thick. The silence between them was deafening. Finally Nelly called Agnes and told her: «Agnes, please sit down here on this chair. I have a special gift for you».

Agnes took her seat and Nelly offered her a gift wrapped in colourful paper tied by a very beautiful yellow ribbon. With the gift she also offered her a card inside a beautiful envelope. The gift was strangely heavy but Agnes never suspected what kind of gift was inside of that beautifully wrapped paper.

When Agnes opened the gift she became very upset when she saw a simple stone. Just a stone. She could never imagine that someone could give a stone as a gift. In her anger she told her mother: «Is this a gift that you, stupid mother, have to give to your daughter? Couldn't you find something better to insult me? Why a cold stone? I never thought you could do this to me!».

Nelly just told her: «Please read the card».

Agnes read the card, stopped for a few moments, then started crying and threw herself in her mother's arms. Both cried for a while.

In the card her mother had written: «My precious, precious daughter, this stone is three hundred million years old. That is the time that it will take for me to quit on you».

Among many essential things in my life I learn from mothers is that God, no matter what, will never quit on me.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!
May 2, 2021
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



31-DAY ROSARY MARATHON – For an end to the Pandemic



Our Lady of the Rosary

Pope Francis has announced a special prayer intention for the month of May, and he is asking all Catholics, especially at Marian shrines, to join him in praying for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.



More than 30 shrines from all around the world will pray rosaries for this and other intentions throughout the month. Pope Francis will lead and livestream the rosary on the first and last days of May in St. Peter's Basilica, and will also bless rosaries during this event, which will be sent to the 30 shrines.

A PLACE WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

As part of her volunteer work for the Erasmus + program at the Madeiran University, Justyna Baran (a student from Poland) has to prepare from time to time an article about her life on the island. She has been attending Mass at our Chapel for a few months and decided to write about her experience:

A place where good things happen – by Justyna Baran

Near the Madeiran port there is an old chapel on the hill. Hidden from tourists, standing silently in the shadow of the huge Savoy hotel. If not for a local priest who told me about it I would have never found this hidden gem. A hidden gem of religious buildings, because it has a really detailed and beautiful decoration, but also a hidden gem of places where you can meet good people. Penha de França chapel was built on a "penha" - "peak" by the sea in 1622. It is said that soon after that it became such a famous shrine that pilgrims came to it from all parts of the island, like now expats seeking a Mass in English :). This Mass in the chapel is a tradition that dates back to 1966. At 10 a.m. every Sunday. And that is how my story with this place started when I went there to attend it 8 months ago, at the beginning of my stay on the island.



I was not aware back then that soon it would be hard to imagine Sunday without going there. The heart of the community is without doubts Father Bernardino, but there are many more people responsible for making this place so special. Like for example, the owners of Moynihan's Irish pub who always invites us to their pub at the same street as the chapel for coffee and cake after the Mass. During one of these coffee meetings I started being involved in a beautiful initiative called People Helping People....



If you'd like to read the rest of Justyna's article online, here is the link:

<https://madeiranheritage.blogspot.com/2021/04/near-madeiran-port-there-is-old-chapel.html>

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

Vocations aren't the result of planning, but an encounter with God that changes your life.
- Pope Francis



"When I was crossing into Gaza, I was asked at the check post whether I was carrying any weapons. I replied: 'Oh yes, my prayer books.' - Mother Teresa