

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: sineadmoynih7@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

11th of July 2021

15th 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



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França.

This morning we are once again blessed with the presence of Fr. Aires Gameiro. This will be his last Sunday here at the Chapel before leaving to main land Portugal to visit his family. Father Aires has been celebrating Sunday mass in English for the community here at the Chapel while Fr. Bernardino has been away, recuperating from his back surgery. We are all so thankful to Father Aires for his dedication and the joy he has brought to our Mass over the last few weeks. Thank you Father !



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Amos 7:12-15; Psalm 84(85): 9-14; Eph 1: 3-14; Mark 6: 7-13)

The first six chapters of the **Book of Amos** show in detail why the Jews will suffer judgement. Amaziah denounces Amos to the northern king for his unwelcome prophecies. Speaking around 760 BC, Amos bravely ignores him, and continues to warn the people. 200 years later his warnings were written down - because he was right: the northern kingdom had rejected God, and was destroyed. **The Psalm** describes the coming happiness revealed by the Lord: virtues are imagined as courtiers of the returned king. Over the next seven weeks we hear extracts from Paul's breathtaking letter "to the **Ephesians**". Its ideas can flow past us so quickly that we can easily miss their significance. If we stop after each phrase and ponder its meaning, we see a God very different from common belief. A God who lovingly "chose us in Christ" "before the world was made". A God whose "hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning", so that we might "live through love in his presence". This was no 'plan B', suddenly concocted to correct a mistake! **In Mark's gospel**, after his rejection in his home town we heard last week, Jesus now sends the disciples out on mission Next week we hear about their experiences.

PSALM RESPONSE: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Thes Scripture Readings are brought to you every week 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

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART - by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



1.

A SHORT OPERATION AND A NEVER-ENDING RECUPERATION

A few days ago, Elizabeth, who knew about my recent surgery, shared with me her experience after her operation. Actually, we have had the same surgeon performing our operations, even if they were a little different. He is the one who consecrates his hands to the Blessed Virgin Mary before doing any surgery. Because he is a neurosurgeon his operations are always

very sensitive and sometimes dangerous. My back surgery took a little more than one hour, but recently he did one on another patient that took around twelve hours. Oh... he took the time to drink an orange juice during the intervention. This was the beloved and skillful Dr. Pedro Lima.

What caught my attention most was when he told Elizabeth that the surgery had been the easiest part. The most difficult part is the recuperation... which will take the rest of her life.

He didn't tell me that, but I realized that the same thing will happen with me. I have to change most of my daily living habits like sitting down, tying my shoes, getting out of bed, not crossing my legs... and dozens and dozens of bad daily habits that I take for granted, but they ruin my health. And this is going to take my entire life. The operation was his job. Recuperation is my job.

It seems that we, as a world community, have gone through a similar experience after being affected by this terrifying and confusing pandemic. When we were «forced» to stay home to protect ourselves and protect others, among many inconveniences was the fact that all our churches had to be closed and for most of the people no more Sunday Mass for a long time. I heard and saw priests, lay people and even Bishops on TV protesting and very upset because, according to them, the church was being persecuted because we have been forbidden of practicing our religion. Why? Catholics could not use the Church during one hour a week to «practice» their religion. But my question is. What kind of religion? If there's a surgery recuperation that is limited to one hour a week, that is not a true recuperation. True recuperation according to the surgeon is 24 hours a day... for the rest of Elizabeth's life. The same for the rest of my life. True Religion is to see Jesus in every human being for the rest of our lives. To limit a surgery recuperation to one or two pills a day is to sabotage the excellent surgeon's work. To limit religion to one Mass a week is to sabotage Jesus' dream, Jesus' project and Jesus' work.

Today (July 11, 2021) the Church celebrates the 15th Sunday of the Ordinary time. Jesus (Mark 6: 7-13) is very kind and very sweet but very clear. «Jesus summoned the Twelve and sent them out in pairs». We all have been sent out to be His witnesses.

2.

We all have been sent out to be His witnesses.

A group of young people from many nations was discussing how the Gospel might be spread. They talked of propaganda, or literature, of all the ways of disseminating the Gospel in the twentieth century. Then a girl from Africa spoke. «When we want to take Christianity to one of our villages, » she said, «we don't send them books. We take a Christian family and send them to live in the village and they make the village Christian by living there. » (Fr. Tony Kadavil)

3.

Recuperation from a complicated surgery is 24 hours a day for the rest of my life, even if the surgery took only about one hour. Practicing my religion is 24 hours a day for the rest of my life, even if Covid 19 closes all the churches of the world for a long period of time.



Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade, 11/07/2021

CRIES OF THE POOR – People Helping People

Father Bernardino received a message with a request from a needy mother this week, which he shares here with us:



Dear Father

I am coming to you asking for special help. I am desperate. Today is the last day to pay the rent of my house. If I don't pay on time I have to pay it with a penalty and of course it will be more expensive. I already called the Vice-President of People Helping People but he said that at this moment there is no money in the Bank account. I don't know what to do. I need to buy medication, need to pay the house rent, I have lack of food. Now having my children at home the expenses are much higher. I don't know what to do. My depression is getting worse. I don't feel good. Please help me. Cecilia (not her true name)

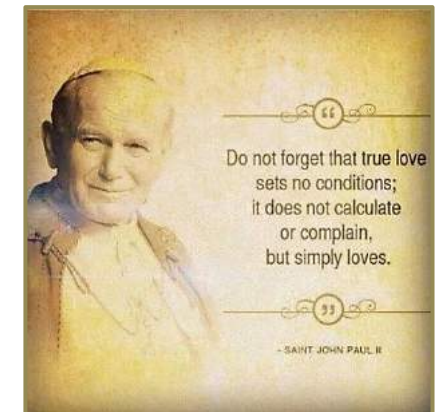
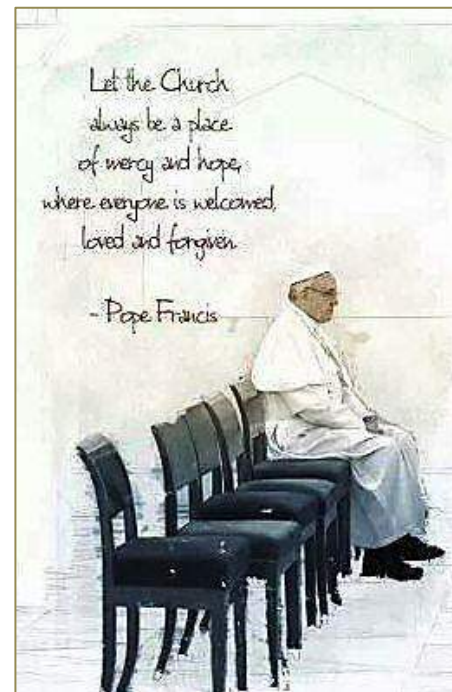
A note from Fr. Bernardino:

This is some more information I got from her: Cecilia is a 33-year-old mother of three children with the ages of 13, 9 and 2 years old. Her mother, who is sick and lives with her, is 59 years old. Cecilia's husband is in jail. I called the President of People Helping People to find out how much money we had in the Bank account. Her answer was that in PHP Bank account there were 15 cents. If you would like to help us help her, you can find more details on the back page of the newsletter.

Love and Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK



FOOD BASKET – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who brought food and toiletry items to the Chapel last week. We were able to help a young mother with 2 children. She was so grateful. Thank you for making a difference!

