

## 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

## JOYFUL GIFT

9<sup>th</sup> of January 2022

### Baptism of the Lord, Year C

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..](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



### THE ONLY CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! A blessed New Year to you all !

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Father Bernardino Andrade is our appointed Sunday priest. He was born and brought up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Moçambique and, for many years, in California.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11; Ps 103(104); Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22*)

Writing in Babylon about 540 BC, second **Isaiah** majestically consoles Israel in its exile. God tenderly commands his attendants to comfort Israel and to prepare a sacred way for them to return to Jerusalem. He will lead his people to freedom across the desert in a new Exodus. The coming of God's rule should be announced to the whole world, shouted from the mountain-tops.

**The Psalm** magnificently praises and celebrates God's creative wisdom and power.

**Titus** worked with Paul and later administered the church in Crete. In this pastoral letter Paul advises Titus on setting up church structures and choosing suitable presbyters for each local church. All Christians, and especially Church leaders, are urged to lead godly lives. We should reveal God's love to others in our good behaviour, while not disrupting the lives of others, in confident expectation of our redemption.

**Luke** saw us as living in a time of waiting, one of three phases he saw in salvation history. Luke's time of promise, the period of Israel, ended when John was put in prison by Herod, after John the Baptist's prediction that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism begins the period when this promise is fulfilled. Luke's Book of Acts describes his third phase, the beginning of the church.

### PSALM RESPONSE: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

[www.bible-groups.info](http://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](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings. When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, 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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



### The White Handkerchief in my Left Pocket

**I always use two handkerchiefs.** One in each pocket. The handkerchief in my right pocket is coloured and I use it for everything I might need. It is **my** handkerchief. When I change my daily clothes, the handkerchief in my right pocket goes to the laundry basket.

The handkerchief in my left pocket is white and I never use it for anything. It is not mine. It is always ready for emergencies that are very rare. It goes directly from my pocket to the laundry basket without being used. It is always clean and ready.

\* **One day I was with my family on a mountain top in Brazil.** A lady's son had smashed the door of her car on her finger, and it had started bleeding painfully. I offered her the handkerchief from my left pocket and I assured her that it had never been used. She took it and I left the handkerchief from my left pocket to stop the bleeding of a woman I had never seen before and I would never see again. I prayed for her and thanked God for the gift of the handkerchief in my left pocket.

\* **For a few years my niece, Ana, lived with me in California.** Before she took her driver's licence she was always a passenger and I was the driver of my car. One thing that started bothering me was that, very often, she used and abused the handkerchief of my left pocket. And of course she knew that handkerchief would never be returned.

One day she sneezed, and as usual she asked me for the handkerchief of my left pocket. I gave it to her but impatiently remarked, "Ana! You know that a handkerchief is something very personal that you always need. Why don't you start bringing your own tissues?"

**A little embarrassed,** she answered, "Tio" (that means Uncle), *you will never know how good it is to travel in life with someone who always carries a handkerchief I can use. In any situation, every time I need, to wipe my tears, blow my nose, with no questions asked. Thank you Tio for always carrying a handkerchief in your left pocket. Please never stop using it. You may find, in your life, other people who might need the handkerchief of your left pocket with no questions asked.*

Of course I felt tears in my eyes and since then I never forget to carry a white handkerchief in my left pocket. It is always clean and always available for anyone who needs it with **no questions asked.**

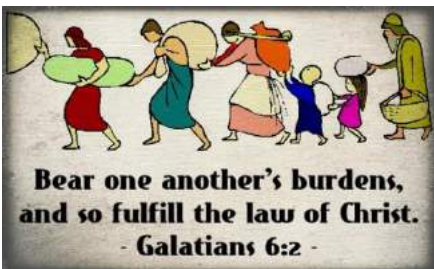
One day in California I talked with her about this story and she told me that she had a mountain of handkerchiefs.



The "thief" of my handkerchiefs, my niece, Ana.

**God loves you and so do I.**  
*Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

"Help carry one another's burdens." – Gal 6:2



"The greatest of these is Love" .... This is the way St. Paul ends his famous letter to the Corinthians where he «sings» his spectacular hymn about love.

This is the way Manuel and Josefina Farinha celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Chapel Penha de França.

Since I have met Manuel and Josefina, I have realized that they never separated LOVE from SERVICE.

Since I know Manuel and Josefina, I have realized that their place in the world is where they are needed.

In most of the anniversaries there is this tradition that friends would contemplate them with gifts. This was the case of this Wedding anniversary. They had no choice but to «be polite and grateful» for all the gifts they received from friends and relatives. We were three priests celebrating the Eucharist with them on that December 30<sup>th</sup>. It happened that the three of us are associated with groups or Associations that are at the service of the poor. Manuel and Josefina Farinha decided to divide all the money received for these three Associations, including of course, *People Helping People*. It was a very generous donation to the poor that as Pope Francis says are our «Gate openers to Heaven». Besides I have realized that this is the way they have raised and inspired their children who follow in the footsteps of their parents by having their hearts opened to the needy who are Jesus in disguise.

Thank you Manuel. Thank you Josefina.

*Love and Peace,*  
*Fr. Bernardino Andrade*



Manuel & Josefina Farinha on their 50th Anniversary with Fr. Casimiro (From Timor), Fr. António (From Venezuela) and Fr. Bernardino (From Madeira).

### A SPECIAL BLESSING

Last Sunday we witnessed a special moment at the Chapel during Mass: the blessing of a precious baby girl called "Daisy".

A young couple, Daniel and Aimee, were in Madeira on holiday last year when Baby Daisy decided to enter the world at 7 months. Daisy battled to live and with the great care given by the hospital here in Funchal, mother and baby thrived. Daniel and Aimee and Daisy came back to Madeira for the New Year, and last week Sunday Father Bernardino gave Daisy a special blessing.



### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

« Spread Love everywhere you go.  
Let no one ever come to you  
without leaving happier. »

- Mother Teresa

