

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

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).

>> 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

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 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 +

JOYFUL GIFT

11th of September 2022

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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..

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This weekend is a special one at the Chapel. **For the first time since the pandemic started, we are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França here at the Chapel!** Yesterday was the first day of the Feast, and it continues this afternoon! Please do come and join in, and experience for yourself a traditional Madeiran Feast! More information on the inside of the newsletter...



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; Psalm 50(51):3-19; Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15: 1-32)



The return of the Prodigal son

Earlier in the **Book of Exodus** God had given Moses the Ten Commandments and many other instructions, which the people had covenanted to obey, sealed by sprinkling sacrificial blood. During Moses' second ascent of Sinai God wrote the Commandments on stone tablets. Meanwhile the people were already disobeying the first Commandment by worshipping a golden calf. No wonder God was angry - Moses pleaded with God not to let the Egyptians win after all. God relented - but Moses then angrily broke the tablets and God had to write them again later! In this most famous penitential **Psalm** we beg pardon for our sins, ask to be restored to grace and purity, and promise to make God's mercy known to others. Over the next 7 weeks we hear from the letters to **Timothy** attributed to Paul, giving detailed instructions for organising the developing Christian communities. At that time we hear about only 'deacons' and 'presbyter-bishops' as church leaders. 'Presbyter' simply means 'elder'.

The Greek *episcopi* means 'overseer' or 'overlooker'. Later a three tier structure developed: Deacons, Presbyters, Bishops. In the Gospel, Jesus also shows how communities are to be managed: do not allow any members to be lost - **the father runs to welcome back his prodigal son.** Perhaps the most moving image we have of God.

PSALM RESPONSE: I will leave this place and go to my father.

www.bible-groups.info

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "Immaculate Mary..." - n. 256

Offertory - "Take our bread..." - n. 528

Communion - "Love is his word..." - n. 353

Thanksgiving - Silence for Reflection

Final - "Ave Maria Gratia Plena..." - n. 39



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



1.
SEVENTEEN HOURS LATER

A colleague of mine whom I most admired, shocked me one day with what I considered a very strange and even offensive statement, especially coming from a Catholic priest to a Catholic priest. The statement was: «Marriage is not a commitment of a man and a woman for their entire lives». I stopped him. I didn't think he was joking but I checked his temperature just to be sure that he was OK, because we Catholic people are aware that Marriage is a Sacrament only if it is forever. If there is a plan B, the Wedding is not a Sacrament. It is invalid.

After my reaction, he said: «Marriage is a commitment between a man and a woman to make a daily commitment for the rest of their lives». I really liked that idea. It is a promise to make a daily promise. Nobody should take for granted that the future of a Marriage is safe unless the couple is willing to spend time and energy taking care of their Sacramental relationship twenty-four hours a day.

This is one of the aspects I try to emphasize when I walk with couples who are in their journey to the Great Day of their Wedding.

2.
A TRADITION AT OUR ENGLISH MASS

One of the traditions created at our English Mass happens every Sunday, just before the Mass ends. I invite those who are celebrating their birthdays or wedding anniversaries during the month we are in, to please come forward to receive a special blessing. They come and sometimes they ask, or I suggest, the renewal of their wedding vows... especially 10th, 25th or 50th's or more. It's up to them. I am not good at making rules.



3.
MARIA AND DAVID RENEWING THEIR VOWS 17 HOURS AFTER

I performed the Wedding of Maria and David one week ago (September 4th). When I invited couples to come forward for a blessing, there was one couple who were celebrating their 57th Anniversary. Right after the blessing for their 57th Anniversary, here was David and Maria asking for a Blessing and asking to renew their vows. When I asked them «how long ago have you been married?» the answer was a tremendous and touching surprise: «Seventeen hours ago!».

My prayer is that Maria and David keep renewing their vows every day for the rest of their lives. My prayer is that David and Maria will be an inspiration for many other couples to renew their Sacrament every day of their married lives.



Two couples renewing their vows ...57 years later, and ... 17 hours later!



Maria and David – renewing their commitment to each other

«The Sacrament of Marriage is the symbol of the passion that God has for His people.

Be good to one another



This weekend we are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França here at the Chapel.

Yesterday's festivities started at 7pm and finished at midnight.



PROGRAMME FOR TODAY:

17h00

Mass (in Portuguese) celebrated by D.Nuno Brás, Bishop of Funchal. The 2nd reading during Mass will be in English.

- Mass will be followed by a procession starting at the Chapel, and then around the block and along the road surrounding the Chapel.

19h00 – 22h00

- There will be groups providing music: Funchal Municipal Band, musical group "Trio Mourisco", and the Boa Nova folklore dancers.

- And on sale: traditional foods (pork meat and beef sandwiches) etc., and also other snacks, cakes, and beverages (including tea/coffee).

22h00

- Feast Ends.



Why not come along and experience a traditional Madeiran Feast!