

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 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.



>> 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



>> 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

JOYFUL GIFT

20th of August 2023

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

10h00 Sunday Mass

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome

Vol. 3, nr. 376



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM SERVICE (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. This morning we are blessed with the presence of Father Stephen Roberts and Deacon Craig Aburn, who will be celebrating Mass for us. They are both visiting Madeira from their parishes in the UK.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(Isa 56: 1, 6-7; Ps 66(67):2-3,5-6; Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28)

Third **Isaiah** was writing after 515 BC, when the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon and had rebuilt the Temple. But there is idolatry and injustice. Isaiah looks forward to a time when all peoples will be able to worship in the Temple, both foreigners and individuals with imperfect bodies. All that matters is justice and keeping the covenant. This harvest psalm calls on all peoples to praise the Lord who he governs wisely and makes the earth give us food. Paul kept hoping his people would accept Jesus as the Christ. In his letter to the Jewish Christians in Rome he insists that God has not rejected his people: the Gentiles are a branch grafted onto the tree of Israel. In today's reading he sees the Gentile mission as trying to make Jews envious and so also come to accept God's mercy, as he has. But the Gentile branch can be broken off if they lose their faith. In **Matthew's Gospel** Jesus has criticised the Jewish leaders for insisting on external purity while disobeying God's commandments. Nothing entering one's mouth defiles, only what comes out. In Phoenicia, the only scene outside Israel in this gospel, Jesus heals the Canaanite child. But first he utters the memorable insult that "it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs".

PSALM RESPONSE: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

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



HYMN NUMBERS:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Entry Hymn: - n. 70 | 6. Peace: - n. 495 |
| 2. Gloria: - n. 676 | 7. Communion Hymn: - n. 280 |
| 3. Alleluia: - n. 682 | 8. Thanksgiving: - n. 203 |
| 4. Offertory: - n. 104 | 9. Final Hymn: - n. 231 |
| 5. Amen: - n. 726 | |

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.



(Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

FAITH - A JUMP IN THE DARKNESS

In war, the saying goes, there is no one who is right. There are only those who are left. From the early 1940's, there comes **the true story of a gypsy family who survived the Holocaust of World War II.** The family were members of a traveling circus that toured throughout eastern Europe. In one of the family acts, a teenage daughter would jump from a high wire with no net below, and her father would catch her. The account goes that one day her father left the apartment they were staying early, leaving the daughter alone in the apartment. Later that morning, there was a knock on the door. When she opened it, she found a stranger who said he had a message from her father. The stranger told her the message was as follows: Nazi troops were coming into town and she needed to escape. But it was far too risky for the father to enter the town or the daughter to escape in the daylight hours. Their only hope was to escape at night. So, the stranger told her that at 2 in the morning she was to walk out to the northwest corner of the apartment building. And right at 2AM, she was to jump from the rooftop and her father would be below to catch her. Understandably, the daughter was confused. She didn't know the messenger. She didn't know whether the message he gave her was actually from her father. She wasn't even positive which corner of the apartment building was the northwest corner. Well, as the day went on the Nazis did in fact enter the town and take up positions. **That night at 2AM the daughter went to the rooftop.** She looked down and it was pure blackness. She whispered, "Father, are you there?" No answer. And then she jumped...and her father caught her! — Leaps of faith are normally less dramatic, but they are no less real. In order to act in good Faith, the young daughter had to trust. First, she had to trust that the stranger was really sent by her father. Second, she had to trust that the message was her father's message. Finally, she had to trust that she herself would leap from the correct corner of the rooftop, and that her father would be ready below... (Rev. Tom Mannebach) (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).



2) Storm in a parish - Fr. Andrew Greeley's story: (story told by Fr. Tony Kadavil).

Once upon a time a battered parish priest approached his Bishop. "I want to retire," he said. "You're not old enough to retire."

"Yeah, but I'm worn out. My laity are fighting one another, my young people don't come to Church. My parish Council has no guts. My teenagers drink too much. My staff members are in constant conflict. A couple of women are trying to take over the parish. Men can't stand the tension. My collections are down. Spies are reporting me to you every week. Grammar school kids are breaking windows and writing graffiti. I receive anonymous hate mail every day."

The Bishop sighed loudly, that West of Ireland sigh which suggests the advent of a serious asthma attack. "Let me tell you about my problems." The two men sat in silence for a few minutes after they had exchanged woes.

"Well," said the bishop, "congratulations on having a lively parish. It's still alive and kicking and Jesus is active in your parish boat, calming the sea."

- So, the pastor went back to his parish resolving to walk on the stormy parish sea with Jesus. He did not resign.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Dear members of the *Penha de França Community* (and visitors to our Chapel), I am Alexandre and I have been working with the charity "People Helping People" (PHP) since it was first started. I'd like to share with you a story of one of the families that **your donations** help to take care of.

Whenever Miss P calls me, I never know what to expect. She is never angry, or loud, but she can either be in a general good mood, or terribly broken down.

The worse time I ever spoke with her was a bit less than a year ago, when after we talked for a bit, she broke down crying, and told me it was her daughter's 18th birthday. You see, Miss P is an adorable, sweet woman with a terrible history.

She was put in an orphanage when she was about 5 or 6 years old so her parents could emigrate. They spent a lot of years away, and when they returned, although they picked her back up from the orphanage, she had lost most of her defining years with them; they were like strangers to her. So as a teenager, she fled to Lisbon with her older boyfriend.



There she got pregnant, and in a place she didn't know anyone, nor had any family, their relationship quickly became abusive. He beat her, and would leave her and their baby daughter to starve for days.

Eventually she managed to save some money in secret, and fled back to Madeira with the baby, but as soon as she got here, she had a terrible mental breakdown. She was hospitalized, and spent a long time there, while her mother took care of the baby. But shortly after, her mother took her own granddaughter to the orphanage, saying she was unable to care for the child.

When Miss P. got better and was released from the institution, she went immediately looking to retrieve her daughter. But she was denied. Because of her mental illness, and probably the poor health and development of the baby, she was simply informed that there would be no more contact, and the child would be given up for adoption. That's when she had her second and harshest breakdown.

She has long been diagnosed with schizophrenia, and fortunately there is a medication that helps her mental disease, but amazingly, not only is it very expensive, but there is also no state support for this medication. When I learned about this, I seriously didn't believe it. I spoke with a doctor friend, and asked him about this, "yes, I know that medication, it's really great, but she is totally right, the state doesn't help and it's really expensive". So I asked him "how is that possible? We have a medication that takes schizophrenics, and gives them peace and normalcy, removes their sense of doom, and paranoia, and instead of making sure they have access to mental health services, and all the medication they need, we make it harder for them to access this treatment?". He shrugged, with a face that said "I don't know, I don't think it makes any sense too". I promised myself right then, that this medication would be a top priority for anyone that we knew that needed it.

When it's time to purchase her medication, Miss P calls me fearing that we won't be able to help her, and she always says "please, please, I don't want to go back to the "nut house", I'm afraid I will go back to feeling that way again."

But fortunately, because of this medication, she now has a loving boyfriend and they live together in a very small lower floor of a house. He works for a minimum wage, and he is struggling with former debts he had, but with your help, they always manage to buy her medication.

In that phone call she made to me last year, she said "although I know I will never be able to recognize her, all these years, sometimes I see a young girl about her age, and I just wonder, could she be my child? I'm always looking for her." And I wonder "how can it be that we would rather take a child from her sick mother and ignore her illness, instead of helping her back on her feet, and keep them together?". I can't wrap my head around this, none of it makes any sense.



Soon it will be her daughter's 19th birthday. I hope she calls me if she needs my shoulder again.

Your donations to "People Helping People" are what makes it possible for us to help Miss P, and other families like hers. Thank you for caring about them!

20/08/2023 – Alexandre Silva (alexlupus@gmail.com)

