

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

10th of September 2023

23rd 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. 379



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM SERVICE (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622.

Please keep Father Bernardino in your prayers as he recovers from his recent operation on August 17th.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(*Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 94(95): 1-2. 6-9 r.7-8; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20*)

Ezekiel says religious leaders have authority, but also daunting responsibility. Failing to instruct the people correctly will lead to the same fate as the sinners they have failed to guide wisely. After the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC, Ezekiel promises hope for a future return to Jerusalem - but only if the people accept individual responsibility for sins and purify themselves of false gods. **The Psalm** invites us to praise and worship the Lord daily, for he is our king and shepherd. We must not lose faith in God, as did the Israelites in their desert journey. Paul's advice to the **Romans** on Christian living continues: obey secular authorities, whose authority comes from God, and pay the taxes and respect that is their due. Above all "love your neighbour as yourself". The first reading, with the last verse of **the Gospel** reading, help us to understand the Gospel. "Where two or three meet in Jesus' name", Jesus will be in their midst - and by implication he will be guiding their decision-making, so their decisions will be in tune with God's will. The Church's awesome authority to include or exclude individuals on God's behalf is not to be exercised carelessly, but only after due deliberation by the whole Christian community.

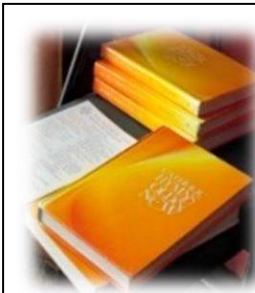
PSALM RESPONSE: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

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 HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Lord, the light of your love is shining..." - 344
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Sing hallelujah to the Lord..." - 502
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take my life, and let it be..." - 527
- [4] **Amen:** "Amen, amen..." - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "We come to share our story..." - 607
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "To be in your presence..." - 583
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Take the word of God with you as you go..." - 529



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.

By Fr. Bernardino Andrade



As Fr. Bernardino continues to recover in the hospital from his recent surgery, this week we will reprint a column that he wrote in an older issue of our newsletter (n° 182, 8th of September 2019):

1.

I have tried, but I have to confess that I have never been able to watch a football game from the beginning until the end because of the agony I feel and see, not only among the football players, but also around me in the people who are watching it in person or in TV. It is uncommon to see people really «enjoying» the game. It is common to see the watchers agonizing over each movement that is done inside the field. I don't see too much concern about the players. What I see is a big concern about winning or losing. And what I find strange is that in the same moment and in the same place, I have seen people yelling and screaming of joy and excitement, and at their side there are people crying, feeling defeated, sad and frustrated.



2.

It was during a Marathon at the Special Olympics. A group of ten Special young boys and girls were running, competing with each other to arrive first and to be the first; to be the winner. Some of them were Down syndrome, some Autistic and others with other special challenges. There were thousands of people watching from the balcony.

They were running and running. People were roaring with excitement, with applauses and words of encouragement and support for those they expected to be their heroes. Of course, some were faster than others, and consequently some were ahead of others. This was the purpose of the marathon. And of course, the winners would be rewarded with special expensive medals. The losers, well... too bad. Nothing could be done about that. This was a competition and rules are rules.

At a certain a point of the race, a fifteen-year-old girl fell on the ground. It was obvious that not even the adversaries enjoyed that moment, but that fall, helping her to lose, would be helping others to win. That's part of sports. That's part of competition. Some have to lose in order that others can win. Rules are rules.

But something happened that completely changed the atmosphere. They were ten young people running and doing what they had been taught to do. They had been taught to run faster than others and to be ahead of others, because they were supposed to win. All the techniques had been taught and learned properly. But seeing their colleague in pain, all of them forgot that they were supposed to win. All of them stopped and came to her aid. One of the boys kissed her knee that had been scratched and told her. «This is going to help you feel better». Then all of them joined hands and kept running and arrived all together at the same time.



According to the story there was not one dry eye on the balconies.

True human life is not about competition. True human life is about helping one another. True human life is about People Helping People.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

- Source: www.aleteia.org/2018/10/08/this-incredibly-tiny-book-from-the-middle-ages-will-amaze-you



In the Middle Ages, psalters or books containing the Psalms, were commonly used by priests and religious for praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

Often richly illustrated, the medieval *psalter* served a similar purpose to today's popular Magnificat magazine, a handy illustrated spiritual guide, often small enough to be carried in a pocket.

The *psalter* of Bishop Rupert shows off medieval monks' astounding talent of miniaturization.

Measuring only 3.7 cm by 3.1 cm, the tiny manuscript contains Psalms 1, 51, and 101, written in gold on parchment. The psalter contains a full-page miniature portraying King David with his psalter, a stringed instrument that traditionally accompanied the Psalms. The portrait follows the Late Antique tradition of adding the image of the author to the text, thus testifying the authenticity of the Psalms.

The tiny book dates back to the 9th century, and according to an inscription added in the 15th century, once belonged to St. Rupert, the founder of the monastery of St. Peter in Salzburg, where it is preserved.



PRAYER CARRIED BY A PRIEST who died in WTC attack on Sept 11th 2001

Source: America: The National Catholic Review (www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/1000-walk-remember-father-mychal-judge-first-recorded-victim-sept-11)



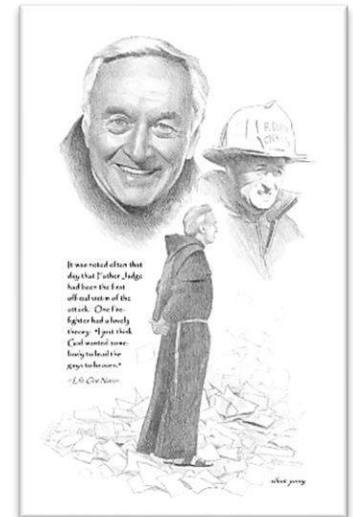
Tomorrow marks the 22nd anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center; a day that will forever remain in the thoughts and hearts of many people. **Father Mychal Judge was a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest, who**

served as a chaplain to the New York City Fire Department. He was the first recorded victim of the 9/11 attacks while he was ministering to a fallen firefighter. Father Judge walked into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 to perform last rites and he never walked out.

Since then, every year in New York, on the Sunday before September 11th, a Remembrance walk is held in his memory.

During his life he touched many lives. **He was known for carrying with him a card with the printed words of a prayer which he handed out to anyone who he felt needed it.** Here are the words to that prayer:

*Lord, take me where you want me to go.
Let me meet who you want me to meet.
Tell me what you want me to say,
And keep me out of your way.*



It was noted after that day that Father Judge had been the first official victim of the attack. One firefighter had already strong: "If you think God wanted some body to lead the guys to heaven?" - Ed Sheeran