

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

17th of September 2023

24th 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/>

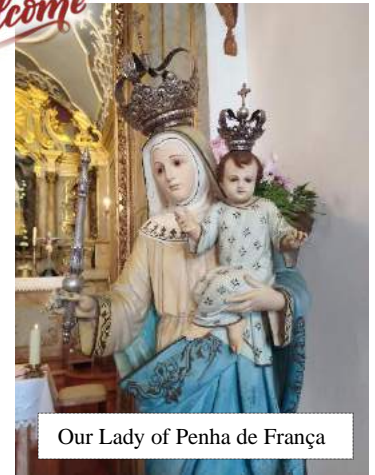
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Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome

Vol. 3, nr. 379



Our Lady of Penha de França

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 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30-28:7; Psalm 102(103): 1-4. 9-12 r.8; Romans 14: 7-9; Matthew 18:21-35)

The Wisdom book, **Ecclesiasticus**, was written in Hebrew about 200 BC by Ben Sira, a Jewish sage. There are many allusions in the New Testament to the later Greek version. At a time of increasing pagan Greek influence, Ben Sira showed that Israel's religion was still a firm basis for moral living. He gives many practical examples, helping Christians of every age to apply moral truths to their own times. His strict condemnation of nursing anger and resentment is all too relevant for us today. **The Psalm** is a hymn of thanksgiving and tender piety for God's generous mercy – because of our frailty. How blessed we are that God "does not treat us according to our sins". The last of our Sunday readings from Paul's letter to the Christians in **Rome** emphasises that we belong to the community of all believers, both those alive now – and in the future – and those who have died. Our lives have influence on others. Linking both to Sirach and **Matthew** in the next verse Paul says "Why do you pass judgement on your brother?" In today's Gospel, Sirach's advice to forgive is graphically illustrated: Jesus tells Peter we must always forgive. We are saved by forgiveness – ours as well as Christ's.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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:** "Christ, be our light! ..." - 329
- [2] **Offertory Hymn:** "Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation..." - 69
- [3] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [4] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [5] **Communion:** "Richer than gold is the love of my Lord..." - 353
- [6] **Thanksgiving:** "To be in your presence..." - 583
- [7] **Final Hymn:** "This is the day, this is the day..." - 574



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.

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



Please keep Fr. Bernardino in your prayers as he continues to recover from his recent surgery. He is still in the hospital, but hoping to go home soon. This week we will reprint a column that he wrote in an older issue of our newsletter: (nº 79, on the 17th of September 2017)

1 - WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

There was a Church where the pastor and the minister of music were not getting along. As time went by, this began to spill over into the worship service:

The first week the pastor preached on commitment and how we all should dedicate ourselves to the service of God. The music director led the song "I Shall Not Be Moved". **The second week** the pastor preached on tithing and how we all should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The music director led the song "Jesus Paid it All". **The third week** the pastor preached on gossiping and how we should all watch our tongues. The music director led the song "I Love to Tell the Story".



With all this going on, the pastor became very disgusted over the situation and the following Sunday told the congregation that he was considering resigning. The musician led the song, "Oh Why Not Tonight?".

As it came to pass, the pastor did indeed resign. The next week he informed the Church that it was Jesus who led him there and it was Jesus who was taking him away. The music leader led the song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

Is there anybody you have trouble getting along with?

2 - REFUSE TO BE THEIR PRISONER

When Bill Clinton met Nelson Mandela for the first time, he had a question on his mind: «When you were released from prison, Mr. Mandela, I woke my daughter at three o'clock in the morning. I wanted her to see this historic event. »



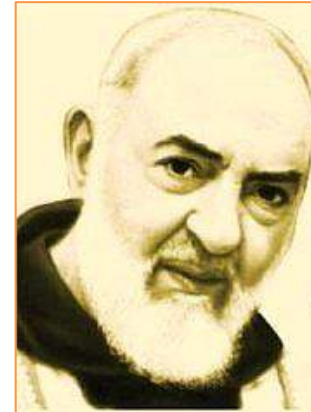
Then President Clinton zeroed in on his question: «As you marched from the cellblock across the yard to the gate of the prison, the camera focused in on your face. I have never seen such anger, and even hatred, in any man as was expressed on your face at that time. That's not the Nelson Mandela I know today, » said Clinton, «What was that about?».

Mandela answered: «I'm surprised that you saw that, and I regret that the cameras caught my anger. As I walked across the courtyard that day I thought to myself, "They've taken

everything from you that matters. Your cause is dead. Your family is gone. Your friends have been killed. Now they're releasing you, but there's nothing left for you out there." And I hated them for what they had taken from me. Then, I sensed an inner voice saying to me " Nelson! For twenty-seven years you were their prisoner, but you were always a free man! Don't allow them to make you into a free man, only to turn you into their prisoner!" You can never be free to be a whole person if you are unable to forgive. You see that, don't you? ».

There are many people who are imprisoned by their own anger, their own hurt, their own inability to let go of the past and move on. Here's the other thing we need to see about forgiveness: THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE YOU CAN FIND THE ABILITY TO FORGIVE. It is at the throne of Christ.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Although he received more than his share of spiritual gifts, he never felt worthy of them. He always remained humble.

St. Padre Pio

Padre Pio was revered for his devoutness, spiritual gifts and abilities, including (stigmata, visits from Christ and the Virgin Mary, bilocation, prophecy, and miraculous healings), and his care for the poor and sick.

“When the lord will call me, I'll tell him: Lord, I'll wait at the door of Paradise: I will enter only when I've seen the last of my children enter.”

Date of birth: May 25, 1887
Birthplace: Pietrelcina, Italy
Died: September 23, 1968 Age: 81
Feast day Sept 23
Patronage: Civil defense volunteers, adolescents
Pray, Hope and Don't Worry

1887

Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione on May 25, in Pietrelcina, Italy.

1892

From his early childhood, it was evident that he had a deep piety.

1903

At 16-year-old, he entered the Capuchin monastery at Morcone, where he received the name Brother Pio in honor of Saint Pius V, the patron saint of Pietrelcina.

1910

He became Padre Pio when the Capuchins ordained him a priest.

1911-16

Due to Padre Pio's on-going ill health, he was sent home to recuperate.

In Sept 4, 1916, Padre Pio return to his community life and was assigned to the Friary of 'Our Lady of Grace' in San Giovanni Rotondo in Foggia.

1917-18

World War I, was ravaging Europe. Padre Pio was inducted into the service and assigned to the 4th Platoon of the 100th Company of the Italian Medical Corps, on Aug 1917.

1919

Due to poor health, he was continually discharged and recalled until on March 16, 1918, he was declared unfit for military service and discharged.

He returned to San Giovanni Rotondo.

In Sept. 20, 1918, he received the visible stigmata while praying before a crucifix in the monastery church of 'Our Lady of Grace'.

He became the first priest in the history of the Catholic Church to bear the stigmata.

St. Francis of Assisi had the stigmata. But St. Padre Pio was not a priest. He was a deacon.



For 50 years, Padre Pio bore the mystical stigmata, the bleeding wounds of Christ, on his hands, feet and side.

However, there was no scarring of the flesh. The blood that flowed from the stigmata was reported by others to have a smell of roses and flowers.

He offered this suffering for the salvation of souls.

1919

Word about the stigmata began to spread to the outside world. Over the years, countless physicians, examined Padre Pio's wounds.



A normal day for Padre Pio was a busy nineteen hours – Mass, hearing confessions and handling correspondence. He usually had less than two hours to sleep.

1924-31

The reports of supernatural phenomena surrounding Padre Pio attracted fame and legend. Even the Vatican was initially skeptical.

Those, both religious and non-religious, who have accused Padre Pio of faking his stigmata, often say Padre Pio used carbolic acid to self-inflict the wounds.



San Giovanni Rotondo is visited each year by a whopping 7 million people. Padre Pio's shrine the second most visited Catholic shrine in the world second only to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Graphics by catholicssaintsonline.wordpress.com



1956

Padre Pio opened the 'Home for the Relief of Suffering Hospital', one of the best equipped hospitals in all of Italy.

1968

On Sept. 23, Padre Pio died. Ten minutes after Padre Pio's death, all traces of the stigmata on his hands, feet and side had disappeared.

2002

On June 16, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio in Rome, and more than 300,000 people attended the ceremony.