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By Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula
and Dr. Brian Clowes

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Dear HLI friends and supporters,

This month, Dr. Brian Clowes reports on his missionary trip to Thailand—the country with the highest HIV rate in all of Asia—and to Cambodia, where United Nations “peacekeepers” ignited the HIV/AIDS epidemic now ravaging that country as well. But first, I present my own report on my recent missionary trip to our own country’s state of Hawaii, a land rich in beauty but lamentably poor in protecting the sanctity and integrity of life and marriage.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO HAWAII—Reported by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula, October 20-31, 2010

From October 20 through October 31, I visited the state of Hawaii to preach the Gospel of Life. This state should be a priority in the pro-life apostolate. It is unfortunate that the natural beauty the Lord has given to this land has not caused a significant number of its political leaders to accept and cherish the beautiful gift of human life nor to defend natural marriage between a man and a woman. One of the members of Hawaii Right to Life told me, very much to her regret,



that **Hawaii could be considered one of the worst states in the Union with regards to the protection of life and marriage.**



Monsignor Barreiro with Henry Fucini and other pro-lifers of Hawaii.

Kaneohe, St. Joseph in Waipahu, and the chapel of Chaminade University in Honolulu. I also presented at St. Anthony in Wailuku on the island of Maui. **In all, I spoke to more than 400 people.** Along with the many Catholics in attendance, there were a substantial number of Protestants, and even though I was the main presenter, several Protestant pastors gave talks and showed remarkable zeal for the defense of life and family. In particular, Pastor Robb Finberg, who is a Jewish convert, made a very impressive presentation at St. Anthony's. I had opportunities to exchange ideas with several pro-life political candidates at each of the events.

My presentations underlined how the main gift of God is creation. I strove to demonstrate how the material world and human life are the consequence of the loving and intelligent design of a provident Creator. In the material world, God has given us the appropriate dwelling for human life. Our loving God makes us administrators of both the material creation and of His highest gift, which is human life. **At the base of our defense of life and family is the understanding that we are stewards of those gifts, not owners.** If much has been said in recent years about our duties as custodians of the material environment, further reasoning requires us to protect God's intention for the very existence of this material world, which is human life.

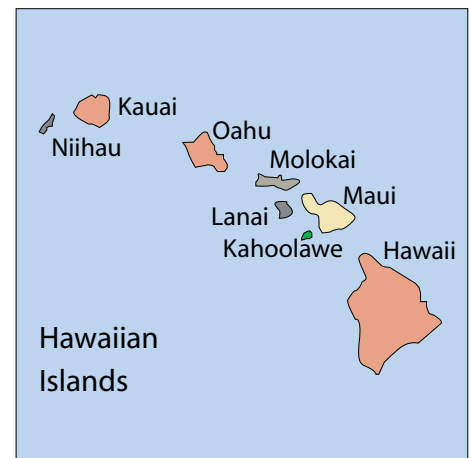
With the gift of creation, God implants His law in our intellects and hearts—a law that becomes part of our nature and teaches us how to use this gift of creation. God's law teaches us how to form our conscience. We are supposed to act always on the basis of a rightly formed conscience, but the content of that conscience is not for us to decide; our consciences must be formed by God's law and by the constant teachings of the Church, which make explicit the teachings of natural law.

On the basis of these principles, we should defend life from the moment of conception (or the biological beginning of the human being) to its natural end, and also defend natural marriage between a man and woman (with the purpose of generating and educating children and for the mutual support of the spouses). In my presentations, I pointed out how Pope John Paul II wrote in *Christifideles Laici* (no. 38), "... the right

This trip was accomplished with the blessings and hospitality of His Excellency Clarence Silva, the Bishop of Honolulu, and it was organized by many dedicated pro-lifers, including Ruth Prinzivalli and Mary Smart of the Pearson Foundation Pregnancy Centers, Janet Grace and Karen DiCostanzo of Hawaii Right to Life, and my old friend from New York, Henry Fucini, and his wife Janice. Henry has always worked closely with diocesan authorities and is one of the lay organizers for the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite in Honolulu.

PRESENTATIONS IN PARISHES

On the island of Oahu, I gave presentations at well-organized meetings in several parishes: St. Ann in



to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and conditional for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” I showed how **many of the social disorders we experience today, such as child and spouse abuse, murder, etc., can be traced back to the devaluing of the gift of life through acceptance of mechanical and chemical measures of preventing pregnancy, God’s gift to mankind.** I quoted several documents of the recent Magisterium and in particular the Doctrinal Note of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, *Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*, of November 2, 2002. I also mentioned another important document of this same Congregation, *Consideration regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons*, of July 31, 2003. I concluded my presentations by explaining the serious and grave political responsibility of Christians to act in accordance with their faith by voting only for candidates that are ready to uphold the teachings of natural law and the Church on life and marriage.

ST. DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI

I have always thought that it is important for a person to know the history of the places he visits in order to better preach the Gospel there, so during my visit I had the opportunity to explore some important historical sites. **The high point of the trip was being able to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in St. Philomena Church, a small chapel built by St. Damien of Molokai in the leprosarium of Kaluapapa, where sufferers of leprosy were forced to live.** We flew with a group of friends from Honolulu in a small Cessna dual propeller plane that was more than 30 years old. (The pilot was a retired Air Force officer, who explained that this model had been used in the Vietnam War as a spotter plane and that he had flown such planes in Vietnam, putting his life in serious jeopardy for the service of his country.)

The isolation colony of Kaluapapa is on a peninsula, separated from the rest of the island by insurmountable cliffs that prevented the inhabitants from leaving. **The influence of**



St. Damien of Molokai’s gravesite.



Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in St. Philomena Church, a small chapel built by St. Damien of Molokai in the leprosarium of Kaluapapa.

St. Damien’s powerful witness to life and holiness still

permeates the people and island where he sacrificed so much to serve and evangelize those cast aside by society.

His statue stands at the entrance of Hawaii’s capitol building, and despite being somewhat modern for my taste, it expresses the prestige that this great man has in the islands. Hawaii has also placed a statue of St. Damien in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. During my visit to the former leper colony,

two things struck me: first, the stark contrast between the magnificent natural beauty of the island and the terrible human suffering that was endured there; second, the thousands of tombs and headstones that you could see all over the peninsula, that led me and my companions to pray for the souls of all those people. I was told by our guide that more than 8,000 persons are registered as having died at Kaluapapa.

SIGNS OF HOPE

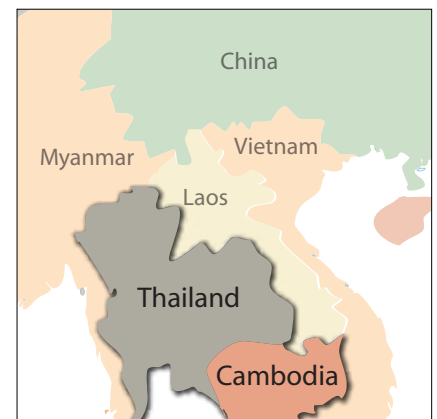
I celebrated daily Masses at St. Steven Chapel of the Diocesan Center on Oahu; an average of 20 persons attended every day. I was also able to offer Sunday Mass for the Latin Mass Community, where well over 120 were in attendance and my homily was on the political responsibility of Catholics. I was impressed to see how well trained the altar servers were and the quality of the choir in this fervent community. I was also moved by several large families that were present with nine, eight and seven children. **To see large families at Mass is a great sign of hope for the Church.**

On Friday, October 29, I had the pleasure of being invited to lunch by Bishop Silva. We had a significant conversation about his long pastoral experience and his concerns for the future of the United States. I expressed my desire to help the Diocese of Honolulu in promoting the Gospel of Life. He asked me what the biggest challenge is that confronts HLI in our pro-life apostolate, and I explained it is how **priests in many places do not preach the Gospel of Life in its full integrity.** This is especially true when priests do not give enough emphasis in their homilies on the critical importance of the protection of human life, the duty of families to be generous with the transmission of life, and the obligation to avoid immoral means of family planning.

On the weekend that immediately preceded the nationwide elections of November 2, Bishop Silva requested that a pulpit announcement be read in all the parishes of his diocese. It asked parishioners to participate in the mid-term elections and to vote in accordance with Gospel values, mentioning in the first place the sanctity of human life and the sacredness of God's plan for marriage and family. It is especially praiseworthy that Bishop Silva made this explicit call to Catholics to fulfill their duties as members of the political society, and after such great experiences while visiting Hawaii, I will be ready to return in the future to those beautiful islands, if it is God's will, to continue preaching the Gospel of Life.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA—Reported by Dr. Brian Clowes, October 2010

Kathy and I finally arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, after 19 hours on two flights and after crossing 11 time zones. Our general mission was to assist the Filipino charismatic group, Couples for Christ-Foundation for Family Life (CFC-FFL), in organizing and promoting the pro-life message in Cambodia and Thailand. Both of these nations are overwhelmingly Buddhist (about 96 percent). Less than one percent of the people are Christian, presenting interesting and unique challenges to our pro-life apostolate. One of CFC-FFL's pillars of activism is pro-life, and Human Life International has worked with the organization extensively over the years by providing education, materials, training and organization.



CAMBODIA: POPULATION CONTROLLERS

On the day our work began, I stared up at the brand new five-story building in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which houses three of the most aggressive population control organizations in the world: Engender Health, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and USAID's

main project there, called RACHA, the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance. I admired the 20 or so sparkling new SUVs in the parking lot (some equipped with snorkels!) and watched dozens of well-dressed workers walk in and out of their lavish air-conditioned paradise.


The \$600 million spent by these population controllers in Cambodia over the past 20 years has inevitably had a profound impact. Forty years ago, the average Cambodian woman had six children; today she has three, and **the United Nations predicts that the country's fertility rate will soon decline to only 1.4 children per family, a plunge of 77 percent.**

Cambodia is a classic example of how the population controllers create a problem and then throw all of their resources into making the situation even worse. Today, most of the major organs of the United Nations are prominently visible in Phnom Penh—UNAIDS, UNCEDAW, UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and many others—a regular alphabet soup of well-funded agencies, all vigorously working to “improve” the lives of the people, and all largely dedicated to the promotion of contraception and the eradication of HIV/AIDS.

CAMBODIA: HIV AND AIDS

Immediately after the murderous Pol Pot regime fell in 1992, Cambodia was essentially a closed society, with no recorded cases of HIV. **But when United Nations peacekeepers appeared that year, brothels immediately sprang up all over Phnom Penh, and the soldiers' appetite for sex jump-started the AIDS epidemic.** Within two years, there were more than 20,000 recorded cases of HIV in Cambodia.

At the onset of the UN mission, the head of the peacekeeping forces, Yasushi Akashi, said: “Everybody has the right, even the soldiers, to enjoy the young ladies, and we cannot discriminate against the HIV-positive soldiers.” This ridiculous statement shows how anti-lifers will eagerly sacrifice the lives of thousands of real people for the sake of a perverted and unworkable idea.



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Cambodia is still a wild place today, with rampant sex slavery, millions of land mines still in place, and even an American-run euthanasia clinic masquerading as a coffee shop (which thankfully was recently closed down by the government).

NSSM 200

I gave a series of ten talks to about 50 Couples for Christ members, covering the topics they needed to be familiar with in order to mount effective resistance to the Culture of Death in Southeast Asia. We primarily talked about the population control agenda. **The people were startled when I revealed the true reason the United States and other “developed” nations pour seven billion dollars a year into contraception and abortion programs, primarily in the Southern Hemisphere:** the *National Security Study Memorandum 200* stated, in plain black and white, that **the reason the United States pushes population programs is that it needs more and more mineral resources from what it calls the “less developed countries.”** The aim is *not* to improve the lives of the people or pull them out of poverty with population control; all we want to do is get our hands on their natural resources!

NSSM-200 was written under President Nixon in 1974 and has not been repealed or modified, meaning that it remains official United States population policy.



Brian and Kathy pose with the members of Couples for Christ (CFC) who were trained over the weekend in Phnom Penh. Kathy is holding the little statue of Our Lady of Cambodia that they presented as a memento.

THE PRO-LIFE WISDOM of FR. PAUL MARX THE APOSTLE OF LIFE



Fr. Paul Marx

The knowledge that abortion is available contributes to irresponsible sexual behavior, which in turn contributes to more unwanted pregnancies to be erased by abortion. Sexual irresponsibility and abortion thus sustain each other in an ever-widening

spiral as both become ever more socially and morally acceptable under the educative influence of a permissive law. —*The Death Peddlers*, pages 177 - 178.

SOWING THE GOSPEL

Kathy and I also thoroughly covered popular abortion myths, statistics, demographic impacts, fetal development, the prominent role of condoms in accelerating the spread of HIV/AIDS, chastity, and how to debate and organize a pro-life group. Everyone received a copy of HLI's *Pro-Life CD Library* for further study, and we had plenty of discussion time.

The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco (SDB) asked Kathy and me to give evening talks the night before leaving for Thailand. On our way to their monastery, the roads flooded from the rain again, and we left a wake behind us as we slowly made our way there. I have never seen anything like it. The sisters were so encouraged by the talks that they invited us back to talk to the nearly 2,000 teenage girls and boys they teach at their schools. They especially liked the funny movies I show between talks, and 30 sisters all laughing at once is a wonderful sound.

I promised the sisters that HLI would help them teach their kids about chastity and living by God’s plan, even if most of them are not Catholic.

We flew to Bangkok the next day (a mercifully short flight) and saw more friendly faces at the airport. It’s always great to see someone with a piece of cardboard with your name on it. Wherever we go, the Filipinos are ready to spread the Gospel. They are truly the “yeast of the Faith.”

THAILAND

Thailand’s HIV/AIDS epidemic is an excellent example of the results of ideologically driven public policy gone wrong. **The country instituted a “100 Percent Condom Use Program” 20 years ago, and the results have been predictable:** more than 650,000 people have died from AIDS, and half a million more live with the virus. Thailand has the highest adult HIV infection rate in all of Asia. Massive UN reports on the situation in Thailand prattle on endlessly about such things as “stigma indexes,” while almost completely ignoring behavior change (except, of course, for inducing people to use more and more condoms).

By contrast, in the Philippines, where condom use has (until recently) been strongly discouraged, there have been less than 3,000 cases of the disease among a significantly larger population of adults.

To summarize, one in 7,000 Filipino adults are infected with HIV/AIDS, while one in 70 Thai adults are infected – a rate *100 times higher*. **The stark difference between these two nations demonstrates the futility of condom promotion as a solution to the HIV-AIDS epidemic.**

BANGKOK

One memorable experience at a colossal Night Bazaar in Bangkok was plunging our feet into large tanks and having them nibbled on by what they call “doctor fish.” Some people find this “therapy” very helpful. But forget waterboarding – 30 seconds of this will have the toughest hard-case singing like a demented canary.

Bangkok’s geology is giving its inhabitants nightmares. The entire city is sinking about four inches per year due to the weight of all the structures on it and the draining of the under-city aquifer. Already there are sandbags lining the Chao Phraya River all year round. It is also disturbing to see the concrete shells of gigantic 50-story almost-completed buildings, totally abandoned due to the economic crash.

The two-day session in Bangkok was even more intense than the one we had done the weekend before in Phnom Penh, because the situation is desperate in Thailand. We covered all of the same material, but added talks on homosexuality and dissent, which are more pressing issues in Thailand than they are in Cambodia.

At the conclusions of both sessions, our Couples for Christ friends told us that they had new optimism for the future, despite the sobering presentations we had given them. Although it may seem at times that we



Kathy sitting with sisters of the order Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) during a presentation at their convent in Phnom Penh.

are a one-eyed, one-legged David against a platoon of Goliaths all armed with rocket launchers, I exhorted the people again and again to look at the situation as God sees it, not as man sees it. As St. Paul said, "I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities; for when I am weak [in myself], then I am strong [in Him]." [2 Corinthians 12:9-10].

The hardest part of any journey is leaving our fired-up and faithful pro-life friends and returning to "home base." The second hardest part is sitting on airplanes for nearly 20 hours in seats seemingly designed for some kind of invertebrate. But Kathy and I are both confident that the pro-life mission will flourish in these most difficult countries of Cambodia and Thailand, and Human Life International will be there to help it happen, as it has in more than 100 other countries of the world.

Dear Friends, we cannot thank you enough for supporting HLI with prayer and financial contributions. We are working hard both abroad and at home to build God's Kingdom of Life and Peace. May He bless you for joining us in doing, as John Paul II proclaimed to HLI's founder Fr. Marx, "the most important work on earth!"

God bless you always!



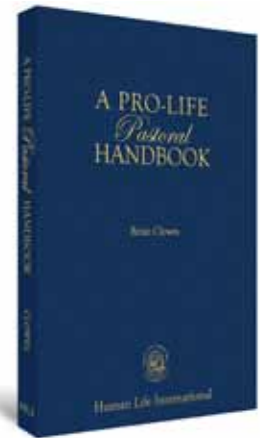
Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro-Carámbula
Interim President

P.S.—This month, to thank you for your contribution of \$49 or more, I'd like to send you our newly published handbook, authored by HLI's Dr. Brian Clowes, *A Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook*.

This manual offers concise, factual answers to modern questions on life issues facing seminarians, priests and confessors in pastoral ministry — equipping them to go out to the frontlines, into the Church and the world, providing this clear guidance to the care of souls. **It is written in a digestible, question-and-answer style and can be used by anyone seeking guidance on these issues of our day.**

Dr. Clowes provides scientific discourse and explanations of Church teachings on the following major life issues of our day: Contraception, Abortion, End of Life Issues, the Sacrament of Matrimony, and Assisted Reproductive Technologies.

Please send HLI \$49 or more today, and we will thank you with a copy of this practical and useful *Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook*.



“A Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook” is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!