



# HLI MISSION REPORT

Pro-Life Missionaries to the World®

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By Emil Hagamu  
and Joseph Meaney

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- \* Visit to the Catholic Secretariat of **Uganda**
- \* Bankers Become Pro-Lifers
- \* **1,530 High School** Students Receive Education in Chastity
- \* **Mali** Hosts HIL's Largest African Press Conference Ever
- \* Africa's Most Recently Created Seminary Already Has HLI Pro-Life Group
- \* Seminarians Learn to Make 10-Week Baby Models



Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

The following reports document missionary trips taken to two nations in Africa. African people are full of a special zeal for life. They love life, and they love children. Unfortunately, many organizations based out of foreign countries, especially the US, are working to corrupt those family values through the promotion of condoms and abortion. Our affiliates in Africa are working hard to spread the truth of the Gospel of Life and preserve those values. Joseph Meaney, director of international coordination, reports on his trip to Mali, where he spoke at the most recent Seminarian Summer Institute to educate future priests on Church teaching on life issues. But first, Emil Hagamu, regional coordinator for English-speaking Africa, reports on Uganda.

### **MISSIONARY TRIP TO UGANDA**—*Reported by Emil Hagamu, June 22–28, 2010.*

Uganda, a land-locked country in East Africa, is unique on that continent. The Catholic Bishops Conference is very outspoken in defending human life, particularly that of the unborn. The government is famous for its “A” & “B” approach for HIV/AIDS prevention strategies (of the ABC strategy - Abstain until marriage and Be faithful to your spouse). Although, lately, the Condom maniacs (the



“C” in that acronym) are winning the battle. The Ugandan parliament is typically African. It strives to protect African traditional and cultural values against Western encroachment in areas such as homosexuality and same-sex unions. **Uganda is the center of attraction for population control bigots.** I set my foot on the soil of this country and was received like a hero by the Catholic Secretariat of the Bishops Conference staff. The Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops Conference sent a car to pick me up from Entebbe International Airport, a drive that takes 30 minutes. In me, they saw a true ambassador for life, and, counting on my involvement, **they now believe that the Uganda Pro-Life Movement has been rejuvenated.**



I flew to Uganda via Kenyatta International Airport in Kenya, where I spent four solid hours at the airport, waiting for my connection to Entebbe. While waiting for my flight to Entebbe, I used the opportunity, which I think was divinely planned, to interview a number of Duty-Free Shop attendants on the widely contested constitutional amendment, which has divided Kenyans into two major groups: those supporting it and those opposing it. I interviewed a total of 21 attendants. All but one person rejected the amendment. The one person who rejected the amendment said that Kenyans were free to express their opinion and that there is no single issue that can be accepted by all people. With a “STOP ABORTION” hat on my head, two charming young people told me, “We are Africans in the first place, and Kenyans the second place. As Africans, coming from the Rift Valley region of Kenya, we profoundly stand for

life. **Therefore, any program, constitutional or non-constitutional, whose objective is to take away the life of our unborn children must be opposed with all vigor, because it is against God’s will and the African value for life.**” [Note: Unfortunately, the pro-abortion constitutional referendum for Kenya did pass in the beginning of August.]

THE PRO-LIFE WISDOM  
of  
*Fr. Paul Marx*  
THE APOSTLE OF LIFE

No one can accurately predict the future resolution of the abortion battle. Much will depend on whether society can be awakened to the nefarious designs and the subtle, satanic dishonesties of the death peddlers.



*Fr. Paul Marx*

Someone said: The brave walk in single file, while the timid hide in crowds. It is already late in the day for those who love life and cherish the rights of all to leave the crowd.

One thing is certain: We must continue to fight.

— *The Death Peddlers*, page 185.

**VISIT TO THE CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT**

On Wednesday, my host, Fr. Jonathan Opio came to pick me up from my hotel room at 10:00 AM. After taking a brief tour of the city, he drove directly to the Catholic Secretariat of the Bishops Conference of Uganda, which is situated at Nsambya Hill, where I met and talked with some heads of departments. I first talked with Joyce Zako, who is the National Youth Coordinator. She was very happy and expressed readiness to cooperate with whoever will be appointed to coordinate the pro-life activities. I then met Fr. Simon Jude Kanyike, Assistant Director of the Lay Apostolate Commission. He was enthusiastic and felt that my visit would rejuvenate pro-life activities in the country. Fr. Simon took us to the Secretary General, Msgr. John Kauta, whose charming reception was a clear indication that my visit was long awaited. **He promised to support any initiatives to promote pro-life activities in the country and to advise the**

**bishops accordingly.** As he remembered my previous attempts to visit and conduct pro-life talks in the seminaries, he assured me that he would contact the rectors of the major seminaries so I could come back to fulfill my mission. He suggested December 2010 as the month to run the program. After this talk, Fr. Jonathan and I traveled to Tororo.

### **RELIGIOUS LEADERS RECEIVE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE**


Young and energetic, Fr. Jonathan Opio is the parish priest at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and also the youth chaplain for the Archdiocese of Tororo. Fr. Jonathan and I attended a one-day workshop on “Child Protection,” which was sponsored and organized by the District Child Protection Department of Tororo. The aim was to equip religious leaders with knowledge of how they can use their influence and places of worship to foster child-protective attitudes and practices. During the presentations, I was invited to present a talk on the pro-life mission. **In my talk, I highlighted the need to protect the rights of the unborn child, especially the right to life, which legal documents like the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights do not mention.** Step by step, I explained the origin and development of human life in the womb and the need for parents to welcome new human life with love and thanksgiving. **The reception was overwhelmingly positive, and even the government facilitator was moved by my presentation.** At the end of the workshop, one of the participants, who works for Mothers Union in the Bukedi Diocese, expressed her intention to invite me in the future to give a pro-life program. She belongs to one of the “born again” faith traditions.



*Emil Hagamu, giving a presentation on the pro-life movement at the Religious Review workshop in Tororo, Uganda.*

### **BANKERS BECOME PRO-LIFERS**

In the evening of the same day, I had the opportunity to give a pro-life presentation to ten bank workers. My



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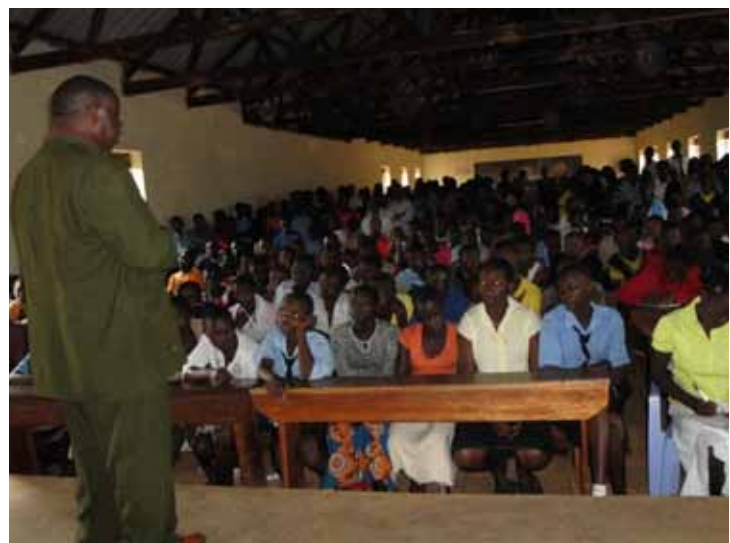
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talk was centered on modern threats to life, marriage and the family and how those threats have consequences on population, religion and socio-economic infrastructures and cultural set-ups. Contraception and abortion are major modern vices confronting mankind. These vices have a multiplier effect in the sense that they lead to other evils, such as euthanasia, stem cell research, human cloning and homosexual life styles. On their part, the bank workers lamented that their government was not taking sufficiently strong measures to curtail free intrusion of foreign ideologies and practices in their country. **Dispelling the myth of overpopulation and the accompanying lie of poverty, I told them that there is no direct relationship between population growth and poverty, and, in fact, the reverse is true.** Where there is population growth, countries experience tremendous development in the economy, science, arts and industry. The “small family” propaganda is promoted for hedonistic purposes – namely, materialistic consumption. After a free discussion, those in attendance expressed the need to form their own group and be more involved in various pro-life issues. **I promised to give them more pro-life material and, with proper planning, conduct an intensive pro-life training session in the future.**

### **1,530 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE EDUCATION IN CHASTITY**

On Friday afternoon, I had the privilege of giving a talk on chastity to 1,530 high school students. Students unanimously pledged to abstain from pre-marital sex so that they could become mature, responsible adults.



*Emil discusses pro-life issues with students at St. Joseph High School in Tororo, Uganda.*

They said they will strive to avoid environments that lead to sexual temptation and to concentrate on their studies. **“Our families needs us, our nation needs us; we shall never let them down,” affirmed students at the end of my presentation.**

### **THE ARCHBISHOP BLESSES HLI’S MISSION**

Later, on the same day, I paid a courtesy visit to the Archbishop, His Grace, Denis Kiwanuka Lote. The Archbishop was waiting for me outside the office when I arrived. When I entered, he immediately greeted me in Kiswahili and asked if I was a professor (a joke, I think). After the formal introductions, I explained to him the mission of HLI and my responsibilities as HLI’s Regional Coordinator for English-speaking Africa. On his part, Fr. Jonathan reported to the Archbishop the conditions that motivated him to invite me and also of our visit to the Catholic

Secretariat. He told the Archbishop the positive response we had received from the Secretary General and other staff. He thanked the Archbishop for allowing this visit to take place and told him what we had accomplished so far and what we were going to do during the following two days. The Archbishop encouraged Fr. Jonathan to continue, noting that current threats to life and the family were undermining the Church’s teaching on spiritual and moral values. A strong pro-life movement in the diocese, he said, will enable the Catholic Church to provide a sound teaching of Church doctrine on matters of human life and the family. Lastly, he told Fr. Jonathan that he welcomed and blessed the pro-life movement. **As Chairman of the Lay Apostolate Commission in the Bishops Conference, he will use his influence to convince other bishops to start a pro-life movement in their own dioceses.** We concluded our talk with a prayer and blessing. He blessed my work and the mission of HLI in the world.

## 2,110 YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS RECEIVE AND ACCEPT THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE

On Saturday, we traveled to Mbale town, a two-hour drive northwards of Tororo to give a talk to 2,110 students. I devoted my talk to highlighting the need to protect, defend and promote human life, especially unborn life. Abortion, I told them, is human sacrifice to the devil, who is a liar and murderer from the beginning. I explained the physical, psychological and moral side effects of abortion. I challenged them to oppose any abortion group, like Marie Stopes, that operate in their country.



*Emil (right), visiting Archbishop Denis Kiwanuka Lote.*

## PARISHIONERS VOTE FOR LIFE

On Sunday, I was given opportunity to give pro-life talks at the Sacred Heart Parish Church. **At two masses, I addressed a congregation of about 2,340 lay faithful.** Underlining the importance of human life and family, I outlined the challenges facing our Church and the Christian faithful today.

I told them that abortion, contraception, sterilization and sex education are being forced into our countries by foreign ideologies that are promoting the culture of death throughout the world. **I challenged them to decide to choose life or death - to be on the side of the culture of life or death. All of them decided to stand for life** and promote the culture of life and promised to join the pro-life movement in order to spread the Gospel of Life. ✠

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO MALI—Reported by Joseph Meaney, July 2010.



Human Life International works in many different cultural settings around the world. Our most recent HLI Seminarian Summer Institute (SSI) was held in Mali, an African nation about twice the size of Texas. Much of Mali's territory is in the Sahara Desert. As it happened, on the same day that I flew in, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived for a state visit. I was informed that the two closest allies of Mali are Libya and Iran; the country in fact is in majority Muslim, but the Christians are growing in number.

I had a unique experience on this trip. Normally I do not get to see much in the way of wildlife on my African trips. This time, however, I was taking in the beauty of the Niger river that flows by the seminary land when a Cobra slithered up to say hello! I managed to snap a picture of it, and fortunately it retreated before I had to. The seminary keeps a pet crocodile, but I was assured that no one has been eaten by it yet!



*Archbishop Jean Zerbo and a group of seminarians after Mass in Samaya, Mali, July 2010.*



*HLI's George Wirnkar, speaking to seminarians in Samaya, Mali.*

Archbishop Jean Zerbo of Bamako, the capital city, welcomed HLI and the seminarians from throughout French-speaking Africa for our Seminar-ians for Life gathering. ***Our opening ceremonies concluded with a press conference that was a spectacular success.*** The national TV news came and ran an extended segment that night. **Radio, newspaper and magazine reporters from both the Catholic and secular media attended in much larger numbers than at any previous HLI seminarian's training institute.** I even did a long distance radio interview with Radio Maria in Togo!

Fr. Clement Lonah, the rector of St. Augustine Seminary, said he was flooded with calls from well-wishers who learned of the HLI event from the media. We even had individuals from the community at large asking to sit in on the lectures! They heard had about the SSI through TV and radio coverage.

This session, our lineup of speakers included an especially brilliant expert: Fr. Mika Mfitzsche from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He may well be Africa's foremost expert on the anti-life threats emanating from the "Reproductive Health" ideology. Indeed, Fr. Mika is a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life and a professor at the Catholic University of Kinshasa. He also teaches at several seminaries in the Congo and elsewhere for mini-courses. This was, however, his first trip to Mali, and the seminarians found his presentations fascinating.

One point that Fr. Mika made really resonated. The African nation of Ghana was economically more highly developed than South Korea 50 years ago. In fact, Asia was generally considered an economic failure that would never take off because of the massive number of inhabitants there. Today Africa, with far fewer people, is being told that economic development is dependent on population control through family planning. The response of the Congolese bishops was quite clever. "If having few children helped development, then the pygmies would be the most developed people in the Congo!" **In fact, the pygmies limit their families to one or two children and have the economic development of a Stone Age culture.**

In hosting the event, St. Augustine Seminary extended a very welcome to us. The rector and staff did everything in their power to make the event a big success. They placed their vehicles and buildings at our disposal and helped us negotiate bargain prices for the substantial amount of food needed for our hungry seminarians. The seminarians onsite even prepared a homemade banner to welcome us.

Among our speakers we also had two African nuns from the Daughters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This young congregation was founded in Mali and has a large number of religious vocations. Sr. Bernadette Diarra directs a Catholic school in



*Joseph Meaney (left) with Fr. Mika Mfitzsche (center) and Fr. Clement Lonah in Samaya, Mali, July 2010.*

Bamako and spoke to us about pro-life challenges in Mali. Sr. Esther Thera from the same religious community tackled the area of chastity. **It was interesting to see that the celibacy of priests was one of the hot topics in Africa. Our seminarians for life defend this apostolic tradition of the Church with a great deal of zeal.**

### **SEMINARIANS LEARN TO MAKE 10-WEEK BABY MODELS**

One of the highlights for the seminarians every year is the training session where they learn how to make plaster models of preborn children at ten weeks of pregnancy. Mr. Leo Kodjo from the HLI affiliate Pro-Life Togo is our African expert in model-making. His group has already produced tens of thousands of these miniature babies. Thanks to a very generous donor from Florida and a sculptor in Virginia who supply us, I was able to leave them with 45 different molds to take back to their seminaries and countries. **HLI is steadily getting Africans across the continent to produce these pro-life educational tools. These fetal models have a big impact on school children and others who need to understand in a very tangible way the humanity of the baby prior to birth.**

Another favorite moment of the seminarians is the chance they have to report on their pro-life activities in the last year. In Benin, both major seminaries engage in massive pro-life outreach. They have a strong spiritual program that includes masses and rosaries for life. They go out in their communities to speak with young people in parishes and schools and also institutions like hospitals and clinics. On the intellectual level, they have pro-life lectures and discussion groups as well as a bioethics manual they are working on in Ouidah.

In Mali, a seminarian composed a series of pro-life poems. Many of the groups held special commemorations of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, the Feast of the Annunciation. Perhaps the most recently founded seminary in Africa, only two years old, is in Guinea.

They already have an HLI Seminarians for Life group! Their educational outreach has already touched many young persons outside the seminary. Togo's seminarians go to the secular university with Catholic lay students and the chaplaincy to show films and have discussions. Burkina Faso is spreading the pro-life group to their different seminaries. **Besides these, Ivory Coast, both Congos, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, Rwanda and Burundi all have an HLI presence in their seminaries.** That only covers French-speaking countries. We are also in many English-speaking African nations, and Raymond de Souza has started planting us in Portuguese-speaking Africa.



*Seminarians learn about fetal model making.*

### **CONCLUSION**

This year the seminarians collaborated on a “Declaration of Bamako.” This brief document highlighted our conclusions and reaffirmed the commitment of these seminarians to the pastoral priority of defending life and family. They took inspiration from the documents of the Church, particularly *Evangelium Vitae* and *Dignitas Personae*, and from the pro-life leadership that so many African bishops have provided. Clearly the struggle against the evil of the culture of death is heavily dependent on prayer. Our means are insignificant when compared to God's.

**Prayer is at the heart of the HLI Seminarian Summer Institutes.** We woke up every morning at 6:00 AM for morning prayer in the chapel before we began the pro-life talks and seminars. In the evening we had an hour of Eucharistic adoration after supper to conclude the day. It very good for us spiritually, and involved some sacrifice since the World Cup of soccer was in its final phase. The seminarians missed some quarter-final and semi-final matches in the evenings that conflicted with our prayer times. One has to see the enthusiasm of Africans crowding around TV-sets to watch soccer matches to understand how good it was to have them placing Our Lord first.

**Mali is truly blessed to have a very fine archbishop in Bamako. He has stood up to those promoting condoms and population control.** Archbishop Jean Zerbo told me that Mali has only had 151 priests in its entire history. Nine of these priests were ordained in 2010. We thank the Lord that He is sending workers into the vineyard. It is wonderful that so many of these young priests are strongly convinced of the need to preach the Gospel of Life.

Thank you for your support of HLI, which allows our valiant missionaries to continue their work of gathering souls for Christ, especially on this continent, where the Faith is alive and spreading. The future generations of Africans and people all over the world thank you abundantly for your generosity!

God bless you always!



Rev. Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro  
Interim President

**P.S.—**This month, **to thank you for your contribution of \$49 or more to HLI,** I'd like to send you a CD talk by Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Three Kinds of Love*.

“When God made a human heart, He found it so loveable that he kept a part of it in Heaven.” – Bishop Fulton Sheen

In this talk, designed for young and mature people alike, Bishop Sheen discusses the word “love,” which is not as simple as many think. There is only one word meaning “love” in English, but there are THREE in Greek: *Eros*, *Philia*, and *Agape*.

Bishop Sheen expands on these three kinds of love and their different meanings. *Eros* – affectionate love; *Philia* – love for others made in the image and likeness of God; and *Agape* – sacrificial, divine love, the love of God for man. We only get glimpses of perfect love here on earth. Bishop Sheen remarks that “all we ever get are fractions, sparks falling from the great hearth of love, which is God.”

**Please send HLI \$49 or more today so I can send you a copy of this enlightening CD by Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Three Kinds of Love*.**



**The audio CD, “*Three Kinds of Love*” is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!**