



Mission Report

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Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In this month's newsletter, HLI Regional Director for English-speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu, reports from Swaziland, where pro-life laws remain intact, but the fight for Life is not without its challenges. Population control groups continually push the idea that a growing population is the cause of poverty, and many anti-life influences exert pressure on the Swati people to change the way they think about abortion.

Despite the challenges in Swaziland, HLI is working to form a core of pro-life leaders there who can counter the influences of anti-life groups. We are fortunate to have great support from the Church in Swaziland, in both the bishop and the local clergy.

You will also read in this newsletter about our staff from Miami who participated in the Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign. This wonderful program of prayer vigils, fasting, and sidewalk counseling is held twice a year in over 600 cities in more than 30 countries. It has resulted in many conversions of abortion workers, closed abortion mills, and thousands of babies saved. We are proud that our staff in Miami was able to participate in it.

Finally, you will read about the work of Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer, our affiliate in the Philippines, who reports on his training of thousands of secondary students and hundreds of maritime and criminology students. Our many affiliates around the world are continually making an impact on the people of their regions. Unfortunately, we are only able to give you a sampling of their great work in our publications.

On behalf of all our staff here at HLI and our affiliates abroad, I thank you for your continued support in defense of Life and Family.

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

MISSIONARY TRIP TO SWAZILAND

By Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-speaking Africa, February 2016

I have made mission trips to Swaziland for the past 9 years. The good fruits of those visits have come on very slowly. I recently made another mission trip there this past February. This was my 6th visit to this small kingdom, which is located between Mozambique and the mighty South Africa.

The Swati are culturally pro-life, as can be seen by the way they love life and children and the harmonious cultural dances that tell a lot about their community life. Fr. Larry McDonnel of the Salesian Community in Manzini shared with me that village life is more traditionally pro-life and pro-family than urban areas. Anti-life influence, however, especially from neighboring pro-abortion South Africa, has not spared this small kingdom. The so-called ‘safe abortion’ pills are marketed online by an abortion company based in South Africa. However, Swati youth are skeptical about the safety of the pills, and a majority of them post comments condemning them. **The government’s position is clear: abortion is illegal, and anyone caught with abortion pills may be arrested and prosecuted.** Despite high promotion of condom use for HIV infection, HIV/AIDS remains the major challenge to social and economic development of Swaziland.

POPULATION CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN SWAZILAND

Population control organizations from the West always begin with their wrong premise that a country’s growing population is the cause of poverty among people. Exaggerated statistics of high infant and maternal mortality rates are given as evidence. Accusations that illegal abortions are the main cause of high rates of deaths among women are not uncommon. And as usual,



The Swati are culturally pro-life as can be testified by the way they love life and children.



pro-abortion groups quickly equate legalization of abortion with reduced deaths among women. They believe that if it legal, then it is safe. **Marie Stopes International** operates remotely from South Africa, where abortion is legal and accessible to every woman who seeks it. Since abortion is illegal in Swaziland, Swazi women travel to South Africa to kill their unborn babies. Travel and accommodation expenses limit the number of Swazi women seeking abortion in South Africa. So the local **Family Life Association of Swaziland** is advocating for legalization of abortion in the country. Condoms are greatly promoted as a device of family planning. **Population Services International** continue to campaign for population reduction through contraception and abortion even though a number of Swazi are facing starvation due to famine, which hits the country from time to time. Livestock is adversely affected due to constant dry weather spells. For example, this year alone more than 3,000 livestock have died.

NEW STRATEGIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE HLI MISSION

My meeting with the Bishop of

Manzini, *Jose Luis Ponce de Leon*, *IMC* has opened a new opportunities for our future operations in Swaziland. When we met, I briefly gave him the history and mission of HLI and spoke about our presence in Swaziland since 2008. I explained to him that we have gave two trainings sessions in Manzini (2010) and Mbabane (2012); we gave a series of pro-life talks to women's groups; we spoke to the Swaziland Council of Churches and University of Swaziland; and we trained young people in schools of Manzini and Mbabane between 2008 and 2012. We worked during that period with the Council of Churches, but I that proved less helpful than we had hoped. So I asked the Bishop to give his opinion how we might effectively work in Swaziland. The Bishop, a native of Argentina, suggested that we work with local diocesan clergy



Fr. Larry McDonell, Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de Leon, IMC, and Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for Anglophone Africa.

who know the Swati culture. He suggested I speak with Fr. Pius Magagula, Director of Family Commission, and Fr. Bongzi Nhleko, Director of Youth Development, who also serves as Vice Rector and Chaplain of the Salesian Schools. After our one-hour meeting, I became convinced that the bishop would be a great ally in promoting the Culture of Life in Swaziland. In



Population Services International continues to campaign for population reduction through contraception and abortion even though a number of Swazi are facing starvation due to famine.

appreciation, I gave and him pro-life material which included HLI booklets, brochures, and our CD library.

Upon the bishop's recommendation, I called Fr. Pius Magagula for an appointment. Thankfully, he drove down to Manzini, and we met in the Salesian Parlor. During our half-hour, I expressed to him the joys and sufferings I have encountered in the past 9 years. I also explained to him the bishop's ideas and recommendation to build a strong pro-life presence in Swaziland. He told me the bishop had recently appointed him to head the Family Commission. He said he accepted the bishop's recommendation and promised to work with us.

I informed him of the upcoming conference in July. He expressed a strong desire to attend because he wants to learn more from others and get deeper insight into pro-life issues. I officially invited him and assured him that if he could cover his own travel expenses, my office would take care of all other costs. At the end of our talk, I gave him pro-life material, which included HLI's "Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook," "Marie Stopes Exposed," the "Maputo Protocol," and the "Facts of Life" CD library, as well as DVDs on abortion, fetal development, and natural family planning. I shared the same information

with Fr. Bongi Nhleko of the Salesian Community and gave him the same pro-life material. While Fr. Pius's work will concentrate more on priests, the religious, and the family, Fr. Bongi will deal with students in secondary schools in Swaziland.

Fr. Larry McDonell, who is now semi-retired and with whom I have been working since the beginning of the pro-life movement in Swaziland, will continue to work with us on advisory capacity. I greatly appreciate the support he has been to us. He, together with Velaphi Mamba, our first contact person, were responsible for arranging previous pro-life programs in Swaziland.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

In the course of my stay, I also talked to about 50 students of Manzini Salesian High School on human life and family issues. With the aid of the video, "Window to the Womb," I spent two hours explaining the sacredness of human life and the fetal stages. I also had an audience with four new aspirants, Bathobile Bhembe, Ziyanda Glover, Mpendulo Shongwe, and Mamba Ossy, who came for pro-life briefing. I shared with them major challenges facing the Swazi people: contraception, abortion,



Emil Hagamu HLI Director for Anglophone Africa talking to about 50 Salesian School students on the sanctity of human life in Manzini, Swaziland.



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for Anglophone Africa, with new members of Pro-Life Swaziland.



Emil Hagamu explains the mission of the pro-life movement to a journalist, Batuli Chombo, who visited the office recently.

the growing anti-life mentality, and the encroachment of the Culture of Death in their country.

GOD CALLS US TO DO MORE

As I was checking in for my flight back to Dar es Salaam, I met a lady who by God’s providence shared with me some thoughts. She spoke of how Christians are not united on the issue of abortion. She classified Christians into three categories: conservatives, who she described as Catholics always opposed to any kind of abortion; “moderate” Christians (in her view), who allow abortion in some cases; and liberal Christians, who support abortion and even use the Holy Bible to justify it. She declared herself a ‘new born Christian.’ I told her human life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death, and all Christians and all humanity are duty bound to defend it. She showed me a comparison of Biblical passages that condemn abortion and those that she interpreted as supporting it.

I was shocked to learn how cleverly the Devil works. On reading passages that supposedly support abortion, I was amazed at how pro-abortion advocates can confuse the minds of people by misinterpreting the Holy Bible. All the readings this woman pointed out in fact condemn abortion. I then asked myself why God would open up this conversation as I was leaving Swaziland. I felt God was opening up this conversation for two reasons: first, to show how the Holy Bible can be misused by abortion advocates to drive their evil agenda; and second, to show just how serious of a problem abortion is in Swaziland. This lady I met went on to argue for cases when abortion could be allowed, like ‘rape’ and ‘health of the mother.’

I learned from this conversation that the people of the Culture of Death are working around the clock to change people’s perceptions on abortion. This conversation gave me a deep insight into the situation in Swaziland. It certainly invites us to do more in this country.

Invite Father Boquet
or another HLI expert
to speak at your parish!

Call 540-635-7884 or
email us at hli@hli.org
for details.



Host a weekend mission on how to rebuild
a Culture of Life, featuring an HLI speaker!

Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign in Miami, FL

Vida Humana Internacional (VHI), HLI's Spanish division, committed itself to supporting Respect Life of the Miami Archdiocese in its Lenten 40 Days for Life Campaign. The event was held from February 10 to March 20.

The 40 Days for Life Campaign started several years ago in Texas and has quickly expanded all across the nation and the world. Close to 700,000 pro-lifers are involved in it. Presently, it is held twice a year in over 600 cities in more than 30 countries, including those of Latin America. It has saved more than 11,000 babies from abortion, has converted more than 100 abortion workers, and has closed over 60 abortion mills. All of these results have been possible thanks to the powerful grace of Almighty God. The campaign consists of peaceful prayer vigils, fasting, and, when possible, pro-life sidewalk counseling in front of abortion mills. The presence of prayer warriors in front of abortion centers is a powerful testimony for life to those who approach those centers, to those who work there, and to the public at large. Churches have also organized prayer vigils and meetings at their facilities for those who cannot physically pray in front of abortion mills. For more information on the campaign, visit: 40daysforlife.com.



VHI also prays in front of an international abortion center every Thursday from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Sadly, abortion-bound women from Latin America are flown to this center to have their babies killed.



Training in the Philippines

On February 4, nearly 1,000 secondary students from Mandaue National High School spent a day with Dr. Bullecer, our affiliate in the Philippines, who discussed important life issues. Topics treated included the stages of human life, human sexuality, the dangers of pre-marital sex, the untold truth about homosexuality, drug abuse prevention, and HIV/AIDS.

The students, together with their teachers, were happy to receive the day of training. After discussing both anatomical and medical facts, Dr. Bullecer also elaborated on the problems of increasing teenage pregnancy rates and the skyrocketing cases of young people infected with both sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, together with its moral and spiritual consequences. Providing the youth with this type of training will be of great help in minimizing or neutralizing the effects of the Culture of Death, which has deeply penetrated countries like the Philippines.



On February 17, hundreds of maritime and criminology students gathered at the open gym of the BIT International College in Tagbilaran City to hear a talk on STI and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Bullecer exhorted each of them to resist engaging in selfish and dangerous sexual lifestyles that would jeopardize their futures. Dr. Bullecer reminded them of the untold dangers of HIV and AIDS. “All your hopes and dreams are gone if you allow HIV to get in into your body,” he declared. “When one gets infected with HIV, there is no second chance.”



DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission, you'll receive the book, *Transforming Your Life Through the Holy Eucharist* by Fr. John A. Kane.

The Holy Eucharist has nourished the Faith of Catholics for centuries — but it's all too easy to let routine dull your sense of the transforming power of this sacrament. This book will stir the embers of your love for the Eucharist into a bright glowing flame.

In it, Fr. John A. Kane explores the selfless humility shown by Christ in His presence in the Eucharist, opening the way for you to receive greater spiritual fruit from worthier receptions of Communion and from adoration of Christ in the Eucharist.

You'll learn how the Eucharist is truly a sacrament of love — a sacrament that not only demonstrates Christ's love for you, but gives you the grace you need to love God and your neighbor with a fervor unquenched by passing changes in fortune or feelings.

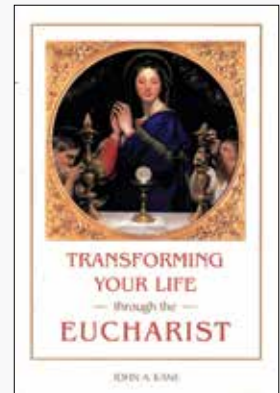
As Fr. Kane opens your eyes to how much God longs to be with you in the Eucharist — and how much He delights in you — you'll come to experience the Eucharist as that inexhaustible source of grace, peace, and comfort that He intends it to be for you.

Discover from Fr. John Kane:

- Christ's silent and secret work in your soul: how you can aid Him in His work through the Eucharist
- Receiving Communion: how to make your communions dynamic encounters with Jesus
- Christ's presence in the Eucharist: how it can nourish your soul even though it's beyond earthly understanding
- Two obstacles to gaining spiritual fruit from Communion: how to recognize and overcome them
- Why it's so important for you to spend time in thanksgiving after Communion
- And much more that will help you know Christ in the Eucharist and love Him more than ever!

176 pages

Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today, and we'll ship this wonder book to you today!



Transforming Your Life Through the Holy Eucharist is this month's pro-life educational resource.