



Mission Report

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Left: Fr. Boquet speaking at St. Augustine Major Seminary in Roma, Lesotho.

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is an urgent call of utmost importance, given the daunting situation confronting life and the family. The response to the ever-growing tsunami of evil overwhelming our world is, as always, the proclamation of the Gospel — to preach Christ *in season and out of season*. “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,” Jesus exhorts, “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

The question is, how do we mainstream preaching the Gospel of Life — living the life Christ offers — when so many hearts are hardened and minds are closed?

Throughout our nearly five decades of experience, HLI has learned that to transform culture we must first transform hearts and minds to *love, respect, defend, and serve* life — The Great Campaign. “The Gospel of Life,” according to St. John Paul II, “is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture” (*Evangelium Vitae*, ¶1).

One way HLI accomplishes these objectives and strategies is by collaborating with pro-life and family leaders. Our collaboration and partnership with the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) serves as a perfect example; it is a natural fit since its objectives and strategies complement HLI’s. As a Catholic international private association of lay faithful, CFC-FFL actively works in numerous countries (50) and has established ongoing relationships with dioceses, parishes, and Catholic schools. As global pro-life and family apostolates, we both strive — through fidelity to the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church — to foster the holiness of life, the renewal of the temporal order through formation and catechesis, and the service and defense of life and the family.

In CFC-FFL’s “Live Christ, Share Christ” (LCSC) movement, two of the main pillars, “Live Pure,” a movement promoting chastity among the youth, and “Live Life,” a movement advocating for faith, family, and life, are

Over, please



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

“In order to reap a bountiful harvest and establish a Culture of Life, we must encourage and create partnerships with those with whom we share a common language and a fundamental belief.”



Fr. Boquet giving a keynote at the National Conference for Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL).

in direct harmony with HLI’s global activities and programs. To support the LCSC mission, HLI provides pro-life and family training seminars, particularly to the leaders of the various ministries within the CFC-FFL community. The objective is simple. By educating the members and leaders of the community, HLI’s impact is extended to their families, parishes, and the dioceses in which the members live. There is a ripple effect.

Because of our partnership and collaboration with CFC-FFL, HLI has been fortunate and blessed to offer numerous seminars in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia-Oceania. This year alone, we have offered four seminars in North America, and we have an upcoming European conference in Prague. Planning is also underway for conferences in 2020 in the U.S. and abroad.

In order to reap a bountiful harvest and establish a Culture of Life, we must encourage and create partnerships with those with whom we share a common language and a fundamental belief. “No one pours new wine into old wineskins,” says Jesus. “Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins.” (Luke 5:37-38).

HLI is blessed to collaborate with many groups around the world that share the same vision. Together, we are confronting the tsunami of evil, diminishing its impact by pouring new wine — the truth about life and

the family — into new skins. We are mainstreaming an authentic language that transforms hearts, ways of thinking, behavior, habits, accepted practices, and directions.

If we are to authentically cultivate, build, and sustain a Culture of Life, we must influence those who will impact society at every level. By proactively impacting leaders — both civil and ecclesial — we have a direct and indirect impact on our societies and cultures, with the family at the heart of the transformation. HLI and CFC-FFL have a common goal: to inculcate a language and way of life that are in harmony with the Gospel of Life — a culture that *loves, respects, defends, and serves every life*.

Please pray for the continued fruitfulness of our collaboration and partnership with CFC-FFL, as well as with all apostolates who share our vision and participation in The Great Campaign. On behalf of those we serve in the U.S. and our global pro-life family, thank you for all you do and for your sacrifice to make our mission possible.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Boquet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

MISSION TRIP TO LESOTHO

By Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Education and Research, May 2019

THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO WELCOMES THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE!

In May, HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and I traveled to the Kingdom of Lesotho in Africa. Founded in 1966, Lesotho is an enclosed independent state with a population of 2.23 million (2017 census). Due to its economic struggles, Lesotho has attracted much Western attention and support for the past several decades. **However, this aid has been governed by one primary tenet: the belief that decreasing the population will lead to economic development.**

Accordingly, the Western solution has been to pour resources into population control groups for decades. These groups have spent more than \$700 million on population control in Lesotho since 1990. Fr. Boquet and I witnessed the shiny new white trucks belonging to population suppression groups such as USAID, Jhpiego, and PSI (Population Services International) throughout the country. While many other organizations, including ActionAid, Habitat for Humanity, and World Vision, do much good work for the people of Lesotho, they also dabble in population control or partner with the hard-core groups. The primary mission of these organizations is to peddle billions of condoms. Condoms are available for free everywhere: in public restrooms, airports, restaurants, grocery stores, and hotels.

This heightened use of condoms has led to a terrifying result:



Dr. Brian Clowes presents the dangers of population control groups to a community in Lesotho.



Lesotho has the second-highest adult HIV/AIDS infection rate in the entire world, with 1 in 4 adults suffering from the disease. Life expectancy in Lesotho is a dismal 40 years. Only about six percent of Basotho are above the age of 60, and there are 170,000 AIDS orphans in the country. The disease has severely impacted almost every family. The common belief is that condoms prevent the transmission of these deadly diseases, but the harsh reality is that the typical failure rate of condoms — due to breakage, expiration, and misapplication — is 15%. Not *one* of the condom advertisements displayed in Lesotho's communities mentions this crucial fact. This is true not only of Lesotho, but of Africa in general. I have been to the continent 25 times now, and have taken photos of dozens of billboards advertising different brands of condoms. Not a single one mentions their high failure rate.

The astonishingly high level of HIV/AIDS is not the only result of the prolific use of contraception. Lesotho now suffers from a steadily decreasing population. As late as 1970, women in this country had an average of 5.8 children. Now the number is 2.5 and is projected to drop below the replacement level of

2.1 within the next 15 years. Due to a contraceptive mentality, many families will resort to abortion (or even worse, infanticide) in the case of an unexpected pregnancy. Fr. Boquet and I learned of Lesotho's huge dams that control flooding and generate much of the country's cheap electric power. **We were horrified to hear that unwanted babies are often pitched from these dams shortly after birth.**

The millions of dollars spent by population control groups to decrease Lesotho's population have resulted in the horrific spread of HIV/AIDS, decreased life expectancy, the destruction of families, the death of innocent children, and a population that will soon fall below the replacement rate. Has Lesotho experienced the promised economic growth? No. Economically, Lesotho still suffers heavily, despite all the wealth poured into population control. In 1990, GDP per capita PPP (purchasing power parity) was a meager \$1,298. As of 2018, GDP per capita PPP reached only \$2,864, equivalent to a mere 16% of the world average. (Statistics taken from



Left: Emil Hagamu, regional director of English-speaking Africa, with Bishop Augustinus Tumaole Bane of the Diocese of Leribe, Lesotho.

Trainees in Lesotho speak about how they were impacted by HLI training:

“I work with young people and young mothers. I feel it is about time my country does something concerning pro-life issues. It is particularly important to me that the Catholic Church participate in this work.”

“This session was life-changing. It has changed my way of thinking and how I see the world around me. I feel very strong and I look forward to attending more sessions and raising awareness among our people.”

“I really gained a lot from this conference. It never crossed my mind that abortion is a bad thing. I only

considered it as a form of relief for struggling women. But now, thanks to HLI's work, I now know the bad impact of abortion.”

“The personal impact is that, my apologetic stance regarding the teaching of the Church has been fortified. Now I have a strong burning zeal to be part of the pro-life team, SERIOUSLY!!!”

“It helped me realize that the Church is doing too little in teaching our people about its doctrine in matters relating to life (such as its value from conception till death).”

“The bishops of Lesotho ... asked HLI to provide intensive practical pro-life training to religious staff and leaders.”

tradingeconomics.com). In those three decades, Lesotho achieved an average annual growth rate of only 0.9%, a mere pittance compared to the millions provided to population control groups.

CATHOLICISM SUFFERS

An additional casualty is the spiritual suffering of the Catholics in Lesotho. The Culture of Death is deeply entrenched in this small kingdom, despite the fact that half the population is Catholic. As Most Rev. Augustinus Tumaole Bane, Bishop of Leribe, Lesotho, has said, “Catholicism has always played a major role in the lives of the people, but now most of the people are Catholics only on Sundays when they go to church services. During the week they are inclined to their own way of living, so there is a separation between faith and the day-to-day.”

For all these reasons it is abundantly clear to HLI that Lesotho is in desperate need of the pro-life message. Mr. Emil Hagamu, HLI’s regional director of English-speaking Africa, has been to Lesotho 10 times now and put a lot of effort into arranging this trip. As the journey proceeded, it

was evident to Fr. Boquet and myself that his hard work is paying off.

During the 10-day trip, Fr. Boquet, Mr. Hagamu and I visited all four diocesan bishops. We traveled nearly a 1,000 miles and spoke directly to some 1,400 people, including priests, religious sisters, and parish workers. Our primary topics encompassed the mission of Human Life International and the sanctity, dignity, and beauty of human life, marriage, and family. We also addressed local threats to human life, marriage, and family, such as the population control groups and their dangerous tactics. Our talks did much to establish the basics of a Culture of Life in Lesotho.

We also visited and spoke at several key sites during our time in Lesotho. We visited St. Thomas High School in Mohale’s Hoek. We also spent several constructive hours with the 65 priests and seminarians at St. Augustine Major Seminary in Roma, Lesotho. **Most impressive of all, we received the honor of a half-hour visit with King Letsie III, ruler of Lesotho, at his palace in Maseru.** The king plays a unifying role amidst all the diverse political parties and religions in his kingdom. Dedicated to the Catholic Faith, King Lestie has chosen not to follow the royal tradition of polygamy, which has led to a decline



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Emil Hagamu, and Dr. Brian Clowes during a meeting with Lesotho pro-life leader Pauline Motlimeli (far left) and King Letsie III of Lesotho (center).

in this practice in Lesotho. Fr. Boquet and I concluded our trip with a successful press conference at the cathedral in Maseru. All of Lesotho's national radio stations participated in broadcasting HLI's pro-life message. The Lesotho Television Broadcasting Corporation made a favorable presentation of HLI's work in Lesotho, and several newspapers wrote stories on our mission and our visit with His Majesty. It was apparent that the message of the Culture of Life is not often heard in this small country. Significantly, the people were eager to hear these truths about the dignity of the human person.

The bishops of Lesotho urged Fr. Boquet to consider returning in the near future to continue this important pro-life work. Specifically, they asked HLI to provide

intensive practical pro-life training to religious staff and leaders. These programs and "pro-life guilds" would be available on both the parish and diocesan levels for religious sisters, nurses, and students.

HLI is immensely grateful to our generous donors who made this incredible trip to Lesotho possible. So much critical ground was won in this first trip that we can only imagine how rewarding further work will be in this small but vigorous country! HLI looks forward to returning to the dynamic "Kingdom in the Sky" again and again in the future.

GOT STOCK?

With the rise in stock values, donating your

APPRECIATED STOCK

to Human Life International rather than a cash gift may allow you to provide a larger gift with transformative impact and at the same time give you a larger tax deduction. If you have held your stock for over one year, you may take a charitable deduction for the Fair Market Value of the stock on the day of the gift. By donating your stock directly, you will also avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase of the stock's value. This assumes you are taking itemized deductions. The same benefits also apply to bonds and mutual funds.

Please contact Stan Kuta at HLI's Development Office (skuta@hli.org or phone at 540-622-5272) and your broker to discuss the process.

This information does not constitute and is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, legal, or investment planning advice from a qualified tax advisor, CPA, financial planner, or investment manager.

MISSION TRIP TO BOLIVIA

By Nancy Tosi, Adviser to HLI Latin America, May 2019

During a pro-life mission to Bolivia in 2014, I traveled to several dioceses to offer training seminars for Project Rachel, a program that addresses the phases of Post Abortion Syndrome. I was invited to the Vicariate of Camiri by Fr. Edwin Cuellar, who was familiar with HLI's pro-life work and was eager for his parish to participate in a pro-life training course. Camiri is a small town, about six hours travel by car from Santa Cruz de La Sierra.

Fr. Edwin invited eight Catholic and municipal leaders to attend this Pro-Life Conference. I gave a talk entitled "Marriage: A Holy Sacrament." I also instructed parents on how to teach their children about the inherent value of the human person, and how to properly teach sex education. While I was talking, two people started crying; a woman who was in charge of the Office of Gender Equality for Women and a man who was the governor of the city, Mr. Gonzalo Moreno Garcia.

The woman who had been crying asked for the microphone so she could tell her story. In high school, she had become pregnant, and when she realized she could

no longer hide her secret, she planned to have an abortion. Providentially, she attended a pro-life conference at that same church. There she heard for the first time all about the true horrors of abortion, and she immediately decided to have her baby. Her daughter is now twenty-five years old and attending a university in Santa Cruz. Though she had always cared for her daughter, she didn't know how to apply her personal experience to the work that she did in the Office for Gender Equality for Women. **Her superiors encouraged her to advise young women to avoid marriage and motherhood in favor of sexual freedom and independence.** My talk on the sanctity of marriage, family, and chastity impressed her so much that she now recognized her work in the Office was dangerous for young women. She publicly declared her intent to do whatever she could to help young women protect their dignity and innocence, no matter what she was told by her superiors.

The governor also requested the microphone. He said, "You all must be wondering why I have been crying. Today I understood how I let the Culture of Death destroy my family. A doctor told my wife and me that she should not have any more babies, although we only had two. Rather, the right thing to do was sterilize her. I gave my permission to do so. It happened two years ago, but she has never been the same as before. I could say that she is now a different person, always crying, depressed, and very unhappy. I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

He turned to me and said, "So, please give another conference this afternoon. I will close all the governmental offices in town at 4 PM today, and all the people who work with us will be attending the conference at the city's main theater. I will also ask all the high school principals to bring their students."

That afternoon we had 650 people in the conference.



HLI trained associates like Juan Pablo Mendoza lead multiple pro-life efforts in their native countries. Here, Bolivian students joyfully participate at a pro-life rally.

The theater was so full that high school students had to sit on the floor.

MAY 2019: SECOND TRIP TO BOLIVIA REVEALS EFFECTS OF HLI'S WORK.

This year, I was able to take a second trip to Bolivia. We gave several pro-life lectures and spoke to many people individually. At one of my lectures I started a conversation with a young man named Juan Pablo Mendoza. This young man was one of the high school students who had attended the lecture on the sanctity of marriage in Camiri five years prior. Juan Pablo is now 19 years old, and he has moved from Camiri to Sucre, where he attends a local university. I was delighted to learn that he is a major leader of the organization, Youth for Life.

He attributes his pro-life work to that pro-life conference held in his hometown of Camiri five years earlier and stated:

I was there together with other high school students and teachers. When I heard about the dangers of contraceptives, abortion, and the lie of a “safe sexual life before marriage,” my entire viewpoint on life changed. I also remember that you talked about how important it is to value ourselves and the life and dignity of others, and especially how important chastity is for all of us. That is the reason I’m doing what I do now, defending life and dignity.

Juan Pablo is just one of hundreds of individuals whose life has changed because of HLI’s work. His story is a stirring testimony to the power of the pro-life message. Thanks to the generous gifts of our donors, HLI has been able to make multiple trips to many different countries, planting the seeds and nurturing the growth of new pro-life apostolates. Let us pray that many more courageous individuals like Juan Pablo are able to hear our message.

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MISSION TRIP TO ZAMBIA

By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, April 2019

SPREADING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE IN THE COPPER BELT OF ZAMBIA

HLI has been visiting Zambia for over a decade. This April I made my fourth visit to this country as regional director of English-speaking Africa. The Copper Belt of Zambia consists of the towns of Ndola, Luansha, and Kitwe. Besides copper mining, Zambia is rich in other minerals, such as uranium, coal, lead, silver, zinc, emeralds, and gold. New modern buildings can be seen everywhere in major towns like Kitwe. There are large national game areas — such as Kasanga National Park and Sumbu National Park — that are conducive to the growth of the tourist industry. To most strangers, this would seem to be an indication of economic development, but the reality is exactly the opposite. Most Zambians are very poor. Poverty levels show



Emil Hagamu, HLI's regional director of English-speaking Africa, has spent the better part of his life fostering close relationships with the communities of Africa.

The high poverty level exacerbates the HIV/AIDS pandemic. **According to WHO/UNAIDS, adult prevalence (15-49) is between 13.5% and 20%.** Successful Western propaganda has convinced the people of Zambia that condom use is the solution to combating HIV infection. International and local nongovernmental organizations have distributed condoms everywhere — in drinking places, shops, guesthouses, and even in supermarkets, such as the giant South African ShopRite. However, those who market condoms have never told Africans that the typical failure rate of condoms (due to breakage, expiration, and misapplication) is a stunning 15%. People are also unaware of the direct relationship between high condom usage and the spread of HIV. Condom failure has been a major contributor to HIV infection in the South African region for decades, as evidenced by the spread of the disease in South Africa, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana,



Swaziland, and Zambia.

Despite the fact that Zambia has always declared itself a Christian nation and that recent constitutional amendments protect unborn life, abortion is legal. Conditions permitting abortion are very liberal for sub-Saharan Africa: Abortions are allowed in cases of rape, if the pregnancy is deemed life-threatening, if it impacts the mother's physical/mental health or that of her children, or in cases where the child may be born handicapped. Although the law requires three medical practitioners to sign off on every abortion, many abortion clinics blatantly ignore these stipulations. In 2012, abortion giant Marie Stopes International fostered clinics that provided illegal abortions in Zambia, and as a result was temporarily banned from the country.

Population control organizations have been active in this country for over four decades. Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, Corpmed Medical Center, and Company Clinics provide "reproductive health services" — a

“By practicing this method, Zambian families could receive the benefits of family planning without risking the physical, emotional and spiritual dangers of contraception.”

euphemism for abortion, contraception, and sterilization. As a result, promiscuity, marital infidelity, and the contraceptive mentality are deeply rooted in Zambia. Married and unmarried women, **including children as young as 12-14**, take contraceptives regularly. The most preferred contraceptive method is Depo Provera because it is easy to administer, although IUDs and the Pill are also readily available in Zambian pharmacies. The results of this can easily be seen in the demography of Zambia. According to the KIT Royal Tropical Country Report in Amsterdam, commissioned by Zambian OBGYNs, the 2018 birth rate is 5.3 births per woman, a decline from 7.3 births in 1968.

BUILDING THE CULTURE OF LIFE

I traveled to Zambia this past April in order to reach out to the parishes and communities. I hoped to show people how dangerous the contraceptive mentality is for their culture, their families, and their souls. The primary focus of HLI’s training during the four days in Kitwe was “life and family,” with a special emphasis on chastity, purity, the sacredness of life and marriage, and on Natural Family Planning (NFP) using the Billings Ovulation Method for couples. NFP — if learned and practiced in accord with Church teaching — provides an excellent, safe, and beneficial way of countering the contraceptive mentality. By practicing NFP, Zambian families can safeguard the sanctity of marriage and

September 2019 Events

Please Pray for HLI’s Mission Work in September:

- September 4-13: HLI regional directors from around the world will meet for their biennial meeting at HLI’s headquarters in Front Royal, Virginia . Please pray for the fruitfulness of these meetings as we discuss objectives, strategies and tactics that will affect our mission impact.
- September 6: Conclusion of a mission trip by HLI Advisor for Latin America, Nancy Tosi, to the Vicariate of Moyobamba, Peru, where about 300 will graduate HLI’s pro-life course. Also present and assisting Nancy are Dr. Rafael Cabrera and Eliza Lanza.
- September 17-23: HLI Director of Education and Research Dr. Brian Clowes and HLI Regional Director for English-Speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu, will travel to Rwanda for a series of training programs and seminars for seminarians and priests on issues affecting life and family.
- September 20-30: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and Fr. Francesco Giordano, HLI’s Rome Office Director, will travel to Kazakhstan to present a series of seminars on bioethics to priests and lay leaders.
- September 23-28: HLI Regional Director for Latin America, Mario Rojas, will travel to Mexico City to participate in the Latin American Network of Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CAMS). On this trip he also will visit the Diocese of San Juan Bautista Tuxtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico to give lectures and meet with the local bishop.

Watch for details of these events in future issues of HLI’s *Mission Report*.

receive its life-giving benefits without risking the physical, emotional, and spiritual dangers of contraception.

I trained 3 groups of people on 3 different days. There were participants from all the churches within Kitwe — Pentecostals, Reformed Church, Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic, and Seventh Day Adventists. Participants included pastors, deacons, and Church elders. The most active participants attended a more concentrated session of training on the fourth day. With the assistance of a Billings Ovulation Method video, I was able to help participants understand the structure of the menstrual cycle, the phases in the cycle, and the signs of fertility and infertility. I then taught them the Billings Ovulation Method rules to achieve or to postpone a pregnancy (for grave reasons). I emphasized the concepts of responsible parenthood, an openness to life, and reciprocal love. This approach enabled participants to understand how to practice NFP in conformity with Christian moral teaching. The response was overwhelming relief and enthusiasm. They were eager to stop using contraceptives and begin implementing the teaching of responsible parenthood, using NFP when applicable in their personal lives and in their local communities.

I also gave talks on the sacredness of human life and on our responsibility to it. I paid particular attention to the parental responsibility toward preborn life. Participants saw a video on fetal development, as well as the *Silent Scream* abortion video. These educational videos evoked a deep and widespread response in the audience. In many cases, they had formerly known little or nothing about the development of children in the womb, including the fact that it is scientifically proven that life begins at conception. They were especially horrified when they learned that chemical abortions could occur through many forms of contraception. A female pastor suggested that they immediately ask God for forgiveness

for the sin of abortion. She felt that all of them were responsible for permitting abortion to continue in the country or for actively participating in it themselves through the use of contraception. One of the participants was an employee at one of the population control groups and had regularly dispensed contraceptives at a local clinic. She told me that she had encouraged her clients to use contraception. When they complained of side effects, she would tell them that they were “normal” and that they would go away with time, or she offered them an alternative chemical “method.” After my talk, she swore to never encourage families to use contraception again.

I also met a young girl named Gift. She revealed to me her deep contrition for using the morning-after pill. Gift said she had delivered her firstborn in 2013 when she was a student. Her unplanned pregnancy interfered with the normal school timetable, and caring for her new child prevented her from performing well in her last examination. Desperate for help, she continued to have sexual relations with the father of the baby in order to receive his support. During her postpartum checkup, Gift told the nurse from a local clinic about her difficult situation and how she was afraid that she would get pregnant again and be in an even more extreme position. Sadly, the only aid the nurse offered her was the morning-after pill, without telling her that it often caused direct abortions. Despite Gift’s intentions and efforts, the father later abandoned her and his child. Gift,



Emil Hagamu with participants of a Natural Family Planning training seminar in Chimwemwe Kitwe, Zambia.

tragically, continued to remain sexually active and took the pill in order to avoid getting pregnant again. After hearing my presentation on chastity, purity, the sacredness of life, marriage, and human sexuality, Gift decided to embrace these truths and make decisions that are in accord with God’s will for her. The participants were all eager for more training for themselves and the other members of their churches. They asked HLI to arrange a weeklong program on NFP for their area and encouraged me to continue to spread the pro-life message in their country.

I offer my great thanks to the benefactors of Human Life International for the support they provide for our mission. The results of your generosity can be easily seen in our trips to places like Zambia, where the pro-life message is accepted with an overflowing abundance of enthusiasm and dedication. God bless you in all your endeavors!

P.S. Friends, one of my many joys being president of Human Life International is the opportunity to meet people from many different cultures. Regardless of the culture, country, or continent I hear the same cry for help: “I know what my faith teaches, but I don’t know what else to do. Please help me!” As I read Emil Hagamu’s report from his mission to Zambia, I was particularly touched by the story of Gift. No doubt her parents named her Gift because they recognized that she was a “gift” from God. And they were correct. It’s also apparent that her “deep contrition” is a testament that they raised their daughter to respect and practice her faith. My heart goes out to Gift and the many men and women I meet in my travels. Good people are struggling to live their lives in a world that tells them, “Don’t worry, sin won’t hurt; it will make you happy!” But it never does.

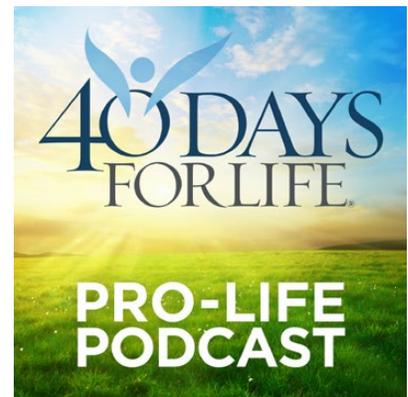
I am also confident that Gift’s search for answers about the meaning of her life motivated her to attend Emil’s talk on the sacredness of human life and our responsibility to it. Every year HLI holds more than 900 training events attended by nearly half a million people. Each of these events focuses on the truth of Catholic teaching on life and family. As part of our internal program review process, we ask each attendee to complete a Participant Survey. Over and over again, the vast majority of people who come to an HLI training event are attending their first ever program of this type, and most come to learn more about the Church’s teaching on life and family.

I have heard Gift’s struggle many times before: “I know what I am doing is wrong but I don’t know what else I can do.” I also can tell you the tears of joy I see every time I hear their story, which ends with “Thank you for being here!” By thanking me, these wonderful souls are thanking you! You are the source of the many wonderful, lifesaving works done by HLI missionaries every day on every continent! It is your prayers and contributions that changed Gift’s life and the lives of countless others searching for Truth.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission, you’ll receive the 40 Days for Life Podcast featuring an Interview with HLI’s Fr. Boquet by Shawn Carney & Matt Britton.