



Mission Report

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HLI wishes you and your loved ones a most blessed Advent and Christmastide!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Because of your prayers, sacrifices, and support, HLI is making a life-changing and life-saving impact, fulfilling the mandate entrusted to her by her founder and by Pope St. John Paul II, who charged Fr. Marx to go and *do the most important work on earth*. Each month in Mission Report, I look forward to sharing stories about how your commitment and faithful dedication to this mission are enabling our pro-life and family missionaries to tirelessly serve Life around the world. This month I am excited to share how you helped make possible a mission to the Diocese of Honolulu, the land of St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope. These courageous missionaries offered their lives in the service of their brothers and sisters on the island of Molokai. Their heroic deaths serve as a powerful witness to the Gospel of Life.

Though many of HLI's programs and activities occur outside the United States, we make every effort to support and influence the pro-life and family movement in the U.S., especially welcoming opportunities to assist our bishops and priests. Last November, I was delighted to receive an invitation from Bishop Larry Silva to return to Hawaii and participate in programs being organized by the diocese.

I am happy to report that the twelve-day mission, which was filled with numerous activities, was successful. The overall theme of the mission was: "How to Build a Culture of Life and Civilization of Love – Transforming Hearts and Minds." It began with a three-day retreat and workshop for Respect Life coordinators from the 66 parishes and 23 missions of the diocese. This was followed by four seminars for priests and deacons in the nine vicariates across the neighboring islands of Kauai, Maui, Oahu, and Hawaii. The mission also included multiple workshops for young adults and married couples, Sunday Masses, four presentations during the annual Diocesan Life Symposium and Youth



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Over, please



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, President of Human Life International, delivers a talk at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Maui (above) and at the annual Life Symposium in the Diocese of Honolulu (below).

Conference, as well as a one-day seminar for deacons, deacon candidates, and their wives. Each program began with a simple message: “Whatever affects my brother or sister, affects me. Whatever hurts my brother or sister, hurts me.”



As stakeholders in this mission, you are keenly aware that we confront a most difficult challenge: **the truth about life, marriage, and the family is being ripped apart by violent forces.** The modern world is divided by atheistic and secular ideologies, with no regard for the inherent dignity of the human person or his heavenly vocation. “What can we do,” inquired a young married couple from Maui, “against the tidal wave of secularism and disregard for the sacredness of human life? We are assaulted from every direction – media, government, society, and even our own families and Church members.”

In order to redirect society from its perilous path and transform it into a Culture of Life, **hearts and minds must be re-oriented toward Christ,** who is the Way, the Truth, and the Light of the World. We must re-evangelize, re-propose the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith due to secularization. We must also strive to re-teach the pro-life message, which has been lost, corrupted, and in many cases outwardly rejected.

These concerns and realities were voiced by many during HLI’s mission to the Diocese of Honolulu. I can only summarize it with the words of an insightful priest from Kauai: “Many Catholics and people in the general population are no longer able to distinguish what is

good from what is sinful and evil. The language and truth about faith, life, marriage, and the family are no longer understood. There is so much confusion. We need your help.”

Because of you, HLI was able to support Bishop Silva, his priests, deacons, and religious in the pastoral care of the people of God in Hawaii, providing educational resources, tools, expertise, experience, and formation to those who most impact the Church and society. **On each of the islands we visited, participants – clergy, religious, and laity – expressed great appreciation for HLI’s willingness to assist in cultivating and promoting a Culture of Life.**

Even as we concluded the mission, plans were underway for HLI’s return in 2020. Through your continued prayers and generosity, this mission and all our upcoming programs and activities in the new year will become a reality. Thank you!

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, know that you and your loved ones will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Day and throughout the Christmas Season. May the joy and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ remain with you and yours always.

Merry Christmas and Christmastide!



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

HLI MISSION TO ZIMBABWE

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

In Zimbabwe, the work of secular organizations has gradually changed the concept of life, family, morality, and spirituality, to the degree that **most women consider the use of contraception as a normal part of “healthy” family life.** As a result, the population of Zimbabwe has remained relatively small, at 14.3 million in 2018 compared to the 19 million of Malawi, a neighboring country, which is geographically smaller than Zimbabwe. Given that the contraceptive user rate in Zimbabwe is higher than most countries in Africa, I have been putting special effort into conducting HLI training programs in Zimbabwe since 2018.



In August 2018, I launched a training program, which I hoped would make a difference in the common acceptance of contraception and its mentality. With the aid of HLI affiliates, Monica Gasti and Veronica Chawasemerwa, we prepared two groups of women for Natural Family Planning (NFP) programs. One group of participants was at the Parish of



A couple in Zimbabwe seeks educational resources from HLI on Natural Family Planning.

“...I believe through expansion of these efforts, many women will opt to abandon the contraceptive mentality and contraception altogether, which will result in healthier marriages and families.”

St. Stephen, the other at the Parish of St. Gerald. A two-day program was arranged for each group. There were 30 participants at St. Stephen’s and six at St. Gerald’s. The training began with a theological discussion of the teaching of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. **This was to dispel the popular misidentification of NFP as “Catholic contraception”.** Instead, we focused on the Church’s teaching on “responsible parenthood”, which emphasizes that every marital act must be open to the gift of life. After laying down the theological framework, the participants were introduced to the basics of the ovulation method: hormonal activities, menstrual cycles, observation, and charting.

The 2018 programs laid an admirable foundation for future action. Those who received that training prepared their communities for participation in this year’s sessions, in which more theological and scientific information was provided. Trainees learned the beauty of Church teaching regarding “responsible parenthood”, and came to understand contraception and its mentality as an evil which distorts God’s plan for husband and wife, rupturing the unitive and procreative ends of marriage.

I interviewed participants in the 2019 training sessions, who shared with me the stunning impact these programs had on their lives. Most of the women present



We have an opportunity to assist Human Life International in her global pro-life and family efforts. Through its AmazonSmile Foundation, the Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price on eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice – which could be Human Life International! HLI does not endorse Amazon because of its positions on life and family issues. However, if you choose to use this online shopping service, you have an opportunity to directly support HLI’s pro-life cause.

Here’s how to give directly to HLI through the AmazonSmile Foundation:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Choose Human Life International as your charitable organization to receive donations
3. Shop as you normally do

Reminder – be sure to use the address smile.amazon.com, rather than just amazon.com

Thank you for contributing to the defense of life, marriage, and the family!



Feedback from of Our Tanzanian NFP Training

- I have learned a lot, especially the importance of not taking contraceptives, because they disturb my fertility and my menstrual cycle. I still want to learn more, though. Thank you.” – Eveline Veronica Kaseke
- “This training has had a great impact on me. It is a very educational and life-saving workshop. It will help me to help other women to stop using contraceptive methods.” – Stellah Chakabva
- “I was very pleased with these conferences, and I have gained a lot of knowledge about being pro-life.” – Spiwe Kalenjeka
- “The more I attend these trainings, the more I understand the pro-life message. I feel very happy to be able to help and teach other women in my parish. It has consolidated my knowledge, mostly about God’s word on marriage, procreation, and ‘responsible parenthood.’” – Otiliah Chida
- “I gained knowledge on Natural Family Planning and understanding the gift of my fertility. I also realized how dangerous contraception is to my physical, mental, and spiritual health” – Apolonia Nyakatswau

Thank you, our faithful supporters, for making this impact possible.

had never received a comprehensive education on their own reproductive system. **This new knowledge, allowing them to read the signs of their own bodies and interact with their systems in a completely natural manner, was incredibly empowering to all the women.** Mercy Siziva commented, “I’m grateful to finally learn about the female reproductive system.” Locadia Chiwara explained that rather than be forced to utilize intrusive and often harmful methods of contraception, she could use her knowledge of Church teaching and of the female reproductive system to become a more responsible parent “through communication and collaboration with my husband that builds, not destroys, our marriage.”

Many participants pointed out that they had used contraception their entire lives out of ignorance. “I have not been using contraceptives out of preference. I wish I had known earlier the beauty of God’s gift of human sexuality and its proper role within the sanctity of marriage – I would have lived differently!” exclaimed Emmaculate Masayire. Declesinah Tembo pointed out that no one had informed her that certain contraceptives, especially chemical abortifacients, could cause “silent abortions”. Brenda Dzangare not only regret-

ted the physical effects of contraception, but also the spiritual ones: “We have been abusing the will of God [on procreation] by using contraceptives, abortion, and sterilization.”

All the participants expressed firm belief that NFP training should be regularly taught in their communities. Otiliah Chida declared, “Our Church leaders should go and teach our members about God’s plan for marriage, procreation, and responsible parenthood.” Both Emmaculate Masayire and Ferezia Kadzombe expressed a personal commitment to teach NFP to younger couples in their communities.

Next year I plan to expand the program to a full week of intense seminars. What is needed now is to grow their knowledge, so they can train others at the grassroots level. I already see positive progress from the last two years, and I believe through expansion of these efforts, many women will opt to abandon the contraceptive mentality and contraception altogether, which will result in healthier marriages and families. I’d like to thank the wonderful supporters of HLI, who have made such success possible by their financial support and prayers.

HLI's Online Course for Hispanics Continues to Advance Pro-Life Education

By Aurora Q. Tinajero, Department Director of the Multicultural Ministry, HLI-Dallas, and Mario Rojas, HLI Regional Director of Latin America

Several years ago, Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, President of HLI, asked the HLI-Miami office to strengthen pro-life education among Hispanics, both in the United States and Latin America. Hispanics are one of the ethnic groups most targeted by anti-life organizations. Mario Rojas, HLI Director of Latin America, and Adolfo Castañeda, Director of Hispanic Education and Research, decided to develop a program based on the research done by Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research. According to Dr. Clowes, it would take about two years for a new pro-life advocate to gain the knowledge necessary to serve as an effective defender of life. Given the fact that the Culture of Death acts so quickly and with such deadly results, Mario and Adolfo realized they needed to find a way to quickly and effectively provide

Dr. Brian's training programs to Hispanics all over the world. In 2014, Adolfo joined forces with Felipe Vizcarrondo, MD, who is an invaluable resource to HLI. Together, they co-authored the Pro-Life Online Course for Hispanics, available in both Spanish and English.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COURSE

Adolfo and Dr. Felipe spared no effort to create an exceptional pro-life course. The main goal was to condense all the valuable information on the HLI website into a concise summary. This included sections of Dr. Brian's research, documents of the Church, surveys of anti-life groups, and much more. **This course sought, and continues to seek, to form minds and hearts by providing a comprehensive presentation of the main**



Adolfo Castañeda, Director of Hispanic Education and Research, and Felipe Vizcarrondo, MD, co-authors of HLI's Online Course for Hispanics.

“...The resources it offered exponentially increased pro-life education throughout Latin America and the U.S.”

pro-life issues. Once completed, the student will be able to speak, write, debate, and converse about pro-life issues with effectiveness. Towards this end, the course has a twofold mission: first, to teach and explain the key concepts that the pro-life argument rests on – the dignity of the human person and the right to life, and second, to motivate students to action.

The course categorizes the information into chapters or modules, each subdivided into manageable lessons. The lessons of the course are filled with pictures and diagrams in order to more accurately portray difficult concepts. The first lesson of each module presents a specific anti-life problem, such as abortion. The following lesson breaks down the problem, addressing the root of the issue, using the teachings of Scripture and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. The last lesson lays out actions that can be taken to prevent or stop the problem, and to effectively impact others. The lessons are organized into a question-and-answer format to help the student better grasp the information. The course also provides a multiple-choice test at the end of each module. Upon successful completion of a module’s test,

one receives a certificate, which encourages him or her to continue to the next module. After completing the seventh and last module, the student receives a certificate from HLI-Miami for the entire course.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS

Adolfo and Dr. Felipe began working on this course towards the end of 2014 and completed it in September 2015. On November 19, 2015, as part of HLI Latin America’s efforts to recruit potential pro-life volunteers, the HLI Online Course for Hispanics was released. The course was adopted by HLI affiliates in multiple countries including Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Bolivia, and the United States.

The course immediately met with excellent results, as the resources it offered exponentially increased pro-life education throughout Latin America and the U.S. In the first year, hundreds were reached in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, and Argentina. After the REDESSVIDA Congress in 2016 in Bogota, Colombia, VHI Advisor for Latin American Missions, Nancy Tosi, was invited

January 2020 Events

Please Pray for HLI’s Mission Work in January:

- January 10-12: HLI will participate in the Chicago March for Life.
- January 15-20: Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes will join Dr. Ligaya Acosta and other HLI leaders in Kerala, India, for the 22nd Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life, and Family.
- January 23-25: Fr. Boquet and HLI staff will participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.
- January 30-February 10: Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes will join Emil Hagamu for a mission in Zambia.

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

to coordinate the HLI course using Skype. **Since the release of the course, about 1,800 volunteers – clergy, religious, and laity – from multiple countries in Latin America have completed the course.** Many priests, seminarians, and lay leaders have given favorable feedback and testimonies about the positive effects the online course has provided to them and their communities.

Adolfo promotes the course every week on his radio program hosted by EWTN Spanish Catholic World Radio. The course is also advertised in his weekly e-letter alongside various pro-life articles. The success met by the online course has increased opportunities for HLI training throughout Latin America.

The demand has increased to such a degree that

HLI is considering developing additional training courses. One option that we are currently researching is a bioethics course which is already accredited by universities in Nicaragua, prepared by Rafael Cabrera, MD, an affiliate of HLI who participates in many of HLI's Latin American programs. We are also attempting to find coordinators to translate these courses into other languages, such as Portuguese and French.

Thanks to you, our generous donors, these goals come closer and closer to reality. With the blessing of God and your continued support, HLI will someday be able to offer the pro-life message in every language to all the peoples of the world.

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.

Testimonials from HLI's Online Course Graduates

Aurora Tinajero, Department Director of the Multicultural Ministry, HLI-Dallas

I work for the Spanish-speaking Pro-Life Community in Dallas, Texas. I serve the Hispanic, Filipino, African-American, and Vietnamese communities of the United States. In the many years that I have done pro-life work, one of my most useful websites for research and training is Human Life International, especially their website that is geared specifically towards Spanish-speaking communities, Vida Humana Internacional (VHI). All things related to pro-life issues are on the website and are well stated and regularly updated. This is a great blessing for us since we use the website as a point of reference for our research. Also, when callers ask for pro-life information, the VHI website is the one we most often refer them to.

The part of the website that my ministry uses most is the HLI Online Course for Hispanics. I started using this training program as soon as it was offered, and it was so useful that it quickly became a requirement for all incoming employees to complete the course. Without exception, they have all learned critical information about various pro-life topics they had never encountered. Often, employees request hard copies of the information for use in the workspace. We're very grateful for the work that VHI is doing to assist us in staying informed and updated on the Culture of Life. The work they do is invaluable and vital to our mission.



Blanca Rosa Gallardo, Dallas, Texas

With great pleasure, I would like to share a personal review of the HLI Online Course for Hispanics. For many years now I have shared with my family all the pro-life material I received from HLI. However, all the tools that I learned were put to the test when

my 18-year-old son, Armando, informed me that his 17-year-old girlfriend, Alejandra, was pregnant. Initially I was frozen in shock; I did not expect such news coming from my son! However, as I adjusted to the information, I could now understand better why so many families are tempted to use anti-life methods like contraception and abortion. My family was immediately exposed to the harsh reality of being humiliated, judged, and criticized by relatives, friends, and strangers. **However, despite this persecution, my son and his girlfriend decided to honor their pro-life upbringing by keeping the baby.** I was able to see that true love can overcome serious obstacles. I am now the happy grandmother of a beautiful boy named Armando Daniel, who was born on June 15, 2015.

During the most difficult part of the pregnancy, my son Armando told me that his choice to keep his son came entirely from the contents of the HLI Online Course. He said that despite the persecution he endured, he remains staunchly pro-life. Furthermore, he wants to participate in active pro-life work. Both Armando and Alejandra were grateful for the pro-life information which guided them towards the right decision. Their great love for their son helped them to become stunning pro-life witnesses to their schoolmates. Through their example, their friends learned multiple valuable lessons regarding life with an unexpected pregnancy. They realized that the best thing for young adults is to save sexual relations for marriage. They came to value the dignity of life, and to reject contraception and abortion.

I want to thank Our Lord for having opened my eyes to understand the dignity of life and the threats of the Culture of Death. I am sure that I will continue to relate this beautiful family testimony, and I will continually ask Our Lord to save many lives, as was done with my grandson Armando Daniel. I am grateful to you, HLI's generous donors, who have so selflessly supported this life-changing work.

HLI Rejoices at Victorious Defense of Life in Ecuador

By Deborah M. Piroch, HLI Director of Public Relations

Ecuador is a deeply religious country, with most of the population being either Christian or Catholic. Despite pressure from outside organizations like the UN and



Monsignor Alfredo José Espinoza, Archbishop of Quito, Ecuador, celebrating Holy Mass.

International Planned Parenthood Federation, the populace overwhelming defends the sanctity of life and the family. Many oppose the current law which permits abortion in cases where the mother's health is seriously endangered or she is mentally disabled.

A recent legislative proposal would have drastically increased access to abortion. This legislation would have expanded the violence of abortion to cases of malformation of the baby, incest, rape, or "unconsented insemination". To make matters worse, these conditions were open to arbitrary interpretation. For instance, no proof would have been required in the case of rape – a woman merely needed to claim she had been raped, even without a police report, and could obtain an abortion. The "unconsented insemination" provision was even more vague, providing a large loophole for women to seek abortions. **Many have been praying and mobilizing in great numbers to oppose this abortion expansion.**

HLI joined countless other Christian organizations in campaigning against passage of this law. Prayers and Masses were offered publicly to intercede for the victory of Life. In order to educate the public, information on the dangers of anti-life legislation was widely distributed.

Nancy Tosi, VHI Advisor for Latin American Missions, met with multiple Catholic legislators, urging them to vote against the new law. From September 12-14, 2019, Nancy led a three-day training program in Ecuador. During an interview with Radio Maria, Nancy encouraged a public demonstration. This resulted in a Eucharistic Procession, held by the Archdiocese of Cuenca, followed by 24 hours of Adoration.



The abortion vote by the National Assembly of Ecuador was scheduled for September 18. Since busloads of pro-lifers were expected to descend on Quito, home of the National Assembly, the National Assembly moved the vote back by a day to avoid the crowds. During the vote, Mass was celebrated in the street nearby by Archbishop Alfredo José Espinoza of Quito, Primate of Ecuador. Nancy reported, "People were scared because information on the voting progress was not released. All Catholics were kneeling in the street during Mass, praying to God for His victory."

**Vigilia de oración
por el respeto a la vida
desde la concepción**

Asambleístas no es justo eliminar una vida humana para resolver un problema

PROGRAMA

Martes 17 de septiembre

de 18:00 a 20:00 Oración en la **Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción de Cuenca**.

20:45 Procesión con el Santísimo Sacramento, hasta el templo de **San Blas**.

21:00 Vigilia y adoración hasta las 18h00 del día miércoles 18 (**San Blas**).

Miércoles 18 de septiembre

18:00 Santa Misa - **San Blas**

“Life has won! They didn’t have enough votes! Thanks be to God!”
– Nancy Tosi

A majority of 70 was necessary to expand abortion. In the first round, the vote was 69, **one vote short of a pro-abortion victory**. In an unusual step, a second round of voting was encouraged. It was at this point that the work of HLI and its affiliates bore fruit. One of the conflicted Catholic legislators decided to abstain from the second vote, even though she had voted for abortion in round one. In abstaining, she helped erode pro-abortion support and kept anti-life forces at bay. In the end, 65 voted in favor, 59 against, with 6 abstentions. The National Assembly of Ecuador had defeated a measure to expand abortion.

HLI greeted the news with relief and thanksgiving. Archbishop Espinoza shed tears of happiness on hearing the news, stating, “Life has triumphed, Ecuador is a country that remains in favor of life and not of abortion.”



Monsignor Marcos Pérez, Archbishop of Cuenca, Ecuador, leading a Eucharistic Procession.

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Despite this blessed victory, it is obvious that pro-abortion legislators will continue to push their agenda of death, without any regard for the wishes of the Christian and Catholic population of Ecuador. Already, they are attempting to take the issue to the Constitutional Court of Ecuador. Be assured that HLI and her affiliates will continue to fight against the expansion of abortion in Ecuador, thanks to your gracious support.

P.S. “Many Catholics and people in the general population are no longer able to distinguish what is good from what is sinful and evil. The language and truth about faith, life, marriage, and the family are no longer understood. There is so much confusion. We need your help.”

I hear this from bishops, priests, seminarians, and lay faithful when I am on a mission, be it in some remote corner of the world or here at home in the United States. **When they say “We need your help,” they are talking to you – their brothers and sisters in Christ!**

The work we do in Zimbabwe, Ecuador, the U.S., and Latin America, or anywhere in the world, is only possible with your prayers. I, along with our global pro-life missionaries, are strengthened by your prayers. We are all members of the Church Militant and must band together to confront the forces of evil as we simultaneously work to build a Culture of Life and Love. The lives we impact with our rosaries, Holy Hours, Masses, and devotions will be revealed one day when we meet Our Lord and hear the words we long to hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master’s joy!”

Your prayers are vital, as are your contributions. Regardless of the amount – \$10, \$100, or \$1,000 – your generous sacrifices and contributions are essential to fulfilling the mandate of Pope St. John Paul II to go and *do the most important work on earth*. Yes, he said those stirring words to Fr. Marx. But he is also saying them to us.

When you give to HLI, you too are *doing the most important work on earth!* With your gift today of \$53 or more, I will send you a pro-life ceramic mug for you to happily display your support for Life!

May the joy and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, remain with you and yours always.

Merry Christmas and Christmastide!



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 this pro-life ceramic mug.