



Mission Report

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Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

The Culture of Death activists worldwide really seem to have a great fear—or loathing—for the people of Africa. An enormous amount of money is spent each year by Western governments and NGOs trying to force the African people to accept contraception, abortion, same-sex “marriage,” and other elements of the radical anti-life agenda. Traditional family values that celebrate life and embrace the sacredness of marriage are still very strong in the African nations. And many of these nations still have strong legal measures in place protecting the innocent in the womb and God’s design for marriage.

But the light of Faith cannot continue to shine without support and fuel for the fire. Thus, sadly, as the “gospel” of the secular world has flooded African culture, many have lost their way and have rejected God’s truth about the dignity of the human person and His divine plan for human sexuality. That is why our pro-life missionary work in this region is so important—and in need of your prayers and support—as you’ll read in this month’s reports from Namibia and South Africa.

As we celebrate this month the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and her Queenship over Heaven and earth, please join me in asking Our Lady for her intercession to assist HLI’s pro-life missionaries in building a Culture of Life around the world.

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



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President

MISSIONARY TRIP TO NAMIBIA

By Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-speaking Africa, May 2015

On this mission trip, my second to Namibia, Human Life International helped organize a three-day pro-life training conference for clergy, religious, and lay leaders in the country. The conference was jointly organized by Fr. Michael Muronga, who is a parish priest at Sambyu Catholic Church and HLI's representative in Rundu Diocese, and Madgalena Vendura, the coordinator of Catholic Women's Movement in the Rundu Vicariate. This mission was a follow-up to HLI's training conference last February, at which HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and I laid the groundwork for future efforts.

THE "NEED" FOR POPULATION CONTROL

Traveling the 450 miles north from Namibia's capital, Windhoek, to Rundu, one notices a country with vast blocks of uninhabited land. Indeed, Namibia is among the nations with the lowest population density, with

only 6.7 persons per square mile. Rather than cities and suburbs, what one sees throughout most of the country are cacti trees, characteristic of the desert landscape.

The reality in the southern coastal African nation is, however, that despite having a population density that is 1/100th of that in the United Kingdom, international NGOs have made population control a priority, directly threatening Life and Family values in Namibian culture. Contraception is pushed relentlessly, and there is great pressure brought internationally to legalize abortion. It is already practiced illegally in this pro-life nation.

Magdalena Vendura, a representative of Namibia's Ministry of Health and Social Services in Rundo, acknowledged during my visit that the HIV infection rate is still among the highest in the world at over 13% adult prevalence. Those between 15 and 45-years-old are the most affected. Sex education taught in Namibia promotes the very activity that spreads AIDS—pre-marital sex—while also promoting condoms as the only protection against it.

HLI's St. Gianna Beretta Molla Guild



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Thank you!

I was shocked to find that radical gender ideology is now being widely promoted. The government has been pressured to change its laws to accommodate alternative lifestyles. Priests whom we met in Windhoek told stories of people leaving the country for sex reassignment surgeries, a practice gaining momentum. However, these people are unable to re-enter the country with their new identity.

SIN IS STILL SIN

In our discussions with consecrated religious, we had to remind them about Catholic Church teaching on homosexuality, which condemns the practice and not the person, and which welcomes the repentant sinner back at any time. Many progressive members of our faith do not see the intrinsic evil of homosexual actions. They use arguments such as “Are they not human beings created in the image of God?” to justify toleration.

Sin is still sin and the acceptance of such disingenuous and incomplete arguments pose a serious threat to the survival of faith communities and indeed to the entire population of Namibia, where HIV/AIDS is an active pandemic. When we abandon God’s commandments and design, we fall into sin and, consequently, death.

PRO-LIFE TRAINING

The wonderful singing and dancing that often accompanies our training events in Africa perfectly complements HLI’s workshops, in which we highlight the sacredness and dignity of all human life. It is a joyful truth that every human is created in the image of God at the moment of conception. During the conference, I talked to those in attendance about God’s divine plan for human procreation and man’s obligation to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth. I also spoke about the spiritual and physical threats to the culture, and how to strengthen the sacred institution of marriage in society.

The devil—always a liar and a murderer—is the primary architect of man’s fallen nature. His deceitful ways, first used against Adam and Eve, persist today, as he deceives mankind into accepting the Culture of Death and the population control agenda, which promotes false reproductive “health care,” such as contraception, sterilization, abortion, and radical gender identity.

Regrettably, it is considered a human right in many nations to kill the weakest members of our society: preborn children, the sick, the handicapped, and the elderly. While preborn



humans are killed by abortion, the rest are killed through “mercy killings” or physician-assisted suicide. Advances in science are no longer directed toward safeguarding the life and well-being of mankind, rather toward the destruction of mankind.

The contraceptive mentality presumes that women need “birth control” because pregnancy is a disease. Especially in poor nations, advocates convince women that family planning is necessary, coercing them to use some form of contraception which makes women victims to unrealized harmful side effects. But natural family planning, used prudentially with a fundamental openness to life, is the best choice. NFP is in conformity with man’s nature, Catholic Church teaching, and God’s design for human fertility.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

Sadly, Western influences are affecting Namibian culture, especially through radio and television programs that are sponsored by population control and pro-abortion lobby groups. Lately, their messages have focused on changing the views of African youth. Influenced by these messages, the youth begin to accept anti-life, pro-abortion ideology, as well as contraception and radical feminist ideology on marriage, motherhood, and family.

Although HLI is confronted with serious



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-speaking Africa (front, right) with couples group in Windhoek.

challenges of a culture inundated by evil agendas, we have won many victories in collaboration with our partners, who know what people authentically value and want for their families. And these victories only come by the grace of God. Fortunately, Africans still consider human life to be paramount. While the powers of the secular world want to focus on personal pleasure, our work is refocusing people on Christ and His Gospel.

HLI will continue to spread programs that promote life and the family. HLI affiliates in Anglophone Africa consider HLI the only organization with credibility to reinforce or transform the culture to favor Life and Family, keeping Africa the beacon of hope for the world on

these issues. Please join me in praying for the pro-life movement in Africa, that the people will rise up against the “ideological colonization”—as Pope Francis put it—being pushed on our culture.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

By Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Research and Education, May 2015

The Devil was smoking again today.

People who live in Cape Town, South Africa only have to look at Devil’s Peak, looming over the city next to Table Mountain, to see if it is going to rain that day. If the Peak has a “cloud cap,” they say that the Devil is smoking and there will be rain. Sure enough, it rained all week.

But the weather has never been an obstacle to Human Life International’s pro-life missionary corps. HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and I had just endured 20 hours of flying from Washington, D.C., to Cape Town to be joined by Emil Hagamu, our regional director for Anglophone Africa, and our host Colette Thomas.

Our objective was to encourage beleaguered local pro-lifers, try to organize them, help them define their missions and goals, and provide them with materials to fight the battle. During our stay, we would participate in a wide range of activities, from picketing a Marie Stopes International abortion center to doing interviews for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

ABORTION, AIDS, AND EUTHANASIA IN SOUTH AFRICA

HLI has visited South Africa many times. Fr. Paul Marx, O.S.B., our founder, visited the nation five times, the first time in 1982. Local pro-lifers credited HLI with delaying the legalization of abortion in South Africa for at least three years, until Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) approved the February 1, 1997 Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act. Since that time, a total of about 1.9 million abortions have been performed in South Africa.

Currently, 83,000 legal abortions and about 40,000 illegal abortions are performed every year, and women are still dying from both. There are obvious signs of the corruption that always accompanies abortion here. Illegal abortion centers, seeking to undercut the prices set by legal abortion offices, plaster hundreds of ads on telephone poles and on walls. But when a local pro-lifer recently covered some of them with his own life-promoting signs, he was immediately arrested and then sued by the city. Officials here schizophrenically defend the illegal abortion centers while simultaneously decrying their butchery of women.

We don't hear as much as we used to about the AIDS epidemic in the USA, but in South Africa it remains a stark reality. About 18% of all people over the age of 15 are infected with HIV. Try to imagine a large urban area where one in every five people has HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, a staggering six million people are living with HIV/AIDS—the highest number in the world—and in 2012, 235,000 South Africans died of the disease.

These numbers will probably climb over the next several years at least, and the government still believes, after two decades of futility, that condoms—not behavior change—is the solution to the disaster. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results; by this definition, the South African medical profession is truly out of its mind.

The battle over euthanasia in South Africa began in 1991 and escalated rapidly. By 1997, it was plain that the pro-euthanasia activists were getting nowhere. Even the most liberal churches and the medical



Fr. Boquet (center) and other pro-lifers march to an abortion center in South Africa.

profession opposed it. In 2004, a euthanasia bill was introduced before the parliament and was voted down. After a decade of relative quiet after that defeat, the pro-euthanasia group Dignity SA is pushing it again. They claim that Nelson Mandela supported it, a clever tactic since Mandela is considered a great secular saint in South Africa. Fortunately, the two most critical members of Parliament, the Ministers of Health and Justice, adamantly oppose it. So now the fight has morphed from the question of when an unborn baby becomes a person to the question of when an elderly or disabled person loses his personhood.

CULTURAL DECAY AND CORRUPTION

South African society is very strange. Everything that is not nailed down is immediately stolen. Thieves even swipe the brass numbers on houses to recycle their metal and tear apart any outside appliances to steal their metal. Gravestones and the graves themselves are pilfered and reused. Many a family member has visited a gravesite only to find that the remains of their loved one has been removed and replaced by someone else.

I read the newspapers every morning while staying at my hosts Maureen and Mervin Hartogh's beautiful home. They were full of news about gang murders, ghastly sex crimes, and corruption at every level. This week's scandal focused on international soccer governing body FIFA. All of the politicians seem completely baffled by this "culture of corruption," but moral formation of children is forbidden in South

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Prayer Warriors Called to Fatima's International Prayer Congress for Life

by Krista Schmid Thomas

Joannes Bucher recognizes the providential link between this year's 7th HLI-sponsored International Prayer Congress for Life and the Synod of the Family, both held this coming October.

"With contemptible assaults increasing against life and family," said Mr. Bucher, "the need for prayer and dialogue about the Church's true teachings have never been clearer, especially for the protection of life from conception to natural death, God's plan for sacramental marriage, and sanctification of our families."

Bucher is the regional director of Europe for Human Life International, which is coordinating the Prayer Congress for Life with Helpers of God's Precious Infants (USA), Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (UK), and World Apostolate of Fatima.

When the 7th International Prayer Congress for Life convenes October 2-7, 2015, the faithful will assemble with the intention of praying against every evil of the world and making reparations for associated assaults. The event will occur in Fatima, Portugal, where historic events and Marian prophecies took place almost a hundred years ago...



Read the full article at <http://www.hli.org/2015/07/fatima-international-prayer-congress-for-life/>

Pro-life advocates score a major victory at the Organization of American States

by Steve Weatherbe, LifeSiteNews.com

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 30, 2105 (LifeSiteNews) – A loose alliance of pro-family, pro-life "civil society organizations" (CSOs) took over their portion of the Organization of American States annual general assembly, held in Washington D.C., this June, usurping for the first time in a decade the forces of radical feminism and sexual liberation.



...

The CSOs met in a ballroom attached to the OAS's permanent headquarters in Washington, D.C.,

Steve Phelan of Human Life International told LifeSiteNews. There they divided into four roundtables, each of which addressed one of the OAS’ “pillars”: economic development, human rights, democracy and security. Each roundtable produced from its discussion a statement read to the OAS ambassadors meeting the next day.

“Over the past 10 years or so, until now,” said Phelan, “these meetings were controlled by feminist groups seeking expanded access to feminist or LGBT groups.” They insisted, he added, in filling each group’s statement with calls for so-called “re-productive” or sexual rights.

This time pro-life and pro-family CSOs came in force, and ensured that the economic table talked development for all people, the democracy table talked about elections, the security table talked about policing, “and we told the LGBT people we weren’t against them, but the human rights table was the place for their issues to be brought up.” ...

Read the full article online at <https://www.lifesite-news.com/news/pro-life-advocates-score-a-major-victory-at-the-organization-of-american-st>

Africa because it is an alleged violation of the separation of Church and state. I was reminded of C.S. Lewis’ observation in his great book *The Abolition of Man*: “We make men without chests and expect from them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.”

SPREADING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

We began our business by meeting the Archbishop of Cape Town, Stephen Brislin, who kindly gave us an hour of his time. He was very friendly and receptive to our message as we communicated our assessment of the problems in South Africa, their root causes, and what could be done about them. He invited us back to Cape Town for more activities, which include speaking to his seminarians—an offer we eagerly accepted.

We were based at St. John’s Catholic Church in Maitland, an inner-city zone of Cape Town. Crime has hit close to home here. Security measures at the church are daunting, and for good reason. We had to lock ourselves into and out of the St. John’s parish center because the pastor here has been mugged twice, and another priest was kidnapped. Fr. Zane Godwin and his cat “Catsandra” gave us a warm welcome, and Fr. Zane introduced us to the pro-life activists we would be speaking to.

We talked about a wide range of topics during our four-day conference. Since the society here has disintegrated to such an advanced degree, Fr. Boquet began with a talk on the sources of evil and of good, and the root of moral decay in both the human person and in society as a whole. I gave several talks on topics of general interest, including the failure of condoms to prevent HIV, abortion and demographics, and the population



From left to right: Emil Hagamu, Colette Thomas, HLI’s affiliate in South Africa, Archbishop Stephen Brislin, Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, and Dr. Brian Clowes.

control agenda. Emil Hagamu provided us with his valuable insights regarding problems in Africa as a whole, gleaned from his many visits to half the countries on the continent.

On Saturday, we walked a short distance to the Marie Stopes International abortion center through the beauty of downtown Cape Town after Fr. Boquet said Mass in Sacred Heart Catholic Church. We stood praying the Rosary for about an hour on the median of the road and saw only two people enter the building, one of whom was an employee. One young guy was very upset and yelled, “If He existed, Jesus would be ashamed of you!” My reply was, “If He doesn’t exist, what’s your problem?”

One afternoon, I was invited to speak to the Muslims at the mosque next door to my host’s house. When the imam (the person who leads Islamic worship services) heard I was pro-life, he was immediately interested. It seems that we have a lot in common. There are such good people in South Africa, but the secular culture is in ruins.

It is difficult for us to see such beautiful people in such a glorious land so oppressed by sin of every kind. The only people who seemed to smile were our fellow activist Catholics and small children. The nation as a whole seems to have decided to disregard both the laws of God and man, and the results are sadly obvious: a crippled economy, bloated corruption and crime rates, and rampant disease.

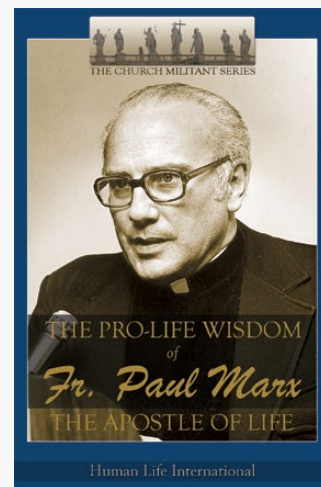
Human Life International has been to South Africa many times, and we will undoubtedly return many times more. We intend to help this great land return to the only two things that will make its people happy: Faith and Family.

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 our latest pro-life educational resource: *The Pro-Life Wisdom of Fr. Paul Marx*.

This collection of quotes by Father Paul Marx, OSB, gathered by his friends and co-workers clearly demonstrates the prescience of Father Marx in immediately recognizing what would follow from the widespread acceptance of contraception and abortion by Western society. This collection not only shows his insight and courage but also his unfailing joy, love, kindness, humor, and wit, which confounded his opponents and endeared him to millions. Today Human Life International carries on his work with the mission to create effective opposition to the Culture of Death around the world

Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today, and we’ll ship you this new pro-life resource!



The Pro-Life Wisdom of Fr. Paul Marx is this month’s pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!