



Mission Report

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- * **Training Priests, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders in *Kenya***
- * **A New Awakening to Life Issues in *Venezuela***
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Our Lady of Fatima's Peace Plan from Heaven.***

Left: Nancy Tosi (center) arrives in Venezuela for the the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Congress.

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In this month's issue of *Mission Report*, Emil Hagamu, HLI Director of Anglophone Africa, reports from Kenya, where Dr. Brian Clowes and I met Emil for a series of training sessions to priests, seminarians, and professional lay leaders.

Kenya is a country where the people are naturally pro-life and pro-family, but where the proponents of the Culture of Death spend a lot of time, effort, and financial resources trying to change their way of life. HLI works hard in Kenya, as we do in so many places around the world, helping people resist the pressure of those who would destroy their communities through contraception, abortion, and all the other evils of the Culture of Death. We do this by teaching the unchangeable doctrines of the Catholic Church, and by exposing the errors of our adversaries through reason and science. At times the battle seems daunting, but the souls we witness who make radical changes in their lives and in their communities remind us that God is truly working through us to change hearts.

Also in this issue, you will hear about the amazing work being done in Venezuela. This country, torn in so many ways, has been extraordinarily receptive to the message of life brought there by HLI and our affiliates. From clergy members to government officials to professionals and laity of all walks of life, there is truly a new awakening to the critical truths of life and family that are so distained in most of modern society. We are grateful to our missionaries in this region for the inspiring work they are doing there.

And finally, we are grateful to you, our faithful supporters, who make this missionary work for life possible month after month and year after year. I thank you on behalf of our entire HLI family. May God reward you!

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

MISSIONARY TRIP TO KENYA

By Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, January 2017

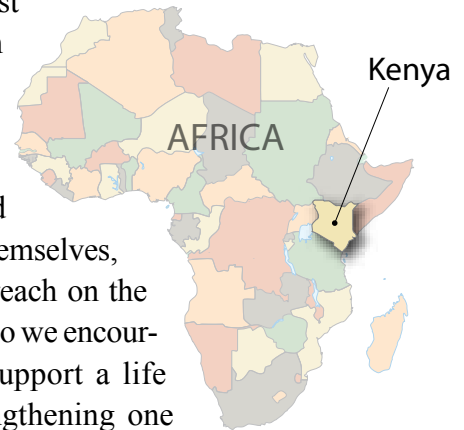
Fr. Shenan Boquet, Dr. Brian Clowes, and I made a very successful mission trip to Kenya in January of this year. We were hosted by the Little Sisters of St. Joseph Spiritual Center in Karen, Nairobi. Fr. Raphael Wanjohi and his team arranged meetings for us with various groups in Nairobi and Nyeri. Our mission work was strengthened by daily Mass, which took place in the sisters' chapel within the convent. HLI Kenya, which is now about 20 years old, is directed by Fr. Raphael Wanjohi and works with priests, seminarians, professionals, and University students.

MEETING PRIESTS

On Friday, January 13, Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian addressed members of the priests' chapter at the Little Daughters of St. Joseph Spiritual Center. Fr. Boquet began his talk by pointing out that while Africans deeply love life, marriage, and the family, they also fall prey easily to the Culture of Death. He exhorted the priests to teach more on life and family issues, reminding them that they are leaders in the Church, and they command

great respect from the people they lead. If they fail to live up to their role, then they betray that role.

Sadly, Fr. Boquet lamented, the Church is not defending the family. The ideal structure is breaking down. He challenged these priests to ask themselves, "How often do we preach on the gift of life and love? Do we encourage structures that support a life of communion, strengthening one another and encouraging one another?"



Today, there are many ambiguities in what Church leaders say regarding contraception, abortion, and homosexuality. Bishops are divided. Priests are divided. And so the laity are also divided. Fr. Boquet quoted a passage from the book, "God or Nothing," by Cardinal Sarah, which stated that the fundamental question for the Church in mission countries is "*how does Jesus Christ affect, effect, and infect us?*" **If we allow the Culture of Death to take root, then we shall see the consequences: families shrinking, vocations drying, churches dying.**



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Emil Hagamu, Dr Brian Clowes, Fr Raphael Wanjohi, and HLI Kenya professionals in Nairobi, Kenya.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet giving a talk to seminarians at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya.

After Fr. Boquet's talk, Dr. Brian gave a talk on the work of Human Life International and a demonstration on how to use the Facts of Life CD and its training component.

MEETING PROFESSIONALS

On Saturday, Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian gave a talk to 11 Professionals in which they highlighted HLI's mission around the world and the challenges that arise in fulfilling it, and Dr. Brian gave a presentation on the population control agenda.

In a subsequent meeting, Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian discussed how to balance family life and professional work while being active in the pro-life mission. **Unfortunately, family life in Kenya is transitioning from traditional (extended family structures) to 'modern' (small family structure), which really hampers the proper raising of children.**

A TALK TO SEMINARIANS

On Sunday, Fr. Shenan Boquet and Dr. Brian spoke to 153 seminarians at Christ the King Major Seminary, Nyeri, where the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Maingi Mutune is rector. In a presentation on the population control agenda, Dr. Brian demonstrated how part of this agenda attempts

to mentally "colonize" Africans to think and behave like North Americans and Europeans. This includes getting them to change their religious and cultural values, accept LGBT, and desire smaller family structures.

Fr. Boquet inspired the seminarians by stating: "You are being prepared for battle; you are the mighty warriors." And he outlined the aims of the enemy: To destroy the family through divorce and cohabitation; to encourage same-sex "marriage"; to view women as property; and to view children as objects to be disposed of. In order to combat these false teachings, he added, **we must be able to explain the theological understanding of man and a woman as complementary and created in the image and likeness of God.**

TALK TO STUDENTS

On Monday, Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian talked to University student representatives at Nyeri House on a wide range of issues including the population control agenda.

THE FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION

On Tuesday, we visited the Family Life Commission at Waumini House in Nairobi, where we were warmly received by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. Theresa Mera Abuya. After a brief introduction, she

took us to the Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference, where we were given a brief presentation on the Church in Kenya. The Secretary explained to us that Catholics make up 32% of the total population. There are 26 dioceses, which are divided into 4 metropolitan sees. The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops has 16 commissions and 110 staff members. Overall, he informed us, the Catholic leaders in Kenya are faithful to Church doctrine.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MAJOR SEMINARY

On Wednesday, our hosts took us to the magnificent St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, where we met a very friendly rector and his staff. There were 101 seminarians representing the seminaries from around the area: Hekima, Tangaza, and Apostles of Jesus. While Dr. Brian gave his talk on population control and its impact on Africa, Fr. Boquet gave a talk on the mission of the pro-life movement. He quoted St. John Paul II from his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*: our mission is to love, defend, protect, and serve life. Core issues of the pro-life movement are life, family, contraception,



Dr. Brian Clowes addressing HLI Kenya professionals in Nairobi, Kenya.

abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, and reproductive technologies. **He encouraging Church leaders to inform people's consciences, remain united, act in unison, and develop programs that help people understand life issues.**

CONCLUSION

I would like to sincerely thank HLI Kenya for their leadership in arranging this mission program. It was a full itinerary, but very enlightening. My special gratitude goes to HLI Central for the financial support that made this visit possible. The talks by Fr. Shenan Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes were very useful and relevant. It is my prayer that HLI Kenya will be more pro-active in challenging the forces of the Culture of Death that are already visibly active in Kenya.

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!

MISSIONARY TRIP TO VENEZUELA

By Luis Martinez, Legal Advisor for VHI-OAS Program, and Mario Rojas, HLI Regional Director of Latin America, January-February 2017

Pro-Life Monagas, an enthusiastic and committed group led by Fr. Manuel Gerónimo Sifontes, had the opportunity to participate in the 2016 1st National Pro-Life Congress organized in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. Based on their experience at this congress, they decided to organize the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Congress in Monagas, one of Venezuela's 23 states.

VENEZUELA, THE COUNTRY

Venezuela is, in fact, a four-region union (Valley, East, West, and North) with a diversity of customs and habits. The country is going through a deep political, economic, and social crisis. The validity of its institutions, especially the public ones, and the confidence of the people in their political leaders are weakening, together with their economy. The average income is not enough to satisfy the most basic needs, like nutrition. Entertainment has become an unaffordable luxury. Hunger leads to crime, violence, and lack of security: 9 of every 10 Venezuelans have been crime victims. In addition, Maturin, the city where our pro-life mission took place, is considered the 3rd most dangerous city in Latin America.

Regarding pro-life and pro-family issues, there is a lack of knowledge and culture in Venezuela, especially in Maturin. **However, they are also experiencing a “new awakening” and interest these issues.** We were surprised and pleased at the positive attitude and gratitude shown by participants from different walks of life. We were especially surprised at the support we received from the people of the Venezuelan government. **Despite the polarization in Venezuela with regard to politics, there is a unanimous mindset that supports Catholic faith, as well as the defense of life and family.**



1ST MONAGAS PRO-LIFE CONGRESS

Mario Rojas, HLI Regional Director for Latin America, arrived in Maturin on Monday January 30th, and from January 31 to February 3, he visited parishes; gave radio, newspaper, and TV interviews promoting the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Congress; and he related for those who could not attend the congress the good news about the pro-life and pro-family message. Meanwhile, Nancy Tosi, HLI's advisor for Latin America, and I (Luis Martinez) arrived in Maturin on February 3rd, where we were warmly and received by the Pro-Life Monagas' team.

Mario also visited the northern region of Caripe, where he spoke to priests, seminarians, and laity about gender ideology and how it attacks the family, and also about parental responsibility. Nancy and I visited the region Punta de Mata, Caripito, bringing information on life and family issues, which generated a lot of interest and got many people involved in the pro-life movement. On February 5th, Raymond de Souza arrived in Maturin, so the team was complete!



Mario Rojas (second from left) in the northern region of Caripe, where he spoke to priests, seminarians, and laity about gender ideology and how it attacks the family.



Mario Rojas, presenting HLI's *Pro-life Pastoral Handbook* to Bishop Enrique Perez of Maturin, Monagas.

We had a lunch meeting with Bishop Enrique Perez Lavado, Bishop of the Diocese of Maturin, Monagas. Mario Rojas shared with him information on HLI mission and the particular project that was about to begin. Mario explained our commitment to bringing the Gospel of Life especially to priests and seminarians through the project Latin American Network for Priests and Seminarians for Life (REDESSVIDA) and the many congresses we have organized since 2010, which have also been directed toward life and family leaders in Latin America. Mario also explained our online training



Partial view of educators to whom Mario Rojas and Luis Martinez spoke in Maturin, Monagas, Venezuela.

program, which we conducted for 289 participants from all the parishes of the diocese of Sonson Rionegro, Colombia, and added that HLI was willing to offer similar online training to the diocese of Maturin, Monagas. The bishop was very receptive to the offer of training and agreed to maintain a close relationship with HLI. **He was so enthusiastic that he sent a message to all his priests, asking them to attend the pro-life congress that was taking place the next day.**

On February 6th, we began the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Congress, with more than 70 priests and seminarians, several nuns, and laymen. The media was present as well, and there were a few interviews given by the HLI team and some priests. Mons. Pérez-Lavado was responsible for the opening and was present throughout the entire congress. After his great opening speech, Mario Rojas presented "The Myth of Overpopulation," and Raymond led the second conference called "The Western Hemisphere's De-Christianization and the New Catholic Action." For the second part of the day, Nancy Tosi talked about "Human Dignity and Sexuality," followed by my talk on the "Gender Ideology."

The next day started the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Meeting "Life in a Week." The activities began with a talk by Mario Rojas called "Responsible Parenthood." Next, I gave a talk on "Gender Ideology at Education." **There were around 500 educators present for the training, most of them teachers, professors, tutors, and educational staff.** They all became so enthusiastic and

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motivated that many of them asked about joining the pro-life movement in Monagas. In the afternoon, Nancy Tosi and Raymond de Souza spoke to more than 600 students on “Sexuality” and “The Existence of God by Logic and Science.”

On Thursday many socialist politicians, government agents, and left-wing participants came to learn about the defense of life and family. There were also some lawyers and media professionals of Monagas in attendance. The program included a talk I gave on “Legislative Sources for Life and Family Defense,” followed by a talk from Mario Rojas on “Sustainable Development and the Family Role and Input.”

In the afternoon, Nancy Tosi and Raymond de Souza spoke to more than 200 young students of UBV (*Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela*) on “Human Dignity and Sexuality” and “The Existence of God by Logic and Science.”

Finally, on the last day of this amazing and God-blessed pro-life week, Nancy Tosi spoke at the CLSEM to nearly 500 high school teenagers about human dignity and sexuality, leaving in their hearts a deep message of change and encouragement to being better men and women. The educational authority for the region said, with excitement, that she really appreciated that message for the Monagas state.

The closing event was at the Maturin Cathedral, Our Lady of Carmen,



From left to right: Fr. Manuel Geronimo Sifontes, Adviser of Provida Monagas, Mario Rojas of HLI, Bishop Enrique Perez, Raymond de Souza of HLI, Nancy Tosi of HLI, and Luis Martinez (legal adviser to HLI OAS).

with 230 people in attendance. Mario Rojas, Raymond de Souza, and I gave very motivational talks, which were aimed at encouraging participants to commit to the cause, keep the flame burning, and spread the message of life and family. The closing conference was a great opportunity to reach out to many churches and parishes — many of them ready to join the pro-life Monagas group and movement. **By the end of the meeting, surprisingly, authorities from the Secretary of Education presented us with gifts and expressed their great appreciation.**

Finally, it is worth mentioning that during the “Life in a Week” meeting, Mass was celebrated each day in a different parish, and after Mass HLI speakers were invited to speak to the parishioners on life issues.

CONCLUSION

The 1st Provincial Pro-Life Monagas Congress and the 1st Provincial Pro-Life Monagas meeting “Life in a Week” were blessed by God with many great fruits. The full support from Mons. Enrique Pérez was a benefit we cannot overestimate. May God bless and increase the blessings received, for the good of Venezuelan families and for the strengthening and extension of the pro-life movement through the other three Venezuelan regions. And may God bless our supporters, without whom none of this would be possible.

DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

P.S.—This month, in appreciation for your gift of \$53 or more, **I’d like to send you the booklet, *Our Lady of Fatima’s Peace Plan from Heaven*.**

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