



Mission Report

No. 389
Aug 2017

A PUBLICATION OF HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL



- * **Pro-Life Marches in 300 Cities Across Romania and Moldavia**
- * **Because of Your Support, HLI Sent Missionaries to Three New Territories: Burundi, Rwanda and the Comoros**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *The Ravages of Contraception* audio CD.**

Left: HLI trains and equips seminarians in Hungary to face the many life and family challenges they will face in their future pastoral duties.

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In your August issue of *Mission Report*, you'll read about the April mission trip of Joannes Bucher to Romania and Hungary, on which I was fortunate enough to join him. Romania has the 2nd highest abortion rate in the world, so it is critical for you to make possible HLI is there to fight the good fight.

Next, you'll learn about HLI's Affiliate in Zimbabwe, the Guadalupe Association. There they fight for Love, Life, and Family and, in one case, persuaded a mother to have her child after she tried unsuccessfully to abort three times. God is good.

And finally, you'll hear from our Anglophone (English-speaking) Africa Regional Director based in Tanzania, Emil Hagamu. He undertook a key visit for the third time to try and establish a pro-life mission in Comoros, an archipelago of four islands. Given that the population is 98% Sunni Muslim, spreading the Faith can be dangerous to say the least. Yet, seedlings are springing up and with your help we have the beginnings of an organization taking root, along with the help of the courageous bishop and priests. Our goal is to begin training the priests in this mission work as soon as 2018, God willing, as well as in Rwanda and possibly Burundi.

We require many hands to save dear babies, train priests, and convert souls in dangerous lands. While the laborers may be few, we are given our calling by God and ask that you join with us as we go about our work, praying for us and sacrificing with us in the vineyard!

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF LIFE TO HUNGARY, ROMANIA

Joannes Bucher, HLI Regional Director for Europe, April 2017

I wanted to tell you of my privilege to organize a **pro-life mission to Eastern Europe** with Fr. Boquet. While there, we brought the pro-life message to Hungary for four days, and to Romania for seven more days.

As you may know, Hungary's Christianization began hundreds of years ago with the reign of Saint Stephen in the 11th century. In recent history, so-called "Goulash Communism" ruled the nation, following the bloody suppression of the uprising of 1956. Although the fall of the Iron Curtain was most welcomed in 1989, a united campaign is still needed to reform and abolish its pro-abortion laws.

When we arrived in Hungary, we were met by Dr. Imre Téglásy, our HLI Affiliate there. An abortion survivor himself, he is a veritable champion for Life. Immediately, we began spreading the mission for Life on International Down's Syndrome Day. **Hungarians legally permit abortion through all nine months of pregnancy if the baby is suspected of having a disability. Approximately 90% of children prenatally diagnosed with Down's Syndrome are aborted.**

LIFE IS SACRED

In Budapest, the St. Francis Hospital Director General, Dr. Emil Toldy-Schodel, welcomed us declaring, "Life is sacred!" This is not surprising, as



many hospitals adopt abortion-free wards. With the help of these fine physicians and with your continued support, we hope to eventually defeat the eugenic ideologies of Margaret Sanger and Marie Stopes, which have infected Europe.

The next day, Father celebrated Mass in Budapest's Cave Church. Because it had been desecrated and



Thanks to your generous support, HLI is bringing pro-life formation to all healthcare workers in Szekszard, Hungary. Pictured far left is Dr. Imre Teglashe, HLI's Affiliate in Hungary. On the far right is Joannes Bucher, HLI's Regional Director for Europe.

closed during Communism and then rededicated in 1992, the church stands as a symbol for freedom from the Communist establishment. There, a Pauline priest named Fr. Antal Puskashas is exploring a new pro-life initiative to serve parents wounded by abortion. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, he hears confessions revealing the pain suffered by post-abortive parents. He hopes, with your help through HLI, to launch a “Rachel’s Vineyard.”

GOD’S PROVIDENCE

Later, in Szekszard, Hungary, we gave a presentation to local health professionals. We also received an invitation to visit the abortion-free children’s hospital. You will be glad to hear that the director of the hospital enthusiastically agreed to work with HLI to bring pro-life formation to all healthcare workers!

Through God’s providence we also met with Mr. Tamas Schneider, Vice President of the National Assembly in Parliament. Discussing current issues affecting Life and Family in Hungary, Fr. Boquet highlighted how HLI can be of assistance. Meeting with Pro-Life and Pro-Family activists in Budapest, we also discovered their interest in the pro-life impact of the Trump Administration and the global role that the U.S. is having on Life and Family.

ROMANIAN ABORTION RATE RANKS 2ND HIGHEST IN THE WORLD

Romania, our next destination, has been fighting for years against the abortion agenda. The Romanians



Your donations make it possible for us to provide pro-life training to seminarians around the world, like the ones pictured above in Romania. These young men are the future leaders of the Church, so it is critical that they be formed with a solid understanding of pro-life and pro-family issues.



Through HLI training, young people around the world are being formed and mobilized in the cause for life and family.



Your gifts have made pro-life training for seminarian formation possible in Romania (above) and in so many other parts of the world.

believe they are very religious, and about 90% affirm their belief in Jesus Christ, and yet they continue to have so many abortions! **Thanks in part to your prayers and assistance, the “Gift of Life” Association, our HLI Affiliate in Romania, exists to counteract this.** This organization creates short- and long-term diocesan counseling to pregnant women, and they have experienced incredible success.

Romania’s pro-life movement success is largely due to a constant reliance on God through prayer, joy, and suffering. Because of you, HLI is able to sponsor their Perpetual Adoration Chapels, as well as frequent public demonstrations of faith through prayer marches and vigils. These deliberate acts of prayer live in contrast to society’s secular selfishness in promoting abortion and contraception.

Sadly, the average number of lifetime abortions for Romanian women ranges between two and

three. Yet, HLI and our Affiliate’s projects in Eastern Europe are becoming a life-changing reality because of your support of HLI’s mission. One such project, the **Gift of Life Association**, shows concretely what can be done for pregnant women in need. They have recently opened their first home for pregnant women, “Mater Misericordiae,” specifically for women who plan to keep their babies despite difficulties.

CAUSE TO CELEBRATE

Pro-life Marches were organized simultaneously in 300 cities across Romania and Moldavia. Attendees included some government officials

FR. BOQUET’S SEPTEMBER TRAVELS

The following is Fr. Boquet’s travel schedule for the month of September. Please keep Father in your prayers during this time.

Sept 6: Taping of EWTN Live with Fr. Mitch Pacwa

Sept 15 - 24: Mission trip to Namibia with Dr. Brain Clowes and Emil Hagamu to train priests and lay leaders. This training mission is the result of a 2015 mission.

Sept 30: Fr. Boquet will be receiving the Annual Rev. Msgr. Alphonse S. Popek Award from Catholics United for the Faith. His talk: “The Role of the Priest in Building a Culture of Life”

and members from all Christian denominations. Speakers emboldened Romanians to serve in ways that defend, respect, and cherish Life.

Finally, Fr. Boquet visited seminarians in Alba Luja, Blaj, and Cluj Romania, stressing the importance of their involvement in the pro-life movement and their key role as future priests to help build a Culture of Life. He told them new energy is needed, along with a commitment to read Church documents and magisterial teaching concerning life and family, to combat the threats and challenges of our times.

Please continue to pray for the success of this most important work and that we are able to obtain the resources necessary to further these pro-life activities, which are so desperately needed. We still need your support in this selfless work intended to glorify God here in Eastern Europe. We travelled over 2,000 miles in this mission trip alone, a step in the journey of Life for all, from conception to natural death.



(Above) Sponsored by HLI through your generous support, Romania's "Mater Misericordiae" gives help to pregnant women in need.



(Above) Fr. Shenan J. Boquet joins the March for Life in Romania, which took place in 300 cities simultaneously.

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!

FIGHTING FOR FAMILY VALUES IN ZIMBABWE

By HLI Staff

Abortion is legal but still frowned upon in Zimbabwe.

Over 85% of the population is Christian. And yet this nation of 16 million people is highly targeted by population control groups. This is why HLI's Affiliate, the

Guadelupe Association of Zimbabwe, is so important.

Thanks to your support and to the tireless efforts of the staff there, so many women who would otherwise be pressured to abort are given the help and support they need to keep their babies.

When it comes to family values, older Zimbabweans oppose abortion, while the younger generations are beginning to fall away from their Christian upbringing. In one case, a soon-to-be mother named Louisa admitted trying to abort her baby three times, beginning at 3-months gestation. Miraculously, each attempt failed. In the end, it was being shown the Association's **Stages of Life Baby Chart** that shocked Louisa and changed her mind. **This simple chart and the availability of the Association's staff members who promote and explain it are only possible because of your generous donations.** Without HLI's presence in Zimbabwe, Louisa's tiny fighter would not have been given the chance for life, as Louisa would have succumbed to the pressures all around her.

The Guadelupe Association of Zimbabwe also helps families battle against the moral decline of the surrounding culture. In one initiative, it hosted three families who agreed to pray and practice their Faith, with the guidance of the Association. This guidance included restraining from common vices and avoiding corrupt television programs.

The natural good will and life-loving culture of the Zimbabwe people thrive when given support from pro-life and pro-family missionaries who know the subtle yet pernicious ways of the death-peddlers. Thanks to your support, many lives and souls are saved!

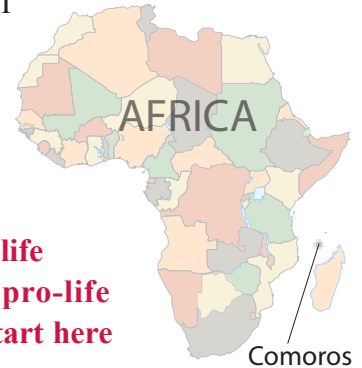


PLANTING SEEDS IN COMOROS

Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director Anglophone Africa, May 2017

Prayer, courageous determination, and patience describe the success story behind HLI's three mission visits to Comoros. First, we surveyed the scene. I wrote to you how difficult it would be to initiate pro-life ministry in this 98% Sunni Muslim country. Later, I reported "a seed was planted" because I saw some initial success. Now I can confidently write "I

see seedlings!" During this third visit, with your prayers and God's graces, I managed not only to open the door for serious pro-life work, but initiated a pro-life organization that can start here in the immediate future.



Armed with my rosary, I flew from Dar es Salaam to Moroni, the capital of the four Comoros Islands – Ngazija, Ndzuwan, Maore, and

Combine Federal Campaign

Federal employees and members of the Armed Services: Support HLI with your CFC pledge.



Mouwali. Together, the four Islands form the Archipelago of the Comores, which has one Catholic Church and one parish priest.

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church is the Cathedral of the Apostolic Vicariate there. Bishop Charles Mahuza Yava, S.D.S., is the Apostolic Vicar since 2010. The Islamic influence in this Archipelago cannot be underrated. The way of life, the language, the meals and the many mosques in Moroni reflect the predominance of the Islamic faith and its Arabic culture. The main languages are French and Kingazija.

ENCOUNTERING FR. JOHN PAUL & THE BISHOP

After a rest and Mass on the weekend, I hired a taxi to the Cathedral where, by God's providence, I met parish priest Fr. John Paul. We had a very constructive conversation. I told him the purpose of my mission visit and also informed him of my two earlier visits and the challenges I encountered. I explained that despite those trials, during my second visit I convened a small group of interested individuals who wanted to be part of the pro-life movement. But that group did not survive long. I explained to him the work of HLI around the world and my role as Regional Director in Eastern Africa. Then I asked if I could meet with the Bishop for a brief talk.

Fr. John Paul listened attentively and shared with me his challenging pastoral experience on the Island. He basically revealed to me that the Comorian society is a very closed one. Being 98% Sunni Muslim, the government and people are suspicious of external ideas coming to the Island, especially the Christian faith. That's why we need your prayers! Proselytism is totally forbidden. **A Comorian convert to Catholicism has to hide so that he is not excommunicated by his family and society.** A few do convert when they are outside of the country but cannot practice their faith when they are in Comoros. He suggested we meet the Bishop on Wednesday.

As scheduled, on Wednesday morning Fr. John Paul and I visited the Bishop at his home. He was eager to hear about our work. I spent about one hour with him explaining the mission of **Human Life International** and our achievements, made possible by you our generous donors, in the Anglophone Region of Africa, where I humbly serve as Regional Director. I also shared with



Bishop Charles Mahuza Yava S.D.S. of Comoro (right) sends his gratitude for your faithful support of HLI's mission.

the Bishop examples of HLI's successes in Africa and in our global mission field. He was impressed and was grateful for your support to HLI's mission of defending life and family.

Bishop Charles Mahuza Yava, S.D.S, now 56 years old, is energetic and dynamic. He directed Fr. John Paul to convene a small group of people for a briefing on the pro-life/family apostolate. He suggested the meeting take place on Friday in the parish priest's office. I gave him some pro-life literature for which he was very grateful. I learned that all his priests are from the Congo. Before his appointment, two of his predecessors had resigned. He'd reluctantly accepted the appointment, entrusting his work to the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

OUR FIRST PRO-LIFE MEETING

Fr. John Paul faithfully made the arrangement for the first meeting. On the list of participants were the Bishop, Charles Mahuza Yava, S.D.S; Fr. John Paul, Fr. John Bosco, assistant parish priest, Alain Razalinuchabe, MD, who serves at the Mission Hospital (Caritas) located adjacent to the Cathedral, and Mr. Leonard Ntakirutimana, Director of Caritas. The participation of the Bishop was a great blessing, setting a positive tone for future HLI activities in the country. I first introduced myself, the work I do in Tanzania and my affiliation with HLI. Then I gave **a brief history of HLI and how it has grown into**

the largest global pro-life and pro-family organization, preaching and spearheading the Gospel of Life through prayer and education. Thirdly, I talked to them about our HLI mission and core values. I ended my presentation with HLI's methodology of recruiting, training, equipping, and mentoring, none of which would be possible without your prayers and support.

The Bishop appointed Fr. John Paul to participate in the HLI Anglophone Regional Conference in Dar es Salaam. He is looking forward to the learning experience and will help us work on how to start the pro-life mission in the diocese. He was also given the responsibility of recruiting more members and preparing for a possible training mission in 2018. The Bishop said the Culture of Death is widespread even in that Islamic State, and unfortunately contraception is made mandatory by the government.

SUMMARY

I conclude by earmarking **a way forward for the new territories HLI has gained this year – Burundi, Rwanda, and Comoros:**

a) I have invited all three priests from these

countries to participate in the HLI Anglophone Regional Conference in Dar es Salaam so they can deepen their understanding and meet HLI Affiliates from the Anglophone Region. All three know some English.

- b) **I am planning a collaboration with the priests to organize the first training sessions in Rwanda and Comoros and possibly Burundi in 2018** on dates we will determine at the conference in Dar es Salaam.
- c) We at HLI will prepare pro-life materials so that Fr. Boquet and our staff can distribute them when they come to Dar es Salaam for the July conference. I will pass them on to the three priests from Burundi, Comoros, and Rwanda. These three will aid HLI in starting the pro-life movement in their respective countries.

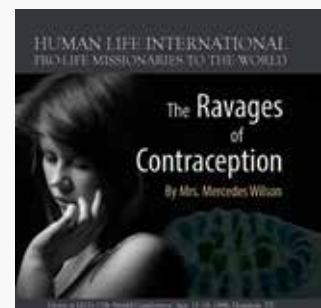
Please pray for HLI's mission work and consider giving a generous donation to help us bring pro-life training to the farthest corners of the earth.

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

P.S.—This month, **when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission**, I would like to send you our pro-life educational resource: an audio CD of ***The Ravages of Contraception***, by Mrs. Mercedes Wilson.

In this talk, you will learn about the many worldwide problems caused by the population control movement with its endorsement of artificial birth control and abortion. Mrs. Wilson explains how many of the poorer countries of the world look to the larger, industrialized nations as an example to which they should aspire, and they are often horrified and astonished that it is legal to kill pre-born children in Western countries like the U.S.

Please send your donation of \$53 or more to HLI today, and I'll rush this gift out to you!



***The Ravages of Contraception* is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$53 or more!**