



# Mission Report

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- \* **HLI hosts the 21st ASPAC**, the region's premier pro-life Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family
- \* **HLI-Miami Takes to the Airwaves**, to Proclaim Saint Pope John Paul II's Gospel of Life Worldwide
- \* **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Absolute Relativism: The New Dictatorship and What To Do About It***

*Upper left: HLI's Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC) has inspired so many pro-life leaders, including Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee (shown with HLI's Dr. Ligaya Acosta), who has declared her city officially pro-life.*

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

Please join us for a most exceptional event sponsored by Human Life International (HLI) this month in Thailand: Our Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC). We will publish reports from this conference in the coming weeks, as usual. However, here we share an exclusive look at this program and its history, in the hopes you will follow the events as they unfold on our website, Facebook and Instagram.

In this issue of *Mission Report*, we also reveal how your support helps our Miami office spread the message of Life, Love and Family through Spanish-speaking media on a weekly basis. We at HLI consciously follow the call of Saint Pope John Paul II for a new evangelization: "For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive. Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!" (*Redemptoris Missio*, 990).

And finally, Brazil is center stage for an HLI mission trip featuring Raymond de Souza, our Delegate for International Missions. There he gave a marathon of talks on Life, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima apparitions, and defense of the Family through devotion to the Sacred Heart. Please join with us in prayer to the patroness of Brazil, Our Lady Aparecida, that HLI's work continues to bear great fruit.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President, Human Life International

## 21ST ASIA-PACIFIC CONGRESS ON FAITH, LIFE AND FAMILY (ASPAC) IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania

### *“Put Out into the Deep: Defending the Family, Hope of the Dying World”*

This November Human Life International is sponsoring its premier, biennial event, the **21<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC)** in Bangkok, Thailand. *ASPAC is the largest pro-life gathering of leaders in Asia and Oceania.*

*ASPAC provides fertile training ground for pro-life leaders to efficiently and effectively defend Faith, Life and Family in their respective countries.* As a forum for regional and global pro-life leaders, the congress allows them to get to know, share, strengthen, and inspire each other as the pro-life movement faces increasing challenges. Made possible through your support, over the years ASPAC has inspired countless people to get more involved in the cause of Life and Family. HLI is dedicated to growing progressively even more committed, knowledgeable, and dedicated genuine pro-lifers; ones who understand the issues and are willing to put body and soul into defending the inherent dignity of human life.

This year's theme is *“Put Out into the Deep: Defending the Family, Hope*



*of the Dying World.”* In the Gospel of St. Luke, 5:5, you will recall Christ tells Peter to “put out into the deep.” Saint Pope John Paul II used those words repeatedly, calling on us all “to nurture ambitious dreams of personal holiness and apostolic fruitfulness” (2001).

The 21<sup>st</sup> ASPAC is being held in coordination with the Episcopal Commission for Social Ministries,



Father Shenan J. Boquet (far left), President of Human Life International in Taiwan with 12 archbishops and bishops who attended the 20th Asia-Pacific Congress in 2015.



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***ASPAC is key in providing a fertile training ground for pro-life leaders to efficiently and effectively defend Faith, Life and Family in their respective countries.***

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specifically CARITAS Thailand, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand, chaired by His Excellency Philip Banchong Chaityara, C.S.S.R., bishop of Ubon Ratchathani. The venue is the scenic *Baan Phu Waan* (House of the Sower of the Seed), Pastoral Training Centre of the Archdiocese of Bangkok, which was also the site of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASPAC in 2007.

***We - you and HLI - are all called to be uncompromisingly pro-God, pro-life, and pro-family.*** Attendees that have graced ASPAC include papal nuncios and Vatican representatives, bishops, priests, seminarians, nuns, lay leaders and even non-Catholic individuals. As we go to press, we are prepared to host pro-life leaders from 16 or more countries. Many of these organizers already are or will become invaluable HLI partners in our passionate mission for life.

More than ever, we need your prayers. As you will see from the testimonies below, those who come to ASPAC are so uplifted by the mission they hope to return again and again.

Please join HLI as we post updates to our website, [www.hli.org](http://www.hli.org), our Facebook page and Instagram account. "Like" us on Facebook (check out the page directly if it doesn't show up in your feed), and why not subscribe to HLI on Instagram under the handle, "humanlifeintl"?

#### **ASPAC Testimonials**

- A first time attendee, a nun, remarked, "I thought I came for a vacation abroad but now, having heard all the talks, I can't sleep thinking how I can become involved and help."
- Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee of the Philippines



His Eminence Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of the Philippines delivering his Keynote Speech at HLI's 17th Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family.

## **Combine Federal Campaign**

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

**HLI's CFC number is  
10253**



said: "I have always considered myself pro-life, but only here I understood what it is and how to be pro-life." She went on to declare her city a "Pro-Life City," banning promotion and distribution of contraceptives, despite earning pro-abortion ire.

- There are conversions of heart. A tearful abortionist responded: "It is only now I comprehend what I have been doing for years. I'm so glad I came."
- From someone occupying a sensitive government post: *"I always avoided the subject of abortion but these sessions have opened my eyes. Now I've got to convince our government to turn pro-life."*
- Some accepting of contraception rethought their positions. One was an ill-catechized priest, who'd also previously thought *in-vitro* fertilization and other reproductive technologies condemned by the Church were still pro-life.

As you see, ASPAC is just one way HLI is making a difference **because of you**.

*We are always grateful to the many generous HLI donors who unselfishly make ASPAC possible. Please know we remember you in our prayers and beg God to bless you and your families.*

## **HLI's Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC) has been hosted in:**

Cebu, Philippines (1991 and 2001)  
Bangalore, India (1994 and 2004)  
Manila, Philippines (1995, 1996, and 2010)  
Singapore (1997 and 2003)  
Taegu, South Korea (1998)  
Mumbai, India (2000)  
Hong Kong, China (2002)  
Bali, Indonesia (2005)  
Bangkok, Thailand (2007)  
Goa, India (2008)  
Miri, Malaysia (2009)  
Astana, Kazakhstan (2011)  
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (2013)  
and Taiwan (2015).

### **IRA Charitable Rollover**

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can make a tax-free gift from your individual retirement account (IRA) directly to our organization.

#### **How It Works**

- You must be 70½ or older at the time of your gift.
- You may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Human Life International.
- The transfer is not considered to be taxable income, and therefore does not generate an income tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Stan Kuta at 540-622-5272 or email Stan at [skuta@hli.org](mailto:skuta@hli.org).



## **HLI-MIAMI HITS THE AIRWAVES: BRINGING THE DIGNITY OF LIFE TO RADIO AND TV**

*By Adolfo J. Castañeda, MA, STL, HLI Director of Hispanic Education*

Human Life International has a grand mission, which Saint Pope John Paul II termed “doing the most important work on earth.” Our unceasing mission, with your help, is to build a Culture of Life and of Love around the world through education, outreach, and advocacy. HLI’s Miami office, headed by Adolfo Castañeda, spends part of each week spreading this vital Catholic message via Spanish-language media.

*Broadcasting is one tool of many that may be used by the Holy Spirit to touch those seeking Truth.* Often called on for interviews, recently HLI-Miami was contacted by María Visión (MV). MV, a Catholic cable and web-based station, reaches Hispanics all over the United States and Latin America. Cuban-American host Bill Brown requested HLI’s Adolfo Castañeda appear on a show called, “Adelante Familias” (“Go Families”).

Brown wished to focus the interview on Saint Pope John Paul II’s writings on *Theology of the Body (TOB)* – a subject near and dear to Castañeda’s heart. Along with HLI volunteer and educational advisor, Felipe Vizcarrondo, MD, MA (Bioethics), Castañeda has been motivated to speak and write on the topic for years. “The request helped me confirm God is truly asking me to talk and write more about the teachings of *TOB*.” By the grace of God, the María Visión program was a success. Tens of thousands watched and many expressed how it truly helped them see Catholic marriage in a new light.

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*HLI’s Miami Office, headed by Adolfo Castañeda, spends part of each week spreading this vital Catholic message via Spanish-language media.*

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Director of Hispanic Education, Adolfo J. Castañeda, of HLI-Miami, appearing on Bill Brown's María Visión TV program, “Adelante Familias” (“Go Families”).



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## ***Broadcasting is one tool of many that may be used by the Holy Spirit to touch those seeking Truth.***

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HLI-Miami's office and staff also survived the recent hurricanes without harm, thanks be to God.

### **THEOLOGY OF THE BODY AND HUMANAЕ VITAE**

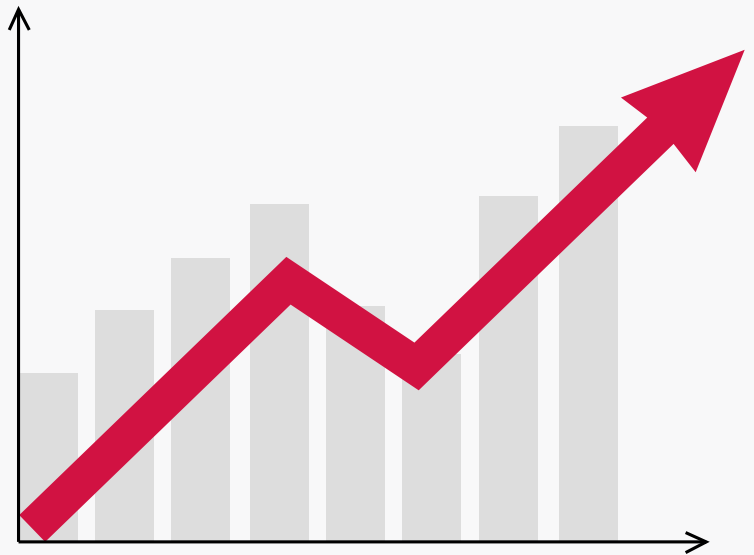
*Theology of the Body* reflects HLI's mission: revering the dignity of the human person, honoring the conjugal nature of the body open to life, thereby acting as a prism through which we perceive marriage as the source of Life and Family. As a Sacrament, a visible sign instituted by God to give grace, marriage mirrors the divine love of Christ for His Bride, the Church, in the love between husband and wife.

*Theology of the Body's* over 100 catecheses are a commentary on *Humanae Vitae*, the prophetic encyclical that has become a stumbling block for many - sadly, even inside the Church. Fr. Paul Marx, HLI's founder, was one of the most ardent defenders of this historic document condemning contraception.

We would ask that you continue to pray for the mission work of our Spanish-speaking staff, including Adolfo Castañeda. He may be heard weekly on HLI's Radio Program "Defiende la Vida" ("Defend Life") aired on Radio Católica Mundial - World Catholic Radio - and other programs.

### **Reduce Your 2017 Tax Liability with Gifts of Appreciated Stock**

It seems like every time we turn on the news we hear about the stock market hitting a new high. A bull market is wonderful for our 401K and investment portfolios. The increased value of your investments also creates a wonderful opportunity for Human Life International and your tax planning. When you give HLI a gift of appreciated stock you receive the double benefit of making a tax deductible charitable gift AND you avoid the capital gains tax on the appreciated securities.



To participate in HLI's global mission to build a Culture of Life, and take advantage of these tax benefits, you must have your financial advisor transfer the appreciated stock directly to HLI. They will need specific information from HLI to complete the transfer, so please call Stan Kuta at 540-622-5272 for details or email Stan at [skuta@hli.org](mailto:skuta@hli.org).

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO BRAZIL

*By Raymond de Souza, HLI Delegate for International Missions, August-September 2017*

Human Life International recently conducted a mission trip to Brazil, August 27th to September 3<sup>rd</sup>. As HLI Delegate for International Missions, I held a series of talks in Brasilia, the country's capital, Goiania, and São Paulo. "The Promoter of Integral Development Association" (PRODEIN), a pro-life, pro-family Catholic non-profit, hosted HLI.

Popes Benedict XVI and Francis have both visited Brazil. Catholic since the 1500s, the nation is the largest Catholic country worldwide. As everywhere though, Life and Family are under attack. Knowing this, Pope Benedict stressed during his 2007 papal trip to Brazil: ***"Life is beautiful, it is not something dubious but is a gift, and even in difficult conditions, life is always a gift. Therefore, re-create this awareness of the beauty of the gift of life."*** Yet the Culture of Death is making inroads. Brazil now allows abortion in cases of: rape, danger to the mother's health and anencephaly. Sadly, many are leaving the Church and joining evangelical communities. The Ministry of Education promotes LGBT agenda, even in primary schools. This is why there is a continued need for HLI witnessing to Church teaching on life issues and in defense of the family.

Shortly after arriving, the PRODEIN religious sisters invited me to lunch. Then I started the litany of talks in Brasilia that would continue throughout the entire mission trip. Beginning with around 100 theology students of FATEO Catholic University, I spoke on "Contemporary Challenges for

Human Rights and Pro-Life Action." The focus was moral relativism and the Gospel of Life as expounded by Saint Pope John Paul II. Over the next few days I gave several more addresses:

- ***"Bioethics and Pro-Life: Responsibilities of Medico-Technological Developments,"*** at Bom Jesus Parish, on life issues affecting the medical profession, attended by doctors and medical students
- ***"Our Lady in the Defense of the Family against Relativism"*** at Most Holy Sacrament Church
- The message of ***"Our Lady of Fatima"*** at the Catechetical Center of Our Lady of the Encounter with God, before a mixed audience aged 8-80
- ***"What is Missionary Action?"*** analyzed from the perspective of the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (*defense of the family*)
- ***"The Role of Students Defending the Right to Life"*** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
- and ***"Pro-Life Action"*** at the Encounter with God's Catechetical Center.

Monday meant driving to Goiania, a large center 100 miles away from Brasilia. There Catholic radio, "Luz da Vida" ("Light of Life") interviewed me, The station had also hosted me on air three years



HLI's Raymond de Souza at Our Lady Aparecida Parish in Goiania, Brazil.

earlier. I took this opportunity to mention “*100 Years of Fatima*”, a talk I gave later that evening, at Our Lady Aparecida Parish.

One might ask, on a mission for Life, Love and Family, why preach on Fatima? Because our Blessed Virgin Mother is *always* relevant to Life, Love and Family. As St. Alphonsus Liguori once said, "He can never be lost who recommends himself to thee, my Mother; he alone is lost who does not have recourse to thee."

The next day Fr. Luiz Augusto interviewed me on television and radio, which was followed by two more talks to the Luz da Vida community. Wednesday it was back to Brasilia's church of St. Jude Thaddeus, where I spoke on "The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart" (*defense of the family*).

Then, on Thursday, I gave a lecture to 80 seminarians, professors and staff of the Legionaries of Christ at Mater Ecclesia Major Seminary in São Paulo. The Seminary Rector requested two lectures: "What are Good and Evil and Who Decides?" and "The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus" (*defense of the family*). I repeated the second talk again Sunday for the Legionaries' minor seminary, at the request of Rector, Fr. André Delveaux.

This was a most successful mission trip. I am always delighted to represent HLI's Pro-Life, Pro-Family, Pro-Faith mission through apologetics, Our Lady of Fatima and the Sacred Heart, all of which aid in promoting the Gospel of Life. A big thank you to our donors for your generosity and prayers, and to Our Lady Aparecida, patroness of Brazil, for all her intercession.

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

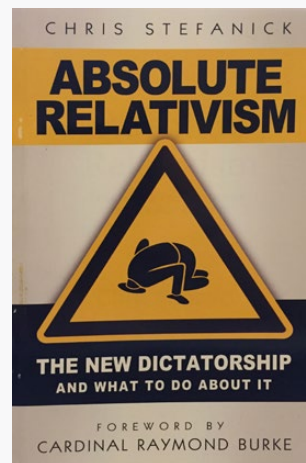
**P.S.—**This month, **when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission**, we would like to send you the booklet, *Absolute Relativism: The New Dictatorship and What to Do about It*, by Chris Stefanick.

In this booklet, Chris Stefanick tackles all the tough questions about Relativism by revealing its moral bankruptcy.

Pope Benedict XVI recognized this in his homily on April 18, 2005: "We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires."

Through a down-to-earth, easily accessible Question-and-Answer format, Stefanick's book shows that far from being the answer to world peace or even personal peace of mind, relativism suffers from a self-destructive rot.

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



***Absolute Relativism:  
The New Dictatorship  
and What to Do about  
It is our gift to you this  
month in appreciation  
for your financial  
support of \$53 or more!***