



Mission Report

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- * **Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke Joins HLI at Priestly Retreat in **Belarus****
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life***

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

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

"And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will" (St. Luke 2:12-14).

At Christmas we kneel before the Christ Child alongside the Wise Men who worshipped the most Holy Infant, and fervently renew our love and value for each and every human life.

In this issue of ***Mission Report***, we tell you about our third mission to Namibia where Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research, after a 54-hour journey, was joined by HLI's Regional Director of Anglophone Africa, Emil Hagamu. Both gave presentations to young people and seminarians on the value of Faith, Life and Family. Dr. Brian also spoke to them about the key to happiness: "***And thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength***" (Mark 12:30).

Then HLI's Rome Director, Father Francesco Giordano, was joined by His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, for HLI's priests' retreat in Belarus. This was the second of three retreats educating and forming priests. The Cardinal reminded those in attendance that "the mission of the priest has its origin in the worship of God." Without the priest, there are no Sacraments. Without Our Lord in the Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing.

Let us remember the reason for the Season, the gift of our Savior. May we be enlightened by Him always as we strive to serve Life and Family. Be assured of prayers for you and yours throughout the Christmas season. Thank you for your support and care.

In Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

MISSIONARY TRIP TO NAMIBIA

Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research, Sept. 2017

Because of the ongoing threats to Life and Family, and challenges faced by Namibia, Human Life International (HLI) committed and completed its third trip there in the past five years. HLI's Emil Hagamu, Regional Director for Anglophone Africa, along with Father Willie Haingura, assistant parish priest at St. Joseph's Shambyu Church, waited three hours to meet me at Windhoek Airport. Because four large aircraft landed at the tiny airport within half an hour, hundreds deplaning overwhelmed the three lone passport officers for hours. Blazing hot, some passengers stood in 100 degree temperatures without drinking water. We eventually made our way through the lines and headed for Rundu, a nearly 9-hour trip.

Located in the Northeast corner of the Namibia, we drove straight through, arriving at 2am. Worn out, my only driving hazards at the wheel were passing trucks not lowering their high beams and almost hitting two jackals and another animal, resembling a giant chinchilla.

The total trip from Front Royal, Virginia to Rundu, Namibia took 54 hours. We fell into bed at 3am, got up at noon, took another long nap in the afternoon and then we were ready to go Sunday, the first day of the mission. I was greatly relieved to find our host, the Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, still in possession of fans HLI President Father Shenan J. Boquet and I bought them last year. The Sisters had also installed an Asian washing



machine that pipes a cute tune when it turns on and off! (Too bad you need a nuclear engineering doctorate to understand the dozens of dials and symbols decorating it.)

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

Day two Father Willie Haingura prayed the beautiful 7:00am Mass. Then we prepared for an evening talk to young people!



Emil Hagamu, HLI's Regional Director of Anglophone Africa (just right of center), with participants of a three-hour talk on the pro-life mission, population control, contraception and abortion as greatest evils of our times.



Dr. Brian Clowes speaks about the population control agenda and the role of Natural Law to 17 Evangelical Pastors and leaders of Catholic and other Churches in Rundu.

Mr. Emil and I talked to 200 kids in Rundu. Reaching the young, aged seven to 18, is a great opportunity, though it can be problematic catering appropriately to both sexes in such a broad age range.

Monday, we drove 50 more miles to Bunya and spoke to a challenging group of 300 Catholic students from the Combined School. Since there was a bit of a mix-up, we spoke at 3pm instead of 10am. As pro-lifers “swimming against the tide” with our message, we are fighting the Culture of Death with its many tempting avenues of sin. Some girls are already mothers, with grandparents raising their children. Teenagers can be easy prey, being inexperienced and often emotionally driven in their choices.

Another problem in reaching them is that many older students sleep in class most of the day, because they visit the nearby *shebeens*, or one-room country bars. Father Michael Weziokwe serves as parish priest at Bunya Parish, as well as Chaplain of the Catholic Students at Bunya Government High School. He has requested if any *shebeen* owner ever sees one of his students in their facility, they are to call him at any time of the day or night, and he will arrive immediately to collect them. Now *that's* true pastoral action!

FUNDAMENTALS TO HAPPINESS

Everything Human Life International does is intrinsically linked to the Church. “And thou shalt love the Lord thy

God, with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength” (Mark 12:30). It is a simple message but the key to realizing the wisdom behind God’s happiness in our lives. The verse encompasses love of Faith, family and all relationships.

Mr. Emil spoke on the inherent dignity and nature of the human person in terms the youth could understand. The best part was the end, when the girls and boys took a chastity pledge, saying they will remain pure while reading from HLI’s “I am a Responsible Girl” and “I am a Responsible Boy” cards. Perhaps Mr. Emil should have quoted St. Josemaria Escriva: “To defend his purity, Saint Francis of Assisi rolled in the snow, Saint Benedict threw himself into a thornbush, Saint Bernard plunged into an icy pond ... You... what have you done?” Please pray for the young Namibians, to remain chaste and detest abortion.

BE FEARLESS, BEING PRO-LIFE

Mr. Emil, otherwise known as our Regional Director for Anglophone Africa, often wears blatantly pro-life t-shirts in his work; turning himself into a beautiful, walking billboard. A wonderful and endearing soul,

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his example does our HLI donors proud! Fearlessly wearing a black t-shirt with huge, bloody letters proclaiming “ABORTION IS EVIL”, Mr. Emil grabbed the attention of young Gertrude in Grootfontain on the way back to Windhoek. We had risen at 4:30am to beat the heat of the day on the 480-mile trek back from Bunya. She asked Mr. Emil why he thought abortion was evil. Using his wealth of knowledge, he evangelized her on a range of interconnected issues, abortion to contraception and abortifacients. Mr. Emil has a true gift for apologetics! She said, “Yes, abortion is evil, but what should I do if I have an unplanned pregnancy, and the boyfriend at large does not take responsibility?” Of course, there is a help network that can assist her through the pregnancy and facilitate in placing her baby for adoption. Also, there is chastity. She agreed contraception was harmful, so then asked, “Most Namibian women are unmarried, although they have two, three or even more children. How can they defend themselves against the financial difficulties of another pregnancy?” Mr. Emil addressed abstinence and natural family planning. Fascinated, she’d never heard anything remotely like it. Mr. Emil gave her HLI reading material, urging her to contact him if she had

any questions. Thanks to Mr. Emil, and our donors, he may have made a convert out of Gertrude that day.

HOLDING BACK THE TIDE OF EVIL

Never neglect the seminarians. As our donors know from our Mission Statement, training seminarians in Life and Family issues today ensures the priests of tomorrow will continue to spread the Gospel of Life and save souls.

During the final mission day, we spoke to 26 seminarians at the beautiful St. Charles Lwanga Major Seminary in Windhoek. The grounds are kept with great care; foot-long Ekokos, living jewels sometimes called “rainbow lizards,” darted among the equally brilliant flowers that are everywhere.

The Rector, Father Benny Karuvelil, CMI, introduced us, and we began an enjoyable three-hour discussion. I spent the first one describing the basis of population control in Africa; its history, goals, methods and motivation. Some seminarians looked sleepy at the beginning, but after about ten minutes all were wide awake, especially when hearing the basis of population control is the West trying to get its greedy hands on Africa’s natural resources! This duplicity is openly documented in the declassified 1974 United Nations

IRA Charitable Rollover

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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.



National Security Council document entitled, the *National Security Study Memorandum 200* (aka the “Kissinger Report”). Advocates are predictably the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Pathfinder Fund, the Population Council and other large international NGOs. *As part of the HLI family, we must educate ourselves and prepare to advocate for life in Africa, and not accept the myth of overpopulation, which is just an excuse for abortion and contraception.*

SEMINARIANS OF TODAY ARE PRIESTS OF TOMORROW

Priests are the “thin black line” between morality and disaster, just as police officers are the “thin blue line” between lawfulness and anarchy. Each seminarian ordained will have forty, fifty, even sixty years



Emil Hagamu speaks to 26 seminarians at St. Charles Lwanga Major Seminary in Windhoek.

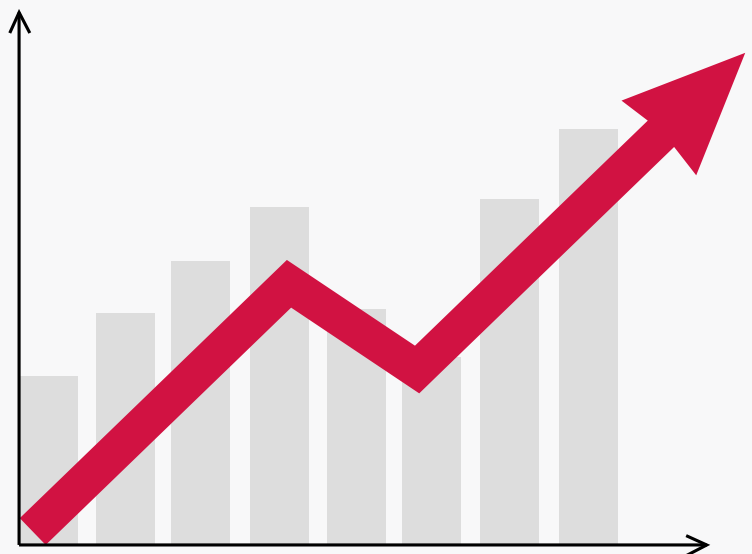
of priesthood before them, a period in which when he may proclaim Truth in the face of adversity and save many souls.

After the presentation, the seminarians were anxious to get involved at a deeper level. We feel confident that with the Rector’s approval, a Seminarians for Life chapter will soon be started.

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.



RAYMOND LEO CARDINAL BURKE JOINS HLI IN BELARUS TO DIRECT PRIESTS' RETREAT

By Fr. Francesco Giordano, Director of HLI Rome Office

In late September, I traveled to Minsk to participate in a priests' retreat in Braslaw, Belarus, sponsored by HLI. I accompanied His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, who served as director for the priests' retreat. Like everywhere today, there is much to be done in defense of Life and Family. In Belarus, the ideologies faced in Western Europe and in the United States, are not as powerful and openly antagonistic to the Church and Christian culture, but they nevertheless exist. HLI was asked by the Bishop of Vitebsk, Aleh Butkevich, Vice-President of the Episcopal Conference of Belarus, to help educate and prepare the diocesan clergy, not only to fight the Culture of Death but to vigorously promote the Culture of Life. After a successful retreat in 2016, which I directed on the role of the priesthood, Cardinal Burke's participation in this year's retreat was very beneficial and fruitful.

PRAISE FOR POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

After a nice welcoming dinner, we headed out on a long three-hour drive to Braslaw, where we rested prior to the first day of the retreat. His Eminence had four conferences and two homilies prepared for us. Like last year, Dr. Vladislav Volokhovich (Uladzislau Valakhovich) of Open Hearts Foundation, our HLI Affiliate in Belarus, kindly provided simultaneous translation. The Diocese and Open Hearts made all the arrangements. The conferences focused on the family and the priesthood: 1) Marriage and Its Fruit, the Family, the Primary Place of a New Evangelization; 2) Pastoral Charity - The Priest as Moral Guide; 3) The Priest as Guardian and Promoter of the Beauty of the Sacred Liturgy; and 4) Witness to the Inviolable Dignity of Human Life and Martyrdom for the Faith in Our Times. Faithful to the pro-life initiatives



of Pope Saint John Paul II, a pope very dear to the HLI's mission, His Eminence began the retreat reminding us of the new evangelization so dear to the Polish Pontiff:

The pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II may be rightly described as a tireless call to recognize the Church's challenge to be faithful to her divinely-given mission in a totally secularized society and to respond to the challenge by means of a new evangelization. A new evangelization is teaching the faith through preaching, catechesis and all forms of Catholic education; celebrating the faith in the sacraments and in their extension through prayer and devotion, and living the faith through the practice of the virtues, all as if for the first time, that is, with the engagement and energy of the first disciples and of the first missionaries to our native place.



L to R: Mass with Bishop Aleh Butkevich, Cardinal Burke and HLI's Fr. Francesco Giordano.

This was a very appropriate beginning in a diocese founded approximately 20 years ago. We must remember this part of Europe has a long history of changing boundaries, not only

national but ecclesial. With these recent changes, we at HLI were honored that Bishop Aleh Butkevich asked us to help with the initiatives so dear to the heart of Pope Saint John Paul II, and Cardinal Burke's well-known admiration for the Pontiff made his presence ever more significant.

EVERYTHING STEMS FROM THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

After preaching on the Sacred Heart and on the martyrdom of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, His Eminence stressed a love for the liturgy through the transcendentals of Beauty, Goodness and Truth, which unite us as one with God. Why would such a topic be raised on a pro-life retreat? Clearly, if we at HLI are addressing an audience of priests, we cannot forget what is the heart of their vocation: the Liturgy. If the love for the source of our life, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and of our priesthood, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is not addressed, then everything else comes apart. Recently, at a wedding, I reminded a couple the love St. Teresa of Calcutta stemmed from the Eucharist:

A request was made by the government of Yemen, which wanted Mother Teresa's Sisters to come serve the poor. When presented with her plan, they refused. She wanted to send a few priests to serve

the Sisters in this Muslim country. Yemeni officials didn't want Christ in their land. She declined their offer. "But why," they asked "We have so many poor to serve." What they and many today fail to realize is without Christ, we cannot truly serve the poor. He is Charity, and our charity comes from Him. He guides us and perfects us. The Yemeni government backed down and permitted priests to come celebrate Mass there.

CONFORMING PRIESTS TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

On a practical, human level, His Eminence truly made an impact on the priests. We had 30-40 in attendance, about 10-20 more than 2016. Last year Bishop Butkevich asked me to address the subject of the Liturgy during the retreat and I was happy to do so. This year, Cardinal Burke did not hesitate to delve into it either, stressing the connection between Liturgy, transcendentals, marriage and the family:

The mission of the priest has its origin in the worship of God.... There is nothing more beautiful in the world than the life of Christ within us through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, especially in the Sacraments... In the context of modern and contemporary Western culture, it is precisely the



Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke poses with HLI's Rome Director, Fr. Francesco Giordano, to his right, Vitebski's Bishop Aleh Butkevich on his left, surrounded by those participating in HLI priests' retreat in Belarus.

transcendent dimension of beauty, as interchangeable with truth and goodness, which is contested. In the rationalist thinking which has exercised so strong an influence in contemporary western culture, beauty has been stripped of its metaphysical meaning; it has been “emancipated” from the order of being and reduced to an aesthetic experience or indeed to a matter of feeling. The disastrous consequences of this revolution are not limited to the world of art. Rather, along with the loss of beauty, we have also lost goodness and truth. The good is now determined by what pleases the individual or group in power, such that what I determine is good, according to my preference and convenience, can mean destruction for another or for the world around us. At the same time, there is the pretense that the individual determines what is true for him, so that the individual determines when human life begins or what constitutes marriage and the family.

His presence teaches priests a gravitas and a sobriety proper to the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ: “The

beauty of the liturgy is manifested concretely through material objects and bodily gestures, which man – a unity of soul and body – needs to elevate himself toward the realities of faith that transcend the visible world. This means that sacred architecture and sacred art, including sacred furnishings, vestments, vessels and linens, must be of such quality that they can express and communicate the beauty and majesty of the liturgy as the action of Christ in our midst, uniting heaven to earth.”

It is with such a spoken and lived-out teaching that His Eminence is able to move priests to love their priesthood ever more profoundly and, with that love, to love and form the individuals and the families in parishes and pastoral activities so that they be conformed to Our Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Mystical Body, the Church. It is my hope that this year’s HLI-sponsored retreat for priests in Belarus reinforced the fruits from last year’s retreat and provide even more fruits for the people of this diocese nestled in the heart of Eastern Europe.

This work was made possible by your generous support. Thank you and God bless you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and care.

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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 Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro.

The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life is an important resource in ongoing liturgical formation for clergy, religious and laity, and makes a significant contribution to the renewal which embraces the riches of liturgical tradition as a valuable treasure.

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro is the former Executive Director of HLI’s Rome office, a position he held from September 1998 to July 2015. He lived a life of dedicated service and passed away in April 2017. Msgr. Barreiro published hundreds of articles on theology and life issues, and historical subjects in popular and scholarly publications in the U.S., England, Italy, France, and Spain.

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



***The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* is this month’s pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!**