



Mission Report

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Above: Mario Rojas, HLI's Regional Director of Latin America, speaking to a group of leaders in the Vicariate of Sonsón Rionegro, Colombia.

- ✳ **Ecuador's First International Pro-Life Training for Priests and Seminarians**
- ✳ **Two Pro-Life Marches in Kenya**
- ✳ **1500 hear about HLI's Mission in Australia and New Zealand**
- ✳ **This Month's Gift to Donors: *How to Open the Eyes of the Blind* by Fr. Shenan J. Boquet**

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

The mission never ends. And the other side has more resources. But as our founder, Fr. Paul Marx, stated in an interview he gave: "But we will win. God is on our side."

Every month HLI is busy across the globe. There is so much we would like to share, but the problem is finding the room! In this month's issue, we hope you enjoy our efforts to bring you more of what we are doing across different continents.

One of our reports, fresh off the press, is excerpted from *Spirit and Life*. I report on our uphill struggle in Zimbabwe, where the people are brainwashed from primary school with anti-life, pro-contraceptive thinking. The country is awash with 90 NGOs and population control groups. Once a nation adopts abortion, contraception and other policies hostile to Life and Family, it is much harder to drive them out.

But we also have great news to tell: we have been very busy spreading the Gospel of Life to Ecuador, Colombia, Kenya, New Zealand and Australia – as well as Zimbabwe. We have also fielded journalist inquiries, written our weekly columns, posted articles, and issued press statements. One of the greatest victories of the past month? El Salvador, one of only six Latin American nations to ban abortion, is still winning the crusade. The government refused to even consider weakening its strong laws that forbid abortion. Pray for the nation named for Christ – "Our Savior" – and all of HLI's efforts, as we pray for you.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet



MISSION TRIP TO ECUADOR

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion

REDESSVIDA stands for *Red de Sacerdotes y Seminaristas por la Vida* (Network of Priests and Seminarians for Life). Our Latin American outreach focuses on Catholic priests and seminarians, often with a second session aimed at religious and laity. **In November 2018 HLI will be hosting its first REDESSVIDA Congress aimed at all of Latin America and the USA in collaboration with the Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona.**

Cuenca, the country's third largest city, is located in southern Ecuador in the Andean highlands. HLI decided on this location for several reasons. Mrs. Nancy Tosi, a longtime member of the REDESSVIDA team, lives there. Archbishop Marcos Pérez of Cuenca and the Ecuadorian bishops were happy to host the event. Fr. Joffré Astudillo, Communications Director for the Archdiocese of Cuenca and a priest of the Neocatechumenal Way, agreed to help with organization and a substantial team of volunteers. The local University of Azuay and the provincial government agreed to sponsor the Congress. We actually received quite a bit of publicity when the vice rector of the province, a feminist politician, denounced the event because it strongly defended the Church's teaching on homosexuality. The LGBT lobby is increasingly vocal in Ecuador, and REDESSVIDA takes a strong position against Gender Ideology. We even had Lola Sheen, a Catholic psychologist from Peru, speak about homosexuality. She helps many people struggling with [unwanted] same-sex attraction. Her talks were highly scientific and informative.



HLI REDESSVIDA Combines Spirituality and Pro-Life Education

What is unique about REDESSVIDA is the combination of spirituality and high level presentations on Life, Faith and Family in the HLI tradition. We began each day with Mass, usually presided over by an Ecuadorian bishop. A chapel with Eucharistic Adoration was available to participants just next to the main congress hall, with constant prayer



Archdiocese of Cuenca Press Conference Feb. 19th, promoting First International REDESSVIDA Congress in Ecuador. L to R: Lola Sheen (Peru), Dr. Joseph Meaney (HLI International Outreach/Expansion), Mario Rojas (HLI Regional Director Latin America), Fr. Joffre Astudillo on behalf of Archbishop Marcos Perez, Archdiocese of Cuenca, Nancy Tosi (Vida Humana Internacional), Maria Cevallos (Corbin Foundation), Fr. Ronald La Barrera (Peru) and Dr. Rafael Cabrera (Nicaragua).

for the event's success. In taking part, I fell in love with a local song, "*Dios de amores*," which includes these wonderful lines: "God of love, Holy Eucharist, look upon the people of your Sacred Heart. Everything belongs to you, save Ecuador!" Pope Francis also commented on the special love of Ecuadorians for the Sacred Heart of Jesus on his trip there.

The first three days were tailor made for 85 priests and seminarians, who came from all over Ecuador. **Cuenca's seminary sent all its seminarians to the Congress.** In the second session for religious and laity, 200 attended. Lectures included pro-life themes, scientific information and pastoral/theological formation. In all we had seven different experts from all over Latin America, the USA and France: Fr. Ronald La Barrera, a university professor in Peru, Dr. Rafael Cabrera, a gynecologist from Nicaragua and expert in assisting those suffering from Post-Abortion Syndrome, Mrs.



Bishop Eduardo Castillo, Auxiliary Bishop of Portoviejo, during Benediction.

Nancy Tosi from Ecuador, myself, a doctor in bioethics, and several others.

Mario Rojas, the HLI Regional Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain, gave a series of talks. Topics included how the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals have been used to promote population control and abortion and Saint Pope John Paul II's great encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* [The Gospel of Life]. Mario also encouraged the delegates to take HLI's online course in Spanish that provides a comprehensive education in the Life issues. Throughout Latin America, many thousands have taken this course. Graduation ceremonies conferring diplomas are a regular feature of Mario Rojas' pro-life mission trips in various Latin American countries.

HLI held a press conference the day before the 14th International REDESSVIDA Congress began, to explain the work of HLI and these special events for the clergy and the laity (see page 2). Television, radio and print media all crowded into the room at the archdiocesan curia building. We were definitely the big news of the day. Even the "free" time was scheduled with side events: I spoke at a fundraising banquet to fund the local Pregnancy Help Centers and food banks for the poor, and Mario Rojas and Fr. Ronald La Barrera spoke to a Dominican school for 800 girls on chastity and pro-life themes. HLI reached out to a wide variety of audiences on this mission trip.



HLI Regional Director of Latin America, Mario Rojas, at HLI's 14th International REDESSVIDA, but the first held in Ecuador.

It is very important to strengthen these pro-life countries because negative modern trends are hitting them. The current total fertility rate (TFR) for Ecuador is only 2.2 children per woman. Barely at replacement rate this raises an alarm, since as recently as 1995 the rate was 3.4 children per family. Clearly, the generosity of married couples to have large families is declining. I spoke to one couple who tearfully told me that they had a sterilization surgery after three children. They regret it terribly now, but social pressure and fear pushed them into it. On the other hand, we had a mother of twelve children attending the HLI Congress. One of our missions is to support and

encourage Catholics to be open to life and not buy into the birth control mentality.

Please continue to pray for HLI's growing work in Latin America. It includes one of the most pro-life regions in the world, where countries defend Life from conception. For this reason, Latin America is a key target of the Culture of Death ... but HLI is a key component in supporting the Church and the Culture of Life. We pray and ask for your prayers, that HLI's REDESSVIDA Congresses continue to reach more and more countries and people in Latin America and, God willing, we at HLI can make a major pro-life impact.

MISSION TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Raymond de Souza, HLI Delegate for International Missions, gave talks in four cities of New Zealand and five more in Australia. The primary purpose of this visit was to address the annual Eucharistic conference in the Archdiocese of Wellington, and this was sandwiched in between trips to and from Australia, where he spoke before multiple audiences. Over the course of six days, Mr. de Souza spoke to nearly 1,000 persons in New Zealand on: "The De-Christianization of Western Culture and the Gospel of Life," the role of prayer in combatting the Culture of Death, and the Rosary in relation to the defense of the Family. He hopes to return in 2019 to further promote Life and Family.

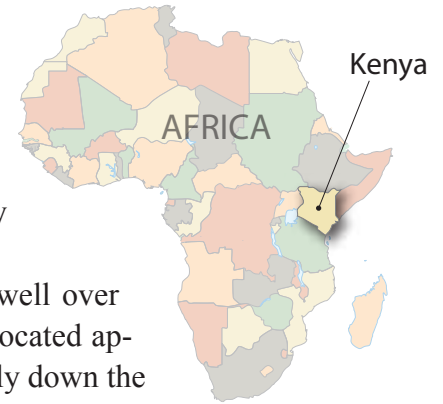


MARCHES FOR LIFE IN KENYA

Fr. Samuel Gatimu, Director of HLI Kenya, helped execute two Marches for Life. These were in Nyeri, March 10, 2018, and in Nairobi, March 24, 2018.

In Nyeri, HLI Kenya joined like-minded groups like the African Organization for Families and 40 Days for Life. During the march, pilgrims also prayed the Way of the Cross.

The nation's capital, Nairobi, is much larger than Nyeri. Nairobi numbers well over six million; whereas Nyeri has a population of roughly 225,000. The cities are located approximately 2.5 hours apart. In Nairobi, at least 3,000 activists marched purposely down the busiest streets, in order to draw greater attention to the Life issue. The same was done in Nyeri.



June 2018 Events

The following are HLI activities scheduled for June 2018:

- **15th International REDESSVIDA** pro-life training for seminarians, priests, religious and lay leaders.
- **Mission trip to Peru** with HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Latin American Regional Director Mario Rojas, HLI Director of International Expansion and Outreach, Dr. Joseph Meaney, and others.
- **Mission trip to East Timor** by HLI Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta.
- **Mission trip to the Comoros Islands** by HLI Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu.
- **The Organization of American States (OAS)** meeting in Washington, D.C., attended by HLI Regional Director of Latin America, Mario Rojas and other members of HLI's team and Latin American Affiliates.
- Fr. Shenan J. Boquet's **25th anniversary** of priestly ordination.

Watch for details of these events to be reported in future issues of HLI's Mission Report.

HLI'S MISSION TO COLOMBIA

By Dr. Rafael José Cabrera Artola, HLI Nicaragua and President, Nicaraguan Association for Life (ANPROVIDA), March 2018

EDITOR'S NOTE: HLI has visited Colombia four times just since 2009; in that time 270 have taken our pro-life course, we reached at least 500 priests, 500 seminarians, 20 bishops, and another 4,000 in lectures, and over another 100,000 via radio and TV.

In March 2018, HLI Latin America witnessed to hundreds in four cities in the Diocese of Sonsón Rionegro in Colombia. Led by Latin American Regional Director Mario Rojas of Bolivia, our team also encompassed myself, Nancy Tosi of Ecuador, Fr. Ronald La Barrera of Peru, and Professor Jesus David Vallejo of the Catholic University of the Orient. In our visits to parishes, schools, communities, and educational institutions, we were well received. The first Q & A question always to follow presentations was, "When will you return?" I am happy to have been part of this wonderful team, and the spiritual satisfaction received surpasses all fatigue dedicated to this evangelizing mission.

Government organizations are among those pushing contraception via TV/radio and the debate is intense; we

countered by granting several interviews that potentially reached thousands of families. As a gynecologist, I personally address contraceptive-related questions and many women requested private consultations during the mission. **There is a such a hunger and thirst for knowledge, both by clergy and laity, that Human Life International is at the front of the current frontier of all evangelization.** Those promoting the Culture of Death feel our impact and are fearful, attempting to cover the same regional areas with their lies and propaganda after we depart.



HLI'S MISSION TO ZIMBABWE *(Excerpted from Spirit and Life, HLI President, Fr. Shenan J. Boquet - Please sign up at www.hli.org!)*

In all my mission trips I have never encountered such an entrenched contraceptive mindset. For decades, the government has mandated Zimbabwe's contraception and comprehensive sex-education *starting at the primary level*. People have fully embraced the contraceptive mindset. At one Catholic nursing school, contraception beliefs prevail:

"The use of contraceptives must continue, to reduce the population and burden on an already suffering economy... People use contraception to overcome over-population, curb poverty, and prolong the life-expectancy of women... People will not limit or stop having sex, so we need contraception to prevent diseases and unwanted pregnancies." — *Nursing Students in St. Theresa [Catholic government accredited] Nursing School, St. Joseph's Mission in the Gweru Diocese*

There are extremely difficult issues confronting this beautiful nation. Unemployment is staggering, and people sell goods at every major street corner just for food and necessities. Over 2 million Zimbabweans work abroad; the money sent home comprises 27% of the nation's income. **However, the gift of children are not the obstacles to prosperity and happiness. Large poor families have simply become small**



poor families. In 1975, the average woman of childbearing age had 7 children instead of 2.4 and a similar economic situation reigned. Interestingly, you don't hear about England being "overpopulated" with its population density of 440 people per square kilometer; yet Zimbabwe is considered "overpopulated" with only 40 people per square kilometer. What hypocrisy!

The root cause? Government corruption and exploitation of the Zimbabwean people. But no one talks about such political leaders or maldistribution of goods.

There are nearly 90 population control groups and NGOs working in this country. Zimbabwe is targeted because of its vast mineral resources coveted by Western and other developed countries. In 1974 under the Nixon administration, the National Security Council of the U.S. promulgated *National Security Study Memorandum 200*, entitled "Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for US Security and Overseas Interests." The document – in full force and never rescinded – expresses overall U.S. government strategy on global population control operations. From chapter III:

"The U.S. economy will require large and increasing amounts of minerals, especially from less developed countries. This gives the U.S. enhanced interest in the political, economic, and social stability of the supplying countries. Wherever a lessening of population through reduced birth rates can increase the prospects for such stability, population policy becomes relevant to resource supplies and to the economic interests of the United States." What once was accomplished by weapons of war is now accomplished by NGOs and private entities.



Marumbi Mission Hospital maternity ward. Women in their 8th month of pregnancy walk miles through the bush to wait a month to give birth.

As we traveled over 1,200 kilometers, our HLI mission observed aggressive population control. Because of their influence and massive amounts of money, population controllers dominate the health sector, control the media and reach the most remote areas of the country. African leaders – some corrupted by money, others deceived – abet the Culture of Death agenda.

Some groups have been working here for decades. One, Population Services International (PSI), was established in 1987 and began its government collaboration in 1996. PSI dominates the "health" sector with: condoms, chemical contraceptives, HIV testing, long-term abortifacient implants like Depo-Provera and Norplant and even abortion. Though abortion is illegal, the government simply turns a blind eye. PSI and their anti-life partners have that much influence upon the dishonest leaders of this nation.

But there are signs of hope...The same year PSI started, so did HLI's Affiliate, the Guadalupe Association of Zimbabwe. It's one of a few pro-life groups making a difference. A Catholic association, it proclaims Church teaching on Life, Marriage and Family. Programs include:



Middle schoolers surrounding Fathers Boquet and Methuli Moyo at Zhombi Mission School.

- Outreach in schools, seminaries and parishes
- Outreach for women and youth groups, plus Christian communities
- Counseling pregnant women and families
- Donations of baby clothes to orphanages and less privileged families
- Lectures and seminars on the Gospel of Life
- Implementation of social media and media outlets to share the Gospel of Life
- Work with Catholic Church leaders

There is Visitation High School at the Makumbi Mission, where I spoke with 800 high school students on the importance of Life.

Another sign of hope is Makumbi Children's Home. Directed by Sister Diana Kanyere, LCBL (Little Blessed Children of Blessed Lady), it cares for 80 orphaned children, counsels women, mothers and families and assists those diagnosed with AIDS. Sister Diana is passionately committed to the cause of Life and Family. She has given retreats and hundreds of talks on the teaching of the Catholic Church to Catholic groups, women's organizations and youth groups. Additionally,

Sister Diana and her religious community and staff support less privileged children and families in the Dom-boshawa Makumbi community.

Moving Forward

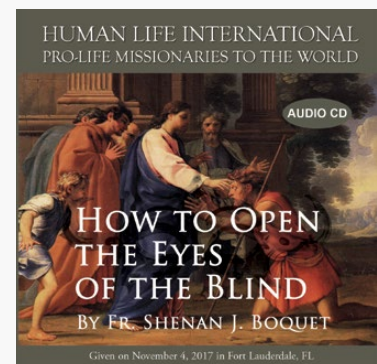
I met recently with an archbishop from Tanzania to discuss the current crisis. We both acknowledged the Church in Africa has experienced rapid growth, but that it needs more time for formation and catechesis to anchor the Faith and protect the people from radical anti-life, anti-family agendas. Please join me in praying for the people of Zimbabwe, as well as for the African continent. Inspired by the challenging words of St. Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*, HLI stands ready to provide continued support:

"Individuals, families, groups and associations ... all have a responsibility for shaping society and developing cultural, economic, political and legislative projects which ... will contribute to the building of a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected and the lives of all are defended and enhanced." — *Evangelium Vitae*, ¶90

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 the CD, **How to Open the Eyes of the Blind** by Fr. Shenan J. Boquet.

In this talk, Fr. Boquet discusses the parallels of modern man's blindness to that of the men of Christ's time. Father reminds us how "They came to Christ and asked Him, 'Are you the one?' Then Christ responds with the words of Isaiah: 'The blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, the crippled walk and the dead are brought to life.'" This is a parallel with today. We, too, are dealing with a deafness, a hardheartedness in our culture. If this isn't a baby, how can someone sell its body parts? The evil one has used this to deepen its darkness. This great campaign of Life is here to open others' eyes, and pierce through the callous, self-righteous abortion mentality.



How to Open the Eyes of the Blind is this month's pro-life educational resource.

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