



Mission Report

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Above: Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-Speaking Africa, giving a talk to Loretto High School students on issues of Life, Marriage, and Family during recent visit to Lesotho.

- ✳ **HLI Philippines** launches broadcast center and airs eight pro-life shows weekly
- ✳ **Mission Trip** targets Culture of Death in landlocked African country of **Lesotho**
- ✳ **Global Marches for Life** exploding - we highlight HLI's participation in **Belgium and Argentina**
- ✳ **This Month's Gift to Donors:** *Contraception and the Mind of Christ* by Raymond de Souza

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

As always, we are delighted to bring you this month's edition of Mission Report. Because as Christians we are commanded to hope and not despair, we know in the end that the Culture of Death may not be won in our generation, but we continue to put on the armor of God, "to stand firm against the tactics of the devil" and fight for Life, Marriage, and Family (Ephesians 6:11).

Our focus is on Africa, specifically the tiny nation of Lesotho with a population of a mere 2.2 million, and a population density of 75 people per square kilometer. Even with such a low density, population controllers are still tirelessly working to lower Lesotho's birth rate, whose current TFR (total fertility rate) is barely at replacement level - 2.65. Please pray especially for Argentina this month, which begins debates on whether to decriminalize abortion. HLI's Dr. Botta is right in the midst of the fray, giving interviews for TV and radio and testifying that the role of medicine is to heal, not kill.

And finally, there is some good news: there are more marches for life occurring around the world. This month we talk about our involvement in the Belgian and Argentina Marches for Life.

As the Church Militant, with your help, we fight every day for Christ for the glory of God and the defense of Life and Family. We are in a spiritual battle and depend heavily upon your faithful prayers. I am extremely grateful for your support, your care and your generosity. Know that you and your intentions are remembered in my daily prayers. Together, we are saving lives and families.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President



MISSION TRIP TO LESOTHO

By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, April 2018

There are serious problems affecting Lesotho: citizens have bought into the 1-2 child limit mentality, so one sees few to no children in the streets, and HIV and mortality rates run extremely high.

At the start of my trip, after speaking for an hour at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, parishioner Ms. Makhoale Pauline Motlomelo cried out these words as an expression of grief and love for her native Lesotho: “Cry my beloved country!” (The words are from the title of Alex Laguma’s novel on South African apartheid.)

During this mission I spoke to high school students, women’s groups, religious sisters, bishops and priests. At one of the first events, I was the guest of honor at a pro-life day, organized by two pro-life student groups and one teacher’s pro-life group at St. Thomas High School. Bishop of Mophale Hosek, John Joale Tihomola, was also present. Through drama, songs, local dances



and poetry, these brave students defied their mostly pro-contraceptive teachers and conveyed a message of Life both enshrined in Catholic teaching and echoing the country’s traditional culture:

- Human life is utterly sacred, to be protected and defended from the moment of conception until natural death;
- The family is the vital and basic unit of human society;
- Chastity and virginity must be cherished by young people;
- Abortion is murder; and
- Contraception harms women, families and society.

Lesotho National Television highlighted the pro-life day in its news bulletin, reaching a wide audience. Those responding included Bishop Joseph Semphola of Qutha’s Nek Diocese, where HLI will be working again next year.

THE CONTRACEPTIVE MENTALITY

Lesotho is both heavily influenced and landlocked by liberal South Africa. *Lesotho’s King Letsie III embraces traditional values upholding life and family, but the political leadership has turned its back on its culture. Due to years of unopposed population control propaganda, the Basotho culture is falling apart.* In 1977 the female contraceptive prevalence rate for those aged 15-49 was 7.2%. Now official sources put the number at 60.2%. But according to parishioner Makhoale Pauline



Bishop John Joale Tihomola, of the Catholic Diocese of Mophale Hoek, gives the opening speech at St. Thomas High School’s pro-life day in Lesotho. The guest of honor was HLI’s Emil Hagamu.

Motlomelo, “We are the contraceptive nation.” She alleges the number to be vastly higher if one adds in school children to older women.

Even at St. Thomas High School, despite being Catholic and owned by the Holy Cross Sisters Congregation, a 15% pregnancy rate prevails and contraception is seen as a widespread “weapon” against pregnancy. As we know, pregnancy is not a disease, nor contraception a solution. In Lesotho, teen pregnancies have skyrocketed and most end in abortion. As per the directors of the Ministry of Education in Lesotho, pregnant girls are expelled from school, and if their partner is known, he is also expelled. [Though we understand the rationale behind the punitive measures, sadly this is not an the ideal answer to the problem, because it also contributes pressure upon girls to have an abortion. What is needed are pro-active measures, chastity and purity programs to prevent pregnancy.]

Contraceptives are readily available over the counter. No age limit, no questions asked. And no talk of the abortifacient or other side effects.

POPULATION BARELY AT REPLACEMENT LEVELS

Despite its small population of only 2.2 million, western population control groups continue to “sing the small family song,” as synonymous with economic development. ***This has led to net decline of Lesotho’s population. The fertility rate has fallen from 5.76 in 1975 to 2.65 in 2017. Because of excess mortality due to AIDS (25% of the population), this is figured into an average age lifespan of a mere 53 years. There is also a high infant mortality rate. But the worst crime causing a drop in population is abortion.***

LESOTHO ABORTION

The Lesotho constitution technically prohibits abortion except in cases of “necessity,” e.g. to save the life of the mother. And the Regulation of Advertisement Proclamation of 1953 (No.60, section 3) prohibits advertising items that could be used to procure an abortion. However, the proclamation excludes from criminal liability those persons publishing advertisements in technical journals which circulate among medical practitioners, chemists, pharmacists and hospital managers. So the law has no bite and abortionists freely advertise. These include: Maseru’s Dr. Lesego abortion clinics,



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-Speaking Africa, addresses students at St. Thomas High School.

Safe Abortion Clinic, Blue Ladies Clinic and the Dr. Jennifer Abortion Clinic.

According to the 2012 Penal Code, Article 45, a baby may be aborted: 1) to “prevent significant harm to the health” of the mother, as defined by any medical practitioner; 2) because the baby is a consequence of rape or incest; or 3) simply to do away with any preborn infant who has a physical or mental handicap.

Lesotho media lends its voice to anti-life agendas. For example, “The Lesotho Times” of March 7, 2014, carried a feature article titled, “The Curse of Motherhood.” Yet the maternal mortality rate is vastly lower than those dying from HIV.

HIV/AIDS, SAME-SEX “MARRIAGE”

Lesotho has the second highest HIV rate worldwide. Ministry of Health figures reveal that 25% of adults aged 15 and 49 are infected with HIV, or one out of every four persons. Regrettably, instead of promoting abstinence and behavioral change, the government relies on condoms and male circumcision. Condom use may postpone but not prevent HIV infection. The male circumcision approach is equally faulty. Statistics on HIV infection, released every December 1st in Tanzania, prove that the circumcision campaign areas have higher infection rates than those without such campaigns.

Lesotho’s powerful neighbor, South Africa, has legalized both homosexuality and same-sex “marriage.”

Faced by international pressure mounted on the Lesotho government, and as a condition for receiving economic development aid, homosexuality and same-sex marriages are tolerated by the Lesotho government.

Even at St. Thomas High School, where an openly lesbian female teacher discusses her “spouse” and child, the administration fears to act. Without punitive measures, the Provincial of the Congregation gives a supportive impression of such conduct, though contrary to natural law and Church teaching. Sadly, it also sends students a message that homosexual behavior and same-sex marriage are legitimate expressions of sexual love. The teacher is living in sin. God divinely designed human sexuality between a man and woman as based in Sacramental marriage, with procreation as a chief aim. Homosexual sexual relationships are inherently devoid of those qualities, thus illicit and sinful.

SIGNS OF HOPE

The future of any nation lies in its youth. That is why we at HLI applaud Sr. Celestina’s effort to build pro-life clubs in schools like St. Thomas. Our hope is that by investing in young people the Culture of Life, HLI will help turn the tide. ***HLI began the pro-life movement in Lesotho with support of the Bishops’ Conference, when I introduced it in 2010. Now bishops in all four dioceses are very supportive of the mission.*** Pro-Life Lesotho, as the movement is called, has a constitution and an office

within the Bishop’s Secretariat in Maseru. Sr. Celestina was appointed by the bishops after Fr. Lawrence Tanki Motse, the first Director of Pro-Life Lesotho became ill and could not continue. Ways HLI’s Lesotho mission aims to support Sr. Celestina are:

- Open more pro-life clubs for students and teachers in every school, so as to consolidate the Culture of Life;
- Openly convey to families and youth the beauty of Church teaching on Life, Faith and Family, as well as responsible procreation;
- Articulately teach chastity, self-discipline and a holistic approach to education on human sexuality as outlined in the document, “*The Meaning and Truth of Human Sexuality*;”
- Challenge government and political leadership via media and collaborative activities on the need to reclaim Basotho traditional and cultural values on Life, Marriage and Family and with openness to life taking precedent;
- Work with Church leadership to provide basic Church teaching on the Sacraments, Ten Commandments, and Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, assuring they are re-introduced in all parishes with vigor and intensity; and
- Invite clergy and religious to join HLI, and fearlessly preach the Gospel of Life.



Emil Hagamu with students of Loretto High School, after giving four talks on Family, Life, and Marriage.

HLI PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES NEW BROADCASTING CENTER

By Dr. Rene Bullecer, HLI Philippines Country Director

HLI Pilipinas (aka HLI Philippines) launched a new broadcasting studio reaching country-wide, after celebrating Holy Mass in its chapel. A blessing of the facilities followed.

Through the prayers and generosity of HLI donors, we installed broadcasting equipment, enabling us to tremendously augment our audience outreach. This way we can record and air clear, direct and critically timed messages defending Faith, Life, and Family. The new equipment enables us to reach as many as a million households, including those in many parts of the archipelago.



HLI program are airing on eight additional, separate radio stations weekly. Seven air weekly, one daily. Promotional spots airing throughout the day promote the airings on these stations.

Of these eight programs, “The Family Rosary Program” airs nightly, seven days a week. According to a survey conducted by DYMF Cebu, “The Family Rosary” reaches most Filipinos aged 50 and over, who listen from 9-9:30pm. Following the Rosary, there is a Gospel reading for the next day, a message on the saint

Dr. Rene Bullecer, HLI Philippines Country Director, broadcasting the message of Life, Faith, and Family from the HLI Pilipinas Broadcast Center.

of the day, and a short catechetical message on the Gospel of Life. It’s a lovely end to the day, before they switch off the radio and go to bed for the night. [To listen to this program in our local dialect on DYMF, visit: www.bomboradyo.com/cebu/.]

July 2018 Events

- July 13-16 Regional Director of Asia and Oceania Dr. Ligaya Acosta travels on a mission to Japan. There she will give a talks in a major seminary, a university and then participate in a newly organized March for Life.
- Tanzania: Humanae Vitae Conference – among the participants are seminarians, priests, religious, and laity. Aim: study HV’s impact on Tanzania.
- Ireland: Humanae Vitae Conference, July 27-August 5, 2018. Attending are HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Dr. Joseph Meaney, Fr. Francesco Giordano and HLI Ireland’s Director Patrick McCrystal.
- Togo: Seminarian Summer Institute, July 4 to 7, 2018. HLI partipants are Francophone Africa Regional Director George Wirnkar, and Dr. Joseph Meaney.
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Convention meets July 17-22 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet is one of the key speakers.
- Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) National Convention held in San Francisco July 6-8 with Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes participating. This event will be followed by week-long pro-life training for CFC-FFL members in southern California.

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

HLI ARGENTINA CAMPAIGNS AGAINST DECRIMINALIZATION OF ABORTION

Abortion is illegal in Argentina, except in cases of rape or danger to the mother's health. President Mauricio Macri invited debate on abortion in his country's State of the Union Address. Our HLI Affiliate, Dr. Oscar Botta, has been giving numerous TV and radio interviews to fight for Life. He also joined the Argentina March for Life, where many thousands participated. Hearings occurred in April, discussing whether or not to allow abortion up to 14 weeks' gestation. Dr. Botta said: "It is imperative the door remain closed to abortion for the sake of the unborn, their mothers and fathers." Please pray as HLI wages an ongoing battle for Life - the first Congressional vote is scheduled this month (June). The following is a statement from Dr. Oscar Botta, of HLI Argentina:



Dr. Oscar Botta, HLI Affiliate in Argentina.

*"As a pediatrician and public health specialist, with more than 42 years in practice, it shames me to hear other doctors testify in Congress in favor of decriminalizing the murder of unborn children in the womb. To be a doctor means "I cure!" Killing a preborn child is more than abortion, it is filicide, the killing of a child by its parent. Yes, any mother is punishable with life imprisonment if she consents to cooperate with that killing of the innocent. Did these "colleagues" abandon their Hippocratic oath not to provide abortifacients and defend human life? When I hear them support and defend the decriminalization of the crime of abortion, they are taking advantage of the media to advocate in favor of a very serious crime against life; **the "abortionist" is a thousand times worse than a hit man because he hides the corpses from view...whole segments of the population "disappear."** And, this is happening in a democracy."*

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.

HLI JOINS BELGIAN MARCH FOR LIFE

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach & Expansion, April 2018

The sun shone this year as I joined Belgium's 9th annual March for Life on behalf of Human Life International (HLI). Falling in step, I accompanied many young people and families carrying white roses, to deposit on the steps of the main court building in Brussels. While the sponsoring Youth for Life group normally schedules the event for a Sunday close to the 25th of March, this year they decided to hold it at the end of April. Abortion in Belgium was depenalized (as opposed to legalized) April 4, 1990, relatively late in comparison to many other western nations. Belgian witness to Life represents an encouraging and growing trend across Europe, where more and more are hosting annual pro-life marches, both



in capital cities and even smaller cities and towns.

The speakers chosen this year touched a broad spectrum of issues. A young lady, Fabiola Mattarelli, gave moving testimony in speaking about her brother with Down Syndrome. She addressed the joy he brought into her family's life and that of so many others. Sadly, in many countries, over 90% of pre-born children diagnosed with Down's Syndrome are aborted.

Another woman spoke on the travesty within the Belgian commission monitoring application of the abortion law. She emphasized the continuing right to conscientious objection of medical workers which is explicitly guaranteed by law. Since Belgium, like much of Western Europe, depenalized rather than legalized abortion, abortion remains in the criminal code as an unpunishable offense only if done under very specific parameters. The anti-life side is not happy with these parameters, instead working hard to motivate Belgium, the United Kingdom and other countries to try and make abortion a "medical act" or even a "human right" ... as opposed

to a crime only not punishable under certain circumstances.

This year pro-abortion protestors sprayed offensive graffiti messages on walls around the place where the March began. A group of about 20 radicals tried to block the marchers by sitting in the street and screaming slogans. The police very efficiently scooped them up and took them away. It was nice to see the forces of the law flexing their muscles to defend pro-lifers rather than blocking them.

At the March for Life in Belgium I was among friends. A large contingent of eight religious sisters from the Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, SSVM, came to the March. HLI has worked with these devoted sisters and priests performing pro-life work in many countries around the world. I also met my French counterpart, so to speak, Paul Ginoux Defermon of *Choisir la Vie* – “Choose Life.” He is one of the main international outreach organizers of many Marches for Life, including France’s, rather like the work I do for HLI. Also present was an Austrian contingent, which announced the dates for its national March for Life, on November 24, 2018 in Vienna.

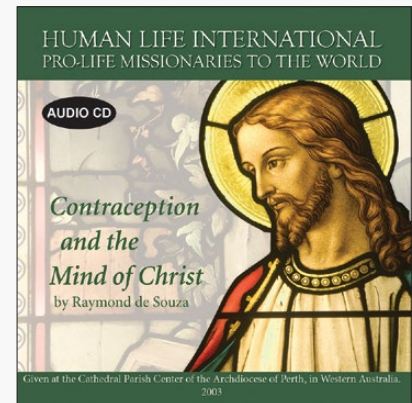
The coup de grace occurred when Emile Duport spoke at the end, drawing thunderous applause from the crowd. Emile founded a group in Paris called “*Les Survivants*.” ***Translated to mean “The Survivors,” the phrase is indicative that all of us born after the legalization of abortion in France, or elsewhere, are survivors who could legally have been killed in the womb.*** With his leather jacket and expertise in electronic communication, Emile is a fine spokesman for the new generation of young people who reject the Culture of Death. (www.lessurvivants.com) It was good to see the capital of Belgium and the European Union transformed into a pro-life city on a glorious day.

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, ***Contraception and the Mind of Christ*** by Raymond de Souza.

Pulling from Blessed Paul VI’s courageous encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, Raymond de Souza implores us to learn the “Mind of Christ.” We should not simply follow what is acceptable in society but follow God’s laws using a well-formed conscience. We need to keep our souls and bodies pure because humans consist of body and soul. De Souza also explains why contraception is against the natural law. If you or someone you know has ever questioned Church teaching on marriage and the sanctity of human life, listen to this audio talk for the answers.

Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today, and we’ll ship this CD out to you today!



***Contraception and the Mind of Christ* by Raymond de Souza is this month’s pro-life educational resource.**