



Mission Report

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Some of the seminarians who attended the *Humanae Vitae* conference in Dar es Salaam in July 2018.

- ✳ **Dr. Ligaya Acosta Visits Japan, Pays Respects at Memorial for Unborn, Meets Papal Nuncio and Marches at Tokyo's March for Life!**
- ✳ **HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet Speaks before 1,000 at the National Conference for Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life in Burlingame, California**
- ✳ **HLI Tanzania Holds Conference to Honor Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae***
- ✳ **This Month's Gift to Donors: Parts I and II of HLI's "Conscience Series."**

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

This July saw many amazing pro-life events that inspired, educated, and facilitated a deeper understanding of Christ's teachings in people throughout the world. Dr. Ligaya Acosta, regional director of HLI Asia and Oceania, traveled to Japan on a 15-day mission trip. Everywhere she visited, people warmly received the pro-life message offered by HLI, and a return trip is already in the works.

In early July, I traveled to California to give the keynote address for the National Conference for Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life. Following the conference, the CFC-FFL leadership team and I traveled south to speak at three churches on the tenets of our faith concerning Life and Family.

In this year celebrating the anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*, we show how its truths truly reach the far corners of the earth. Emil Hagamu, regional director of English-speaking Africa, held a *Humanae Vitae* conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where participants discussed its four prophesies as evidenced in their own nation.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

I hope you enjoy reading about our incredible efforts to build a Culture of Life throughout the world. Thank you for your dedication, support, and prayers for our ongoing mission.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



MISSION TRIP TO JAPAN

By Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Regional Director of HLI Asia and Oceania, July 2018

Even before I embarked on my second mission trip to Japan, I felt God's powerful hand. The Japanese embassy granted my husband and me an unusual five-year visa, which I interpreted as a sign that we have a lot more to do there. My fifteen-day trip was one full of education, inspiring talks, and joyful people, all made possible primarily through the invaluable efforts of Izumi Sakura, who works at the Salesian Provincial Office in Tokyo. Izumi also became my interpreter in most of my talks.

Throughout my travels, I found that most pro-lifers in Japan only work against abortion, whereas **we at Human Life International recognize that, to stop abortion and protect Life from conception to natural death, we must address other Life and Family issues, such as contraception and euthanasia.**

In a country with a total fertility rate of 1.4, much below the replacement 2.1 level, I saw firsthand a hunger for the Gospel of Life.

SEMINARY TALKS

Through God's amazing grace, I spoke in two seminaries during this trip—first at the Catholic Major Seminary in Tokyo and then at the Salesian Seminary in the city of Chofu. At the seminary in Tokyo, I gave two talks, including one on *Humanae Vitae*. In Chofu, I spoke on “The Joys and Challenges of Working with Youth.”

The greatest compliment I received in Chofu came from a priest who requested our help in reaching out to their 300,000 youth constituents throughout Japan who face the daily problems of promiscuity, teenage pregnancy, abortion, and contraception. I happily offered our assistance,



and a return trip is being arranged.

On the afternoon of July 5, I met Bishop-elect Mario Yamanouchi, provincial of the Salesian Province in Japan, who was extremely instrumental in facilitating my trip. I thanked him profusely for his help and gifted him with HLI materials.

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

On July 6, I spoke to a youth Bible study group at Sophia University. Afterward, the students expressed their gratitude and excitement about my talk and said that what I shared with them is exactly what youth today need to hear.

THE PAPAL NUNCIO

I also had the privilege of meeting with the apostolic nuncio to Japan, Most Rev. Joseph Chennoth. He received us warmly, praised HLI, and encouraged our work. He talked of his devotion to St. Pope John Paul II and expressed how the saint has influenced his life. One thing that struck me was when Japan's Apostolic Nuncio exclaimed, “Children should be declared a world heritage!” **As he spoke, I felt as if I were listening to God affirming the mission of Human Life International.** St. Pope John



Dr. Ligaya meeting with the apostolic nuncio to Japan, Most Rev. Joseph Chennoth, who praised and encouraged the work of HLI.

HLI Impact on Japan

The following statistics from those who attended Dr. Ligaya's lectures in Japan give insight into the audience HLI is reaching there:

- 72% of those who attended said they did so to learn more about Life issues
- Half of those in attendance (47%) were from educational professions
- Only 2% of attendees said they were already active in the pro-life movement
- 86% of those who attended said this was their first HLI training event

Thank you, our faithful supporters, for making this impact possible.

Paul II told our founder this mission is “the greatest and most important work on earth.”

REITAKU UNIVERSITY

When Reitaku University professor Jason Morgan learned of my trip to Japan, he asked if I could also speak at his university. Initially, he intended my talk just for his students, but once other faculty and students heard of my presentation, the numbers grew. Thus, there were over one hundred who attended my address on “The Philippines Today: Globalism, Populations, and Geo-Political Challenges.” During my talk, I presented facts and figures about the Philippines, then spoke about the truth of contraception, abortion, and promiscuity—all of which are rampant in Japan.

The talk went extremely well. Afterward, a Muslim student from Malaysia told me that “this is what the youth need to hear” and begged me to speak with young people in her country.

ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH

A primary focus of our trip was to

speak about pro-life activism at St. Ignatius Church. Prior to my talk, I had a wonderful conversation with the national director of Caritas Uganda, Msgr. Francis Ndamira. He listened intently to my introduction of Human Life International and said that I should share my message in Uganda as well.

With God's amazing grace, everyone was touched by my presentation. After my talk, people stayed to tell me how grateful they were that I was there. Many present said it was *their first time* hearing a pro-life speaker and that they were impressed with the scientific facts I presented along with the authentic teachings of the Church.

A HEARTRENDING VISIT

Between talks, we traveled to Zojoji Temple to visit the memorial for the unborn—an endless row of stone statues of children representing miscarried



Dr. Ligaya speaking to over 100 students and faculty at Reitaku University on “The Philippines Today: Globalism, Populations, and Geo-Political Challenges.”

and stillborn children. Although there is no mention of aborted children on the marker, I have been told that it is really a memorial for aborted children. Parents place names on the statues and decorate them with clothing “to protect them from cold.” Since abortion was legalized in Japan, about 38 million babies have been killed, with 300,000 more every year. What I saw at Zojoji confirmed that the decision to abort affects parents forever.

A SPECIAL MASS

I also had the great privilege of attending a Mass for Japanese martyr Blessed Peter Kibe and 187 others. Most Reverend Joseph Mitsuaki Takami, Archbishop of Nagasaki, delivered a touching homily that recalled the heroic virtues of Blessed Peter Kibe and the martyrs, all killed because they would not renounce their Christian faith. Love and faith were brought to Japan, he said, because of these martyrs who showed their burning love for God.

MARCH FOR LIFE IN JAPAN

My Japanese mission culminated in our participation in the 2.5 mile March for Life. Started only five years ago by Ikeda San with barely 75 participants, it has increased

to 1,000. **One of the priests at the March brought the Holy Eucharist with him and told everyone before giving his final blessing that we were not only marching for and to Jesus, but we were also marching with Jesus!**

Truly, God is amazing! I am eternally grateful to the benefactors of Human Life International, without whom we could not have traveled to Japan. Please pray that the little seeds we planted there will grow and bear much fruit.



Dr. Ligaya joins Japan's March for Life.

October 2018 Events

Please pray for HLI's Mission work in October:

- September 29-October 9: Fr. Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes travel for a mission trip to New Zealand. (This on the heels of a mission trip to Papua New Guinea—Sept 16 - 28.)
- October 15-19: HLI Latin American affiliate, Nancy Tosi, will film a 24-episode TV series in Guadalajara, Mexico, with ESNE EL SEMBRADOR TV on “Theology of the Body.” This programming will air to 18 countries.
- October 15-30: HLI regional director of English-Speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu, travels for a mission trip to Malawi.
- October 24-31: Fr. Boquet and all HLI European leaders travel to Czestochowa Poland to celebrate HLI Poland's 25th anniversary and to meet to discuss strategies and objections for the region.

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

Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life National Conference

By Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Education and Research

On July 6-8, 2018, Father Shenan J. Boquet, president of Human Life International, and I continued our long association with the Filipino-based group Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL). HLI has assisted CFC-FFL for several years in its efforts to more strongly emphasize pro-life activism and training in its mission. CFC-FFL has highly organized groups in more than fifty countries throughout the world, and Fr. Boquet and I are always amazed that, regardless of where we travel, we are met by great numbers of Filipinos.

The 2018 CFC-FFL National Conference took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, California—a suburb of San Francisco. One thousand people attended the three-day event, which started with a Mass at 5:00 PM on Friday evening and a keynote address by Fr. Boquet, who emphasized the fundamental nature of the Catholic Church's teachings on human dignity and how these teachings must affect everything we do. For three days,



Participants of the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life Conference.

inspiring speakers, including Brother Frank Padilla—the founding servant general of CFC-FFL—and others, laid out a framework of activism between worship songs and the praying of the Rosary.

Following this conference, Fr. Boquet and I accompanied the CFC-FFL leadership team south, where we conducted evening programs at three churches: St. Dominic Savio Church in Bellflower (Los Angeles), and Good Shepherd Catholic Church and St. Michael Church, both in San Diego. We had the biggest crowd in San Diego, which is home to the largest United States Navy base in the world. We also enjoyed a party that celebrated the 25th anniversary of Fr. Boquet's ordination.

Fr. Boquet looks forward to many more years of cooperation with CFC-FFL, which is becoming a major force in the fight for Life around the world. Within the next year, we will have four more training sessions with CFC-FFL, including such varied locations as New Jersey, Houston, Edmonton, Alberta, and Istanbul, Turkey.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet speaking at the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life Conference.

HLI's Summer Matching Grant Appeal

Donor contributions to the Summer Matching Grant Appeal to defend life in Africa and HLI's pro-life & family missionary programs around the world totaled \$179,107. And thanks to a generous donor who pledged a \$50,000 match, the total raised to support HLI missionary work was \$229,107.

MISSION TRIP TO TANZANIA

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

Studying *Humanae Vitae*...Tanzanian Style

July 19-23 was a period of deep reflection and discussion on Blessed Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Gathered at the Amani Retreat Center of the Benedictine Sisters of Camaldolese, located about eighteen miles south of Dar es Salaam, seventy participants, including priests, religious women, seminarians, university students, and lay pro-life activists took part in a unique conference on *Humanae Vitae*.

Unlike previous conferences, this year's was a "study session" conference in which participants were tasked with listening to the prophetic message of *Humanae Vitae*, which I presented on the first day. This was followed by group discussions and presentations. Each of the four groups corresponded to Blessed Paul VI's four prophecies about contraception and each group was assigned the task of reflecting on a given prophecy and enriching it with practical examples from Tanzania.

Before I report on group reflections, I would like to share some important statistics on marriage from the Tanzania Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA). In an article entitled "Marriage Situation in Tanzania," RITA reports that 34% of the population is married. According to



the article, in 2008/09, the divorce rate was 1.1%. Since then it has increased gradually, such that in 2011/12 the divorce rate was 1.3%; in 2012/2013 it was 1.8%; and in 2014/2015 it was 2.1%. These statistics indicate that in 2014/15 three out of 100 marriages ended in divorce.

After examining these statistics, I realized that, as contraception



Some of the participants of HLI's "50 Years of *Humanae Vitae*" Conference held at the Amani Retreat Center of the Benedictine Sisters of Camaldolese.

became more widely available, Tanzanian divorce rates began to increase.

According to the same agency, 232,415 married couples separated in 2012, while in the same year 715,447 couples divorced. These figures are only those recorded officially by the judiciary. There are many separations and divorces taking place that are not officially documented. RITA offers reasons for separation and divorce, with infidelity ranking number one. Behavior change between married couples, moral decay, marital sexual problems, and the idea that sex is mainly for pleasure instead of procreation follow closely behind.

THE FOUR PROPHECIES

With these statistics and the words of Blessed Paul VI in mind, the groups set out to discuss the implications of contraception. Group one discussed and reflected on Blessed Paul VI's prophecy that the use of contraception would lead to conjugal infidelity. The group agreed that this has happened and that infidelity among couples has led to untold suffering on both sides. According to the group, another outcome of marital infidelity is out-of-wedlock children who end up being denied basic parental love and care.

Group two discussed and reflected on the second prophecy that the use of contraception would lead to a general lowering of morality. Group members agreed that the use of contraception has paved the way to sexual and moral decadence in Tanzania. Consequently, teenage pregnancies lead to an escalation of abortion rates. The group also



Above: Msgr. Deogratias Mbiku gives a homily on importance of *Humanae Vitae* to Christians and to the Church during the Mass that officially open the *Humanae Vitae* Conference in Dar es Salaam. Below: A group discussing the prophetic message of *Humanae Vitae* during a study session at the conference.



discussed the sex industry, including the emerging group of sex workers who frequent night clubs and line the city streets at night. In addition, group members believe that comprehensive sexuality education has been one of the main reasons for an upsurge in sexual activity among youth. The group enumerated a host of other consequences, including commercialized fornication, loss of a sense of God, decline in church attendance, decrease in priestly and religious vocations, and an increase in cohabitation.

Group three discussed the third prophecy, which states that “a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman and . . . reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires.” The group agreed that contraception makes women easily available to men anytime they are wanted for sex,

and that women often are treated as property. They also reported that contraception has led to the emergence and institutionalization of prostitution. In Dar es Salaam, prostitutes are commonly seen. In addition, many women have become rich through prostitution and are now hiring young girls whom they use in their sex business. In some places, one out of thirty-five women is a prostitute.

The last prophecy contends that contraception puts a dangerous weapon into the hands of public authorities by giving control of women's bodies to a government entity—and group four agreed. **The Tanzanian government has made contraception compulsory to every family and persons of reproductive age.** Women attending health services are lectured on the importance of spacing children through contraception. Population control groups like Marie Stopes visit villages coercing women to use contraception or to sterilize. Several regional and international protocols have been signed to force the government to implement what is known as “reproductive health services.” The Maputo Protocol, the Safe Motherhood Bill, the Constitutional Reviews, and the East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights bills have agendas that are common to all—advocacy for contraception and abortion, comprehensive sexual-

ity education, sterilization, homosexual agenda, and radical feminism.

Conference attendees concluded that Blessed Paul VI's prophecies have indeed been fulfilled, a conclusion supported by non-Catholic secular scientists.

The latter also made predictions on the effects of the hormonal birth control pill on society and marriage. Westoff (1978) predicted that widespread use of modern methods of contraception, especially hormonal pills, would have a dramatic effect on marriage (i.e., marriage later in life, fewer marriages, more cohabitation, sexual relations outside of marriage, a decline in the fertility rate below replacement, and continued high levels of divorce).

According to members of the conference, our Church leaders have completely abandoned teaching *Humanae Vitae*. They say that people don't hear this beautiful teaching of the Church regarding Life, procreation, and family from their parish priests. Pro-life members in some parishes face difficulties and even total rejection by their clergy when promoting the Gospel of Life.

And now, fifty years after *Humanae Vitae*, conference participants affirmed its warnings and recognized the critical work of HLI and those promoting the message of Life.

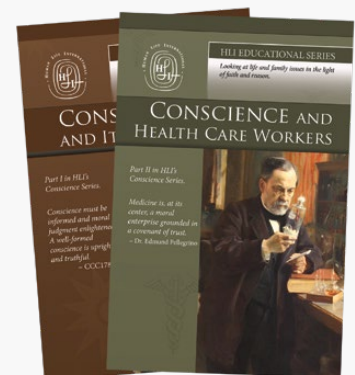
DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission, you'll receive parts I & II of HLI's **Conscience** series.

HLI's five-part series on the topic of conscience focuses on conscience and its formation, conscience and health care workers, conscience in voting and everyday life, conscience and religious freedom, and the role of conscience in such major bioethical issues as abortion, contraception, *in vitro* fertilization, cloning etc.

There is much confusion about the role of conscience. The intention of this series is to educate the public on the role of conscience as understood in Catholic teaching.

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



Parts I & II of HLI's Conscience series are this month's pro-life educational resource.