



Mission Report

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- ✳ **HLI's *Humanae Vitae* Conference/Speaking Tour Hits Ireland**
- ✳ **Up to FIVE Pro-life Mission Centers and Counting in Zimbabwe**
- ✳ **This Month's Gift to Donors: the CD talk *What Makes Pro-Lifers Tick* by Dr. Peter Kreeft**

Pictured left: HLI's Irish team hit the ground running. L to R: Patrick McCrystal, Director of HLI Ireland, Dr. Joseph Meaney, Director of International Outreach and Expansion, Fr. Francesco Giordano, Executive Director of HLI's Rome Office, and HLI President, Father Shenan J. Boquet.

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

Following the referendum that tragically allowed abortion to become legal in Ireland, I travelled on mission to the Emerald Isle with Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI's Director of International Outreach and Expansion; HLI's Rome Director, Father Francesco Giordano, pro-life broadcaster and long-time HLI friend Barbara McGuigan, and her daughter Missy. HLI's team joined HLI-Ireland for a conference and speaking tour entitled "*Humanae Vitae*: Addressing the Roots of the Cultural Crisis." Read more about the courageous people of all faiths who, despite setbacks in Ireland, are united in their defense and service of Life and Family.

This year we also made our second mission trip to Zimbabwe. The culture there is saturated with contraception, and abortion is readily available. HLI's efforts in Zimbabwe are leading to a transformation in the thinking of the people regarding the sanctity of life. HLI now has five pro-life establishments actively working in the country, saving lives and families.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Your sacrificial gifts and prayers make this possible. HLI travels on her missions regardless of obstacles, to villages and schools, to churches and seminaries, to cities and hospitals, pregnancy help centers and marches for life.

Please pray for the success of our first American "REDESSVIDA" Congress, which will be held next month in partnership with the Diocese of Phoenix. This pro-life training, as part of HLI's global strategy, helps form and strengthen our Catholic seminarians, priests, religious and laity, aiding them in defending and preaching a Culture of Life.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

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MISSION TRIP TO IRELAND

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, July/August 2018

SURPRISED BY THE NORTH . . . OF IRELAND

The Isle of Saints and Scholars, as Ireland is often called, strikes deep chords within me. My paternal ancestors all hailed from Ireland and came to North America in the mid-18th century from Ulster in the North. William Meaney, my grandfather, was born in County Kilkenny in the South and sailed to the U.S. at the start of the 20th century. My ancestors all agreed that Holy Ireland is a special place. This only makes the tragedy unfolding there more heartbreaking.

Ireland has witnessed tremendous suffering and astonishing missionary zeal over the centuries. Northern Ireland, in particular, is infamous for a territorial conflict nicknamed “The Troubles” that lasted from roughly 1968-1998 and that saw 50,000 people either killed or wounded. The Good Friday Agreement in 1998 brought about a ceasefire that has largely held, despite the deep divisions that remain between the overwhelmingly Protestant Unionist/Loyalist side and the mainly Catholic Nationalist/Republican supporters.

The real surprise is what is happening today, even though its roots took hold long ago. Ireland broke into pieces amid a complicated crisis that spanned a decade and that was notable for bloody conflicts and the Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin. The resulting 1921 cease fire led to a division that created the Republic of Ireland—comprised of 26 counties—and a devolved province of the United Kingdom, now called Northern Ireland, consisting of the remaining six Irish counties, but that retains home rule.

When Parliament in Westminster depenalized abortion in 1967, strong opposition to that law in Northern Ireland kept it from being applied in this province of the United Kingdom. In essence, the Protestant-backed



Northern Ireland Unionist political parties blocked and continued to keep abortion out, while the “Catholic” *Sinn Féin* Nationalist party actively worked for legalized abortion.

REPEALING THE 8TH

This odd situation became even stranger when the Republic of Ireland held a referendum in May 2018 to decide whether or not to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution. The 8th Amendment, which was approved by an Irish Republic national referendum in 1983 with 66.9% of the votes in favor, stated: “The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, as far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.” A determined and unrelenting pro-abortion campaign fueled and funded by liberals inside and outside Ireland that culminated in the May 2018 referendum saw 66.4% of those voting favoring to repeal the 8th Amendment. On September 19, 2018 President Michael D. Higgins enacted the repeal in signing the 36th Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2018, which removes equal protec-



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet speaks to locals on preventing the spread of legalized abortion from the Republic to Northern Ireland.

HLI Impact on Ireland

- “The awareness and knowledge passed on has been superb. No one has ever informed me in all the years I’ve been in school, university, or church, of the facts discussed and the rights/wrongs in family life.” (Name not given.)
- “I was heartened to see that pro-lifers have not been emasculated. The level of presentation was excellent, and the passion came through. I got some good materials with which I can inform those I know about how evil abortion is.” — John McKenna
- “It has informed me about many core values and reinforced my RIGHT to defend life.” — Monica McMurray

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

tion in law for the unborn and allows abortion legislation to be enacted.

Where does Human Life International (Ireland) fit into this complicated picture? Through your unwavering generosity, HLI Ireland employs many weapons to defend life. Patrick McCrystal, a pharmacist who ceased working in his profession when he could not find a job that wouldn’t require him to dispense contraception or the “pill,” leads HLI Ireland. This father of “only eight children,” as he says to those who ask, is from Northern Ireland and is a strong Catholic who says he has always espoused a spiritual message and supernatural weapons to affirm the right to life of all human beings. The masthead of his newsletter reads: “God Is First. Life Is Sacred. The Family Is Cherished.”

One of the signature campaigns of HLI Ireland promotes devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. Devotion to Christ’s Holy Face began in 1844 when a Carmelite nun in Tours, France, reportedly saw visions of Jesus and Mary. Sister Marie of Saint Peter said that Jesus asked for devotion to His Holy Face as reparation for sins of sacrilege and blasphemy. Several years later, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux took as her religious name Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face and composed a famous prayer to the Holy Face of Jesus. New impetus came in the 20th century thanks to another nun, Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli, who, after seeing visions of Jesus and His Blessed Mother, had a medal of the Holy Face cast. She related that the devotion was especially useful in fighting sexual immorality. **Your generous contributions have helped HLI Ireland spread this**

devotion to thousands of people by distributing images and prayer booklets and by organizing Holy Face billboard campaigns throughout Ireland.

HLI HOSTS MAJOR CONFERENCE AND SPEAKING TOUR

To help combat the abortion turmoil in Ireland, HLI held a conference at the Emmaus Retreat Center in Dublin in July 2018. HLI’s president, Father Shenan J. Boquet, traveled from the U.S.; Father Francesco Giordano flew



Father Francesco Giordano, Director of HLI’s Rome Office, speaking on the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

in from the Rome office; I traveled from France; Barbara McGuigan and her daughter Missy made the trip from America; and several local Irish speakers rounded out the list of presenters for this event. Entitled “*Humanae Vitae*: Addressing the Roots of the Cultural Crisis,” this conference—and the speaking tour that followed—taught the often-repeated conviction of HLI founder, Father Paul Marx, that **acceptance of contraception inevitably leads to abortion**. St. Pope John Paul II spoke of this as well when he wrote in *Evangelium Vitae* that contraception and abortion are fruits of the same tree.

Patrick McCrystal was particularly eager to spread a strategy for preventing abortion from becoming legal in Northern Ireland. After the Dublin conference, we embarked on a whirlwind tour of Northern Ireland with Fathers Boquet and Giordano and HLI Ireland staff members.

Our first stop was Derry, where the bishop, His Excellency Donal McKeown, welcomed us to a pro-life day of recollection for the priests of the diocese. Bishop McKeown stayed with us most of the day and supported our message when we spoke to the general public at the charmingly named Termonbacca Carmelite Retreat House. Patrick maintained that keeping abortion out of Northern Ireland must be a joint effort of both Protestants and Catholics, as pressure is mounting from Great Britain to politically impose abortion on Northern Ireland. The abortionist strategy seems to claim that denying abortion is a violation of the human rights of women! *The Irish Times* reported on this event and quoted Patrick, who strongly asserted that “the North is not next.”

Our HLI speaking tour in Northern Ireland visited Derry and Tyrone counties and finished in the city of Belfast. The diverse audiences included homeschoolers and, at Kelly’s Inn, Mickey Harte, the wonderful Catholic coach of the successful County Tyrone Gaelic football team. At most of these pro-life lecture evenings, I was introduced by Patrick McCrystal and spoke on the causal link between contraception and abortion. Father Boquet then continued the pro-life theme, followed by Father Giordano. The evenings all concluded with Patrick McCrystal sharing his vision of the need to proclaim widely that human life is sacred and created in the image and likeness of God. Patrick led prayers each night asking God to keep abortion out of Ireland, both North and South.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Despite the years of conflict and suffering that have borne distinct fruits, Northern Ireland is a special place. The Catholic Church is undoubtedly stronger in the North than in the South. Catholics there are a growing minority of the population, and, for centuries, suffered persecution at the hands of the Protestants. **Yet today, the defense of human life, particularly unborn babies, is uniting Protestants and Catholics, and your support has helped save countless babies.** In the past I would



Dr. Joseph Meaney, a bioethicist working out of HLI’s Paris office, spoke from his perspective on *Humanae Vitae* during this anniversary year and on upholding the Gospel of Life.

have been hard-pressed to find anything good to say about the division of Ireland into two political entities, but I am forced to admit that Northern Ireland has a far better chance than the Republic of Ireland of keeping legal abortion out of its borders today.

Isn’t it amazing that, while most of Ireland has grown secular and has assimilated the dominant values of the European Union, Northern Ireland is a bastion of pro-life protections for unborn children? Northern Ireland may indeed become better known for its courageous pro-life stance in the 21st century than for the violence that plagued it for most of the 20th century. HLI blesses and thanks the people of faith—both Protestant and Catholic—who support us and who are determined to keep abortion out of Northern Ireland. We could never do this without your generous support. May this pro-life unity spread to every land.

MISSION TRIP TO ZIMBABWE

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

From August 21-24, 2018, I trained 22 enthusiastic pro-life warriors who gathered at Makumbi Retreat Center in Domboshawa Constituency for a four-day pro-life training program.

One of the questions I asked the attendees was: **“What do you consider to be the challenges facing human life in Zimbabwe today?”** The following were some of their answers:

- Diseases such as cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, and heart failure.
- The easy availability of abortion to rape victims as well as to other women who seek it.
- Comprehensive sex education taught in schools. (According to attendees, since this information is now taught in schools, kids experiment. Out of fear of becoming pregnant, they resort to contraceptives—such as condoms—which are freely supplied.)
- Widespread knowledge about contraceptive methods and the large amount of organizations that promote them.
- The lack of pro-life organizations in Zimbabwe.

When asked to name organizations involved in promoting and distributing contraceptives, attendees mentioned the National Aids Council, UNFPA, Zimbabwe Family Planning Association, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe Intervention Community Health Research Program,



Carex, WHO, AFRICAID, Say What, and UNAids. Though unsure about the amount of money poured into these programs, attendees felt certain that the evil work of these organizations successfully promotes the Culture of Death in Zimbabwe. **The prevalence of these programs and the contraceptive mentality that has permeated the country have gradually changed people's beliefs about life, family, morality, and spirituality.**

Attendees voiced the fact that it is now unfathomable for women to not use contraception and stated that contraceptive methods and devices such as Depo Provera, IUDs, the pill, Jadelle, Norplant, condoms, and sterilization have become a normal part of family life.

YEARNING FOR KNOWLEDGE

After leaving the retreat center, we embarked on a four-day mission trip to educate villagers about contraception, abortion, the sanctity of life, and other threats to the family. We visited the villages of Chinamola, Sasa, Mashayanmombe, and Chirombo—all located in



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director for English-Speaking Africa, gives a talk on fetal development to 43 villagers of Chirombo Domboshawa, Zimbabwe.

Domboshawa, Mashonaland East—and then spoke at St. Patrick Church in the southern part of Harare.

The village programs took place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day. Rocks and open grass were the normal venues for the gatherings, with participants enduring the scorching noon heat in search of knowledge. Though each person received only four slices of bread and a cup of juice for lunch, all were happy, and all were eager to listen to the truths we taught.

NEED FOR A STRONG PRO-LIFE VOICE

As we traveled, we learned that, although Zimbabwe's Shona people observe patriarchal kinship and recognize the fact that a husband is the head of the family, the relationship between husband and wife is based on mutual respect. My trainees explained that "life and marriage are sacred" in the Shona culture.

Though the pro-life message is congruent with Shona culture, trainees and villagers in the villages we visited confessed that this was their first time hearing someone

speak the pro-life message. With virtually no resistance, anti-life organizations have enmeshed themselves into this culture and have easily imparted their anti-life mentality on a defenseless people. Unfortunately, even the Church has not done much to change the situation.

HLI's presence in Zimbabwe is, therefore, critically important today. Without timely intervention, life, marriage, and the family in this culturally rich nation may face total collapse.

Heretofore, according to some of the attendees, the pro-life message was resisted because "many people see contraception as the only option to help address their poverty." A practice called baby dumping is also common in Zimbabwe when a baby is unwanted after being born. Those I spoke with attribute this situation to a "lack of parental guidance." Furthermore, they say that "backstage" abortions frequently take place and that some anti-life organizations push the legalization of "safe" abortion in order to address the problem of "unprofessional abortion methods."

November 2018 Events

Please pray for HLI's Mission work in November:

- November 7-11 marks the first U.S.-held REDESSVIDA, our Spanish-speaking pro-life formation workshops aimed at seminarians, priest, religious, and laity, to take place in Phoenix, AZ, with simultaneous Spanish-English translation.
- November 10-20: Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, travels to Mauritius for meetings with the American Family Life Federation.
- November 20-30: Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, travels to Kerala, India, to begin preparations for HLI's ASPAC (Asia-Pacific's largest pro-life congress, held every two years, next in 2019).
- November 23-30: Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, HLI President, Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Education and Research and Emil Hagamu travel on a mission trip to Swaziland.
- November 26-30 the Diocese of Rionegro graduates 250 pro-lifer students in HLI's pro-life course. They are also ending Phase 5 of Project Rachel training and half way through Pope St. John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" course.

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

HLI Impact on Zimbabwe

When asked what they learned from HLI training in Zimbabwe, participants answered:

- “Abortion is barbaric and inhumane.”
- “Abortion denies people the right to life, and everyone deserves a chance to live.”
- “Abortion hinders good health (e.g., abortion may lead to barrenness and cancer).”
- “Abortion shows a lack of love for life.”
- “All these threats to life display a lack of fear of the Lord.”
- “Contraception, abortion, and euthanasia create a chain of sin—from the patient to the doctor and nurse.”
- “Homosexuality is contrary to the African culture and norms: The African culture does not allow people of the same sex to have sex with one another or to be a couple.”

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

In the villages of Monica and Veronica, the director and assistant director of the Guadalupe Association of Zimbabwe—HLI’s affiliate—and four of those newly trained at the Makumbi Retreat Center, gave talks about the pro-life mission, contraception, and the sanctity of human life. Reflecting on their own culture that loves, cherishes, and values life, marriage, and the family, **all people responded with one voice: a clear opposition and condemnation of contraception, abortion, euthanasia, and homosexuality.**

The wide acceptance of contraception points to the root of the problem. No one has taught Zimbabweans the beauty of the Church’s teaching on responsible parenthood or that it includes natural child spacing according to God’s plan, using Natural Family Planning. **Until the training, they were not aware of the grave consequences of contraception.** Imparted with this new knowledge, some of the trainees said afterward:



Pictured left to right: Sr. Diana, Director of Makumbi Retreat Center, the Director of Youth at Makumbi Parish, Emil Hagamu, HLI Director of English-Speaking Africa, and Monica and Veronica, HLI Directors of Zimbabwe.

- It taught me things I wasn’t fully aware of, such as the dangers of contraceptives.
- I learned that abortion is a sin and that contraceptives cause cancer and go against God’s command to be fruitful and multiply.
- I have learned how contraceptives harm our health.
- I learned that contraceptives have side effects that cause diseases.
- I have learned that using contraceptives is a sin and that they may kill an innocent soul.

These are just few of the reactions we received from trainees, many of whom craved more information so that they could teach others. Villagers not only discussed the side effects of contraceptive use, they also gave witness to how contraception has negatively impacted their lives. Then the elderly women shared how they successfully used God's way to space births.

REPLICATION OF STRATEGY

We offer our sincere thanks to Sr. Diana of the Makumbi Retreat Center, who was instrumental in planning and organizing this training. Because she works with women's groups at the grassroots level, she was able to choose the most capable among them to attend the four-day training. Also included were two men and eight University of Zimbabwe students. Since this was a training of trainers, attendees organized people in their respective areas so that it was easy for us to visit them after the formal training.

As a result, **we now have five pro-life training centers in Zimbabwe**. If HLI can continue its presence, the pro-life message will spread like wildfire. Your support has been integral in our mission and allows our strategy to be replicated in other dioceses in Zimbabwe. We hope that next year's national training will draw trainees from all dioceses and will enable further growth.

I am most grateful for the HLI financial resources that made this mission a success. In a country where the Culture of Death is so dominant, HLI's intervention is needed now more than ever to bring the voice of LIFE. Your generous support has helped educate and empower the people of Zimbabwe to stand up to the Culture of Death and to help prevent it from devouring any more souls.

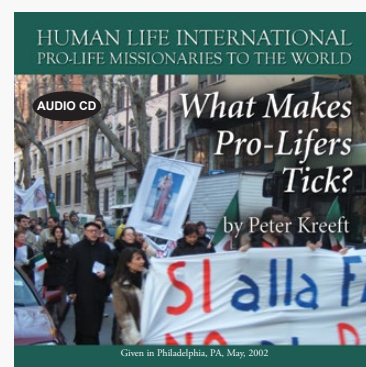
DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission, you'll receive the CD talk *What Makes Pro-Lifers Tick* by Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Why do pro-lifers fight for life? What motivates them? In this talk, Dr. Kreeft lays out the "pro-life motivational map" through a discussion of 15 reasons why pro-life activists defend life. The understanding of a moral obligation, concern for civilization, love of women, children, the family and LIFE are all some of these motives he describes.

Dr. Kreeft explains the importance of pro-lifers knowing what motivates them for their own good and for the good of others, so they will not become despondent in the face of opposition and so they can clearly explain the pro-life message. While arguments are not the same as motivations, they are connected to each other.

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



***What Makes Pro-Lifers Tick* by Dr. Peter Kreeft is this month's pro-life educational resource.**