



Mission Report

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Pictured left: Close-up of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

In “A Christmas Carol,” Ebenezer Scrooge was asked to contribute to the poor and needy. “If they would rather die,” said Scrooge, “they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population!” Today, sadly, this mentality remains active. Western governments bow before the gods of the United Nations and their racist population control policies. They tell Africans, “We won’t help you with your critical needs, like food, clean water, health care, infrastructure, or education. We want fewer Africans.” Well, Africans are waking up!

HLI Poland in October celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding. Regional Affiliates from across Europe met and strategized, shared stories of their work and reflected upon their struggles and successes. We offered thanksgiving to Almighty God and prayed for Our Lady of Czestochowa’s intercession for HLI’s endeavors

Which leads me to our mission trip to New Zealand, which is also in great need of prayer. Family life continues to struggle there under an aggressive secular culture. Family size has dropped precipitously, and there is need for stronger Church leadership.

Let us continue to pray for courage and perseverance in this great battle, being ever vigilant. Fear is useless. What is needed is trust and confidence in the Lord’s words, “I am with you always.”

Thank you for all you do and sacrifice in support of this mission. We are making a difference, saving lives and families. May the New Year bring many more successes in the cause for Life and Family.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

President, Human Life International



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

We wish to correct a statement in our November Mission Report regarding Mongolia. Stated was, “In 2016 there were 18,316 abortions performed. That’s 18.64% of the population.” The copy should read: “In 2016, there were 18,316 abortions performed, which is 26.2 abortions annually for every thousand women of reproductive age.” We regret the error.

MARIE STOPES BANNED FROM KENYA

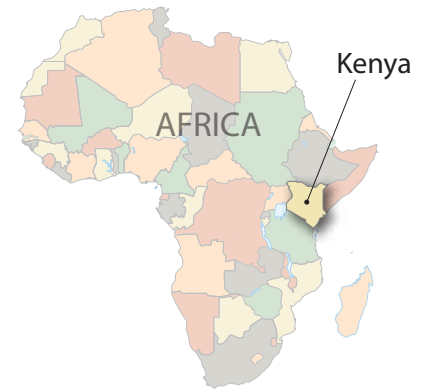
November 30, 2018

HLI is delighted that the government of Kenya has banned Marie Stopes International (MSI) from advertising or doing abortions within its borders but stresses that the government must monitor compliance. Abortion is already illegal in Kenya except if the mother's health is endangered, yet evidence exists that MSI has been performing illegal abortions in the country for at least 15 years. As MSI has already defied the law for some time, Fr. Samuel Gatimu, Director of Human Life International Kenya, has stated: "This is just the beginning of the battle."

Since the news broke, Niger, which has similar laws banning abortion, has now joined ranks with Kenya, accusing MSI of doing illegal abortions in its nation as well. Health Minister Ida Illiassou has ordered closure of two MSI centers it accuses of doing manual vacuum aspiration abortions.

Emil Hagamu, HLI's Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa based in Tanzania, was with Anne Kioko in Mauritius when the news broke. She is the principal complainant against Marie Stopes Kenya. He stated: "What has happened to Marie Stopes in Kenya is a victory to all life-loving people in the world and more particularly Africa. And I pray the other African governments will do the same."

HLI supports all initiatives which protect the sanctity of human life. HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet also responded to the news: "These three decisions — by Tanzania, Kenya and Niger — are encouraging signs that African leaders are waking up to the reality that wealthy Western governments, NGOs, and other so-called "non-profits" or "charitable" organizations are waging war on African values on Life and Family. Marie Stopes International is brazen in its mission to bring abortion to Africa, flagrantly violating national laws by offering illegal abortions. However, Marie Stopes is just



one of a vast array of NGOs and non-profits promoting abortion, population control and "LGBT" ideology in developing countries. My hope is that more African leaders will be emboldened by the decisions of Tanzania, Kenya and Niger and oust all entities promoting the violence of contraception and abortion."

HLI Tanzania launched a similar CitizenGo campaign earlier in the year, which has garnered over 2,100 signatures. Like Kenya and Niger, abortion in Tanzania is illegal except where the mother's life is endangered. HLI knows of cases where MSI has likewise performed illegal activities in Tanzania, and the international abortion agency is under investigation there as well. African culture welcomes life and, in fact, the law is quite clearly in favor of the unborn child also in Lesotho, Zambia, Namibia, Swaziland, and other countries.

Emil Hagamu states: "I urge all people in the HLI Anglophone region to unite in our pursuit to kick out Marie Stopes from our countries if they continue to kill our unborn babies, while adamantly defying country laws on Life and Family — if they continue to sterilize our men and women; if they continue to promote moral decadence among our



This Marie Stopes rickshaw is used in Africa to deliver contraceptives.

young people through unlimited comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health programs; if they continue to spread infertility supplies to our women. Let us condemn the Marie Stopes organization and its false ideology, which carries the seeds of abortion. By working

largely in poor countries, Marie Stopes is determined to wipe out the poor races of the world. We cannot accept this ideological colonization nor racist anti-natalist programs in our region.”

HLI CELEBRATION AND GATHERING IN CZESTOCHOWA

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, October 26-29, 2018

For many years, Poland has been a focal point for Human Life International. Twenty-five years ago, our founder, Father Paul Marx, OSB, chose Mrs. Ewa Kowalewska in Gdansk, Poland, to lead HLI’s efforts in the former Soviet Empire of Central and Eastern Europe. HLI President Father Shenan J. Boquet recently honored Ewa and her husband, Lech, in Czestochowa during a unique HLI event. We began by celebrating a special Mass in the chapel of the Black Madonna in *Jasna Góra* monastery. The archbishop of Czestochowa presided, along with His Excellency Tomash Peta, the archbishop of Astana, Kazakhstan. Over 40 HLI leaders and Polish dignitaries attended the Mass and banquet to celebrate Ewa’s 25 years of pro-life work.

The HLI pro-life missionaries came from numerous countries throughout Europe and stayed for several days. **Events included a meeting as well as a Day of Recollection on pro-life spirituality led by Fr. Boquet.**

OCEAN TO OCEAN

Ewa Kowalewska possesses many talents. One of them is a passion and skill for “writing” icons. Ewa was inspired to make an image of the revered icon kept in *Jasna Góra* (the name means “shining mountain”). **This Black Madonna that Ewa created began a worldwide pro-life pilgrimage in 2012 at Vladivostok, Russia and proceeded across Central Asia and Europe to Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean**—a trip that became known as the “Ocean to Ocean” pilgrimage (fromocean-toocean.org). Millions came out to pray for life with Our Lady. The peregrination continued through the US, Canada, Mexico, and South America. Currently, she is traveling to Panama for the World Youth Day in January 2019.

Ewa created another icon, a pro-life missionary image



Left to right: Lech and Ewa Kowalewska of HLI Poland, HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, and HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, Dr. Joseph Meaney.

of Our Lady for Kazakhstan, and our HLI event was the occasion for this new journey to begin.

TIRELESS WORK

The HLI leaders gave remarkable testimonies about their recent work—work that we could not have seen come to fruition without your generous support.

A leader in Poland stated:

Poland is a pro-life bastion in Europe. The restrictive abortion law only permits about 1,000 abortions a year. Their conservative government is working on a proposal to eliminate the largest exception allowing abortion for fetal handicaps. They preceded this with a law that guarantees help to families with special needs children. Influential European Union leaders and radical feminists have pulled out all the stops in denouncing the current Polish government for a litany of “crimes” that fail the “Fake News” test.

Dr. Majlinda Gjoni from Albania told an inspirational story about a woman who went to the hospital seeking an intrauterine device. The woman said she could not feed her children and needed this abortifacient form of birth control. Dr. Majlinda offered to give her a milk cow instead of an IUD, and she accepted! (See full story on page 5.)

Our Belarusian leader, Uladzislau Valakhovic, told us how he led a campaign that prevented an LGBT-friendly law from passing in his country. **Belarus is such a pro-family country now that the government gives a free apartment to families with three children and a second apartment or a house when they reach five children!** (Uladzislau has personally benefited from this pro-family incentive.) The number of abortions is decreasing in Belarus, and Uladzislau is certain that it will be banned entirely in the near future.

Radim and Katerina Uhac from the Czech Republic—one of the most atheistic nations on earth—spoke about their successes. Recently, the country passed a law that requires all preborn children to receive a dignified burial. Neither miscarried nor aborted children can be incinerated there as “medical waste,” as happens all too often elsewhere. In addition, they are engaging in a nationwide campaign against coerced abortions and have produced a 30-second, pro-life TV advertisement that will air on national television as a public service announcement.

The Slovaks told us how their bishops’ conference insists on having the honor of organizing the national March for Life every year. All the bishops support it and attend. Forum Zivota, the Life Forum, is a coalition led by Marcela Dobeszova and includes over 100 pro-life groups. They also told us about a beautiful and emotional event that takes place every year in which people light a candle in public spaces for children lost through miscarriage and abortion.

Romania has hundreds of pro-life marches across the country every year on March 25. Pro-lifers there held a pro-family referendum in October to amend their constitution to guarantee that marriage is only between a man and a woman. While 91 percent of the voters favored this change, pro-lifers did not get 30 percent of all voters to the polls, which would have made the results legally binding.

Ukraine has seen a staggering 90 percent decline

in annual abortions over time from 1.5 million to 150,000. Genia Samborska works tirelessly to foster respect for life and has personally led over 1,000 Ukrainian gynecologists on pilgrimage by bus to the shrine of Medjugorje, where many of them have converted and become pro-life. In the war-torn regions of Ukraine, she has even had to seek shelter during pro-life lectures because of nearby explosions.

FOCUS ON GOD

In his talks at the seminary, Father Boquet highlighted the spiritual aspect of these achievements. He led us in Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Sacrifice of the



HLI participates in the 100th anniversary celebration of Poland’s independence in the chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Mass every day. Father urged us to show a confused world the beauty of every child made in the image and likeness of God. We must be convinced, he said, that God is in control, and our job is merely to be faithful. Father Boquet, quoting from Cardinal Sarah’s book *The Power of Silence*, told us to detach from the “noise” of our busy lives and focus on God.

So many rich exchanges and projects were discussed at this multifaceted HLI gathering—a gathering that would not have been possible without your sacrificial gifts. We were truly blessed by Our Lady, and we now feel strengthened by our pro-life fellowship to go forth and cooperate ever more fully in God’s great pro-life plan for the world.

SAVING LIVES AND SERVING THE POOR

Dr. Majlinda Gjoni, physician and head of HLI Albania, is currently in the capital of Tirana finishing her medical specialization. Recently, a patient approached her requesting an IUD—an intrauterine device.

As HLI founder Fr. Paul Marx pointed out many years ago, **abortion will never end until people recognize that contraception is the cause of many abortions.** Often people become so reliant on contraceptives that, when they fail, the woman or couple panics and tries to think of ways to end the pregnancy. In addition, all non-barrier methods of contraception are abortifacient, as they prevent an already created child from implanting in the womb.

Dr. Gjoni pleaded with her patient not to have the IUD inserted. She told the woman: “You never know how many of your children will die from this device. It prevents implantation of newly conceived children!” But the young woman insisted, saying that she was too poor to take care of and feed more children.

IUDS

Why would Dr. Gjoni so strongly oppose IUDs? For that matter, why would the Catholic Church oppose IUDs?

An IUD is a contraceptive device inserted in the uterus. It is made from non-reactive plastics and may be infused with other elements, such as copper and the hormone progesterone. Those characteristics help render the uterus an “unfriendly place” for a blastocyst, or fertilized human embryo,

to implant itself. Thus, **the IUD is an abortifacient, or something that causes a very early abortion.** An act of abortion is gravely immoral, and anyone who willingly and knowingly assists in an abortion is guilty of a mortal sin.

When Dr. Gjoni heard the young woman’s plight, she asked if she would reconsider her choice if she had a cow to provide milk to help feed her children. Herself one of 10 children to parents open to life, Dr. Gjoni knew as a physician that, in addition to potentially causing an early abortion, an IUD can have harmful side effects on a woman. Once inserted, IUDs remain in the woman for years. There have been cases where IUDs have broken loose and “wandered” around the body. They may, for instance, perforate the uterus and end up somewhere else completely. If this happens, the woman would then have to have it surgically removed. **Doctors have reported cases in which IUDs have been found in the abdomen, rib cage, or elsewhere!** Other possible side effects include infections in the reproductive tract, in the uterus, or in the fallopian tubes; profuse bleeding; ectopic pregnancies; septic shock; and death.

After consulting her father, Dr. Gjoni’s patient returned the next day, agreeing to give up on the idea of an IUD. **So, for the price of a cow, Dr. Gjoni saved her patient from using an abortifacient!**

This is the length pro-lifers go to in order to save human lives and serve the poor.



Pictured left to right: Joannes Bucher, Regional Director of Europe; Bishop Dode Gjergje, Apostolic Administrator of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Administration of Prizren; and Dr. Majlinda Gjoni-Thompson, Director of the HLI Affiliate in Albania, Caritas Dioqezan.

MISSION TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

By Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Education and Research, October 2018

Since Father Paul Marx, OSB, founded Human Life International nearly half a century ago, and thanks to the generosity of benefactors like you, **our pro-life missionaries have traveled more than 20 million miles to more than 160 different nations.** In doing so, we have noticed a peculiar trend. The nations that historically sent Christian missionaries all over the world are now mission territories themselves, and the nations that originally received those missionaries are now evangelizing the countries that sent them.

This seems particularly true in New Zealand, where a sharp-edged secularism dominates everything, and faith is seldom seen. With the decline of faith, of course, comes a decline of hope. **The average family size in New Zealand has shrunk from 4.1 children in 1960 to a current 1.9 children—a disastrous drop of more than 50 percent.**

The primary reason secularism dominates so completely in New Zealand is that the voice of the Church is essentially mute. The bishops do not speak against the many evils afflicting the country, and they seem hesitant to allow others to speak out against it as well. The local Church does very little to support and promote life issues.

TEACHING MORALITY

Father Shenan J. Boquet, president of Human Life International, and I began our mission journey to New Zealand with Mass at the headquarters of Family Life International in Auckland, followed by a planning session that covered the many events where we would be speaking over the next week.



The first of these was at St. Joseph's Church at Takapuna, where we spoke to about 100 members of the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) on the dignity of the human person. As with all of our talks to CFC-FFL, the audience was almost entirely Filipino. In addition, as with all of our talks with Filipinos, they were emphatically pro-life and pro-family. And, of course, pro-food! **This talk is the latest in our long series of events designed to assist CFC-FFL in fulfilling its pro-life activism mission by equipping the**

February 2019 Events

Please pray for HLI's Mission work in February:

- February 6-19: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and Director of Education & Research, Dr. Brian Clowes head to the Philippines for programs organized by Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia-Oceania and Dr. Rene Bullecer of HLI Philippines.
- February 20-24: HLI Regional Director for English-Speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu, leads another mission in Kenya, programs organized by Father Samuel Gatimu of HLI Kenya.
- February 22-28: HLI Delegate for International Missions, Raymond de Souza, undertakes a mission to Australia.
- February 26-March 7: HLI President Fr. Boquet joins HLI Director of International Expansion, Dr. Joseph Meaney, and HLI Regional Director of Europe, Joannes Bucher on a mission to Czech Republic and Slovakia.

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

people with the information and materials they need to do the job.

We could not have done this without your generous support.

The rest of our major events took place at an elite state school called the Epsom Girls Grammar School. The grounds are beautiful, the facilities are elegant, and the secular indoctrination is pervasive. The classrooms and common rooms were dotted with propaganda posters for LGBT people, all with the usual appeal designed to bypass the thinking process and go straight for the emotions. The books most prominently displayed in the library were of liberal women heroes who have “overcome the patriarchy” and made a difference in the world. I could not find a single example of a piece of literature celebrating the life of a conservative woman, such as Margaret Thatcher.

Father Boquet and I began with an all-day session with 10 priests from the Auckland area. We spoke about the eternal spiritual battle between the Cultures of Life and Death, the status and dignity of the human person, and specific topics such as abortion, euthanasia, and the crisis in the Church. Because of your generous donations, we were able to distribute *The Facts of Life* DVD, the *Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook*, and other materials to the priests, who expressed their sincere appreciation.

THE SPLENDOR OF TRUTH

The most energetic day was the LifeFest Catholic Youth Conference for young people ages 13 to 20. We focused mainly on life before birth and on protecting the preborn. The



Two young people look at a photo of an unborn child at six weeks of development.

activities included having the youth add age captions to uncaptioned full-color posters of the preborn depicting stages from fertilization to birth. In addition, everyone had fun making “diaper cakes,” which consisted of rolled-up diapers, small toys, and ribbons. They really did look like actual cakes when they were complete! In the evening, we had Eucharistic Adoration with Cardinal Burke presiding.

LifeFest was followed by the three-day main event, the Splendor of Truth Conference, which was attended by about 500 people of all ages. Cardinal Burke said the opening Mass and gave the keynote address on “Living the Splendor of Truth.” These events were followed by topics



Cardinal Burke, Father Shenan J. Boquet and Father Linus Clovis during Daily Mass at the Family Life International building.

addressed by a wide range of speakers, including Father Boquet on “The Most Important Work on Earth,” Dr. Joseph and Cushla Hassan on “Conscience for Medical Professionals,” Father Jeremy Palman and Dr. Wanda Skowronska on same-sex attraction and transgenderism, Father Linus Clovis on the “Consequences of Ignoring Humanae Vitae,” and Dr. Colin Harte on the great privilege of uniting ourselves to the cross through our suffering. My wife Kathy spoke about reaching abortion-vulnerable women.

Each day, Cardinal Burke, Fathers Boquet and Clovis, and other priests offered Mass. One high point of the conference banquet was when the Cardinal spoke about his own family upbringing. Thanks to his father and mother, his life truly has been a model of Christian love and devotion right from its beginning.

During the Splendor of Truth Conference, Father Boquet, Michelle Kaufman of FLI, and I met with representatives from the islands of Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga, and Samoa. **These reps were very enthusiastic about the idea of starting pro-life organizations in their countries, and we began laying the groundwork for a pro-life first—an island-hopping pro-life training mission among the islands of Oceania.**

The situation in New Zealand is certainly dire, as it is in so many other places. The West has lost sight of the only two things that can make a person happy—faith and family. Many Catholics do not know the tenets of their faith, and this renders them incapable of defending life and family. They have passion and desire, but that is not enough. Knowledge and tools are needed.

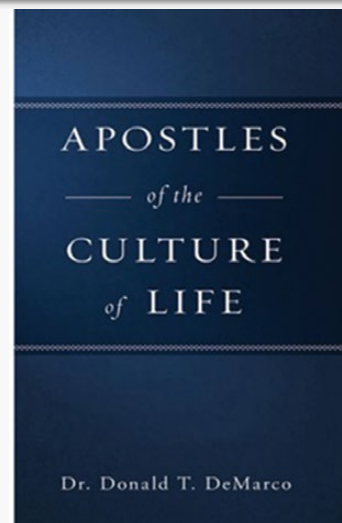
This is the fundamental nature of Human Life International’s mission, and with your help, we can reach thousands of more people. Each day, we strive to encourage, to educate, and to equip those of good will, and we pray that God continues to bless this crucial mission.

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 our pro-life educational resource: *Apostles of the Culture of Life*, by Dr. Donald T. DeMarco.

This inspiring book presents the opposite side of the coin of DeMarco’s previous bestseller, *Architects of the Culture of Death*, and presents short but vivid and insightful profiles of individuals (including HLI Founder Fr. Paul Marx) who worked heroically, consistently, and effectively in defense of life. Some are still living, others have passed from the scene. Offering the most extensive and diverse representation of pro-life stalwarts that has ever been collected, *Apostles of the Culture of Life* will serve as an inspiration to anyone who loves justice, while, at the same time, providing cogent and convincing arguments as to why the defense of life is the most important issue of our time. Read it and be inspired!

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



***Apostles of the Culture of Life* is this month’s pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!**