



Mission Report

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Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

Here at HLI world headquarters in Virginia we've just wrapped up our second annual Regional Director's Summit. This meeting afforded me and other HLI staff in the U.S. the chance to talk strategy and goals with our five regional directors from Africa (2), Europe, Latin America, and Asia and Oceania, plus the directors of HLI's offices in Miami and Rome. HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion, Dr. Joseph Meaney, also took part in the week-long summit to discuss our pro-life seminarian training and the opening of a **new HLI office in Paris, France** both of which will be directed by Dr. Meaney.

The list of threats to Life and Family continues to grow worldwide, which is why the life-saving mission of HLI is more important than ever. Our pro-life missionaries are working every day across six continents to help our brothers and sisters in Christ to build a Culture of Life. **No other pro-life group in the world has taken up this mission to spread the Gospel of Life overseas and train tens of thousands of people in over 80 countries to defend their culture.**



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

I'm sure you've noticed how little media coverage the U.S. pro-life movement tends to receive, and the international pro-life movement receives even less. But these brave men and women are making a difference and are saving lives every single day. Please remember them in your daily prayers, asking the Lord of Life to bless the work of their hands so that every human life may be respected and protected from conception until natural death. And if the Lord has blessed you with the ability to do so, please send a donation back to me today to help our pro-life missionaries build and sustain a Culture of Life around the world. May Almighty God bless you and your family.

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Father Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

MISSIONARY TRIP TO TURKEY

By Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, May-June 2015

I have long desired to bring HLI's life-saving mission to Turkey, a Muslim nation with only about 35,000 Catholics. After overcoming a number of challenges, and with God's amazing grace, I was able to establish key contacts for HLI in Turkey. Together we made plans for a return trip as well—this time to conduct pro-life training for clergy, religious, and lay leaders. I was also able to give a pro-life presentation at the largest church here. But I am getting ahead of the story...

CHRISTIANITY IN TURKEY

While the number of Christians is now very small, many important events in the history of the Church took place in present-day Turkey. It was here that the followers of Jesus were called "Christians" for the first time. One of Christianity's oldest churches, said to be founded by St. Peter, is in Turkey near Antakya (ancient Antioch). The first seven ecumenical councils of the Church were held in what is now Turkey, including the First Council of Nicaea, from which we received the Nicene Creed.



The Greek city of Ephesus lies within the borders of modern-day Turkey. This is where St. Paul the Apostle comes from and where local tradition says St. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, brought the Blessed Mother after the Crucifixion. One of the most visited pilgrimage sites here is the "Meyemana Kultur Parki" or "Mary's House," the spot where many Christians believe the

HLI's St. Gianna Beretta Molla Guild



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Thank you!

Blessed Virgin Mary lived and spent her last days on earth. The tomb of St. John is here too, over which St. John's Basilica was constructed. The New Testament also records that many early Church leaders, including Timothy, Epaphras, Priscilla, and Aquilla lived and worked in what is now Turkey.

STRENGTHENED BY FAITH

This being my first visit to Turkey as a pro-life missionary, I didn't have any strong connections with the pro-life movement here. I tried to establish contacts with one of HLI's mission partners, the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family & Life (CFC-FFL), which has a community here. Unfortunately, our plans to connect in Turkey fell through, and thus I had no country guide to rely upon. But this proved to be very providential.

I arrived in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey, in the early morning of May 25. After some rest I went out to find a church to beg for God's guidance, mercy, and anointing for the mission. I was delighted to find that the *Sent Antuan Bazilikasi* (Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua)—the largest church in Istanbul—was only about a 20-minute walk from my hotel. I attended daily Mass and spent many hours praying there throughout my mission trip.

On the church grounds, I saw a prominent exhibit of Pope Francis' visit to Turkey in November 2014, as well as displays marking the visits of three other popes. I thought the fact that no one tried to destroy the exhibit was a good sign that I was going to be safe from persecution during my travels. There were some concerns among HLI staff after the condemnation of Pope Francis by the president of Turkey over

the pope's comments on the Armenian genocide of 1915 carried out by Ottoman forces.

As I entered the church, Mass was taking place—which I took as a sign that God heard my earnest pleas requesting the Holy Spirit to accompany me. I felt great joy in my heart when the priest gave a lengthy blessing after the Mass, which I understood through sign language from a woman who sat at the opposite side of the pew I occupied. After asking the Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints in Heaven for their powerful intercession, it was only natural to ask the patron saint of the Basilica—the saint of lost and stolen articles—to help me restore to this country the faith that has mostly been lost.

PRO-LIFE MISSION EMBRACED BY BISHOP

After spending large amounts of time talking to people, making calls, knocking on doors, getting soaked in the cold rain, and losing my way in the alleys of Istanbul, God led me at last to the bishop's house. There I was told that it would be better for me to see the parish priest at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

After several wrong turns, I finally found my way to the Cathedral, which seemed hidden behind commercial buildings and can be accessed only through a narrow gate. My joy at finding the Cathedral was quickly tempered by finding the gate locked. I was moved by the troubles of the first three days to pray even harder for a clear direction forward, when a young man emerged from the locked passageway.



Dr. Acosta at the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, Istanbul Turkey.



From left to right: His Excellency Bishop Louis Pelatre, Apostolic Vicar of Istanbul; Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania; and Rev. Fr. Nicola Masedu, Parish Priest of the Basilica of the Holy Spirit, Turkey.

When I ran and introduced myself, he told me he was the sacristan and summoned me to follow. He introduced me to the Father Provincial of the Salesian Community, Fr. Andres Callejas, who had spent time in the Philippines. Fr. Callejas explained the many problems in Turkey, including lack of vocations and sparse success in spreading the Gospel among the local population. He shared that they have a Catholic school in Turkey, but it's managed like a secular school due to government restrictions. And he felt that the local migrant community, especially the Filipinos, would benefit from the encouragement that I could provide.

With that, he called for Fr. Nicola Masedu, SDB, a kind and

hospitable Italian parish priest. He urged me to attend Mass at 6 p.m. that evening and meet the bishop, His Excellency Bishop Louis Pelâtre, A.A., the Vicar Apostolic of Istanbul, Turkey. **The kind-hearted bishop was very happy to know of HLI's mission in Turkey, and was grateful for the pro-life resources I provided to him.**

Bishop Pelâtre told me that abortion and divorce are commonly practiced in Istanbul. We discussed HLI sponsoring pro-life training conferences in Turkey for clergy, religious, and lay leaders to fight back against the Culture of Death. The bishop suggested I coordinate some pro-life programs with the parish priest at St. Anthony's in the coming days. I also invited him to attend HLI's 20th Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life, and Family (ASPAC) coming up this November in Taiwan, Province of China for further training, resources, and discussion.

With overwhelming joy, I prayed in thanksgiving to the Lord for sending his Holy Spirit to guide the way to the Cathedral!

PRO-LIFE TRAINING

The next day, I was back at the Basilica of St. Anthony. The priest in charge of the Basilica, Fr. Anton, was on another assignment that day, but I was well received by a very kind and hospitable African Franciscan priest, Fr. Julius Ohanele. Fr. Julius helped me set an appointment the following day with Fr. Anton, and we then spent some

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HLI Welcomes New Rome Office Director

by HLI Staff

FATHER FRANCESCO GIORDANO, a diocesan priest and professor in Rome, Italy, was named the new director of the Rome office of Human Life International on July 14, 2015. He succeeds Monsignor Ignacio Barreiro-Carambula, who represented HLI in Rome for 16 years before moving to HLI's Virginia headquarters in 2014 due to health reasons.

"Father Francesco emerged early as an excellent candidate to continue Monsignor's and HLI's essential work in Rome," said Father Shenan J. Boquet, president of HLI. "A young and faithful priest who has a heart for the defense of life and family and excellent academic credentials, Father Francesco is a welcome addition to the HLI family. And since he came highly recommended from Monsignor Barreiro himself, we are very confident that Father can continue to grow HLI's impact in Rome with Church officials, as well as with priests and seminarians in academia."

Ordained a priest in 2009, Father Francesco was one of many seminarians who have made regular use of HLI's bioethics library, where he met Monsignor Barreiro in 2006. He intends to promote this feature of HLI's outreach in Rome: "The idea of the library in the office is key because that way we work directly with lay, religious, and priest students from around the world working on important issues in bioethics."

Fr. Francesco received his BA from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, an MA from the University of Chicago, and a doctorate in systematic theology from Santa Croce University in Rome.

"The theological and educational background of Fr. Giordano will be very helpful as he assists those who pursue graduate studies in Rome," said Monsignor Barreiro. "One of the main activities of the Rome Office is to work with priests and seminarians, encouraging them to strengthen their formation on life and family issues and to be strong defenders of the constant teachings of the Church on life and family."

"I see myself trying to continue that role as best I can since I myself benefited very much from Monsignor Barreiro's guidance during my licentiate and doctoral studies in Rome. As a professor in different Roman pontifical universities, working with seminarians from around the world, I see that as an added benefit," added Father Giordano.

The oldest of three brothers born in different countries around the world, Father Francesco has had both an international perspective and a great love of the Catholic faith from a young age, which made his decision to become a priest a natural one. He credits a love of the traditional liturgy and the good example of many priests and bishops as being key to his discernment of his own vocation, and friendships developed in America with sparking his interest in the defense of life and family.

HLI's Rome Office is key to HLI's mission to defend life and family from the heart of the Church, employing Catholic social and moral doctrine in addition to scientific and data-based arguments. With this perspective, the HLI Rome Office coordinates with other pro-life and pro-family organizations and networks with curial officials and other partners in Rome.



Fr. Giordano (left) with HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet at the Rome March for Life.

Horrific Videos Reinforce Calls to End International Trade of Fetal Organs

by Marlene Gillette-Ibern, Esq.

ABORTION IS NOT ABOUT WOMEN’S HEALTH or rights. It is about murder, lies, and profit. Besides the money that can be made from the murder of an unborn child by abortion in the US or abroad by organizations like Planned Parenthood and its affiliates, there is also the money that can be made from the tissue and organs of the aborted unborn child.

On the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) website, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is listed as the affiliate in the United States. In 2012, IPPF held the 60th anniversary of its re-founding with PPFA president Cecile Richards as one of the keynote speakers, who proclaimed: “We are so proud to partner with IPPF as we build a new generation.” Build... kill... to some people it’s all the same.

The still-unfolding scandal of PPFA’s senior medical officers coldly negotiating to profit from the “donation” of organs from murdered unborn children has been devastating for IPPF’s US affiliate. What many may not know, however, is that the horrible revelations coming via viral internet videos released by the Center for Medical Progress are nothing new. The international abortion industry has been at this grisly trade for decades.

Dr. Kristina Gemzell Danielsson MD, an abortionist who is presently a member of the IPPF’s International Medical Advisory Panel, is a professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. In a 1987 New York Times article titled Fetal Tissue Implants in Brain Seen, Dr. Lars Olson of the same Karolinska Institute reported that they had conducted experiments in which human fetal tissue was implanted in the brains of mice.

To read the article today is to marvel at how its antiseptic language about animal experimentation and the provision of brain tissue from aborted children would undoubtedly be received today. The article’s description of the behavior of mice and monkeys who were harmed and monitored in the experiments would give rise to grand protests from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, yielding sympathetic coverage in the same paper. The same coverage would ignore the source of the “donated” fetal brain tissue – an ideologically necessary move that becomes harder with each video showing Planned Parenthood officials munching on salad while talking about the “crunchiness” of the procedure of crushing a tiny, living human being.

Continue reading at www.hli.org/2015/07/end-international-trade-of-fetal-organs/



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time discussing the purpose of my pro-life mission to Turkey.

For the past several decades, it has been the experience of HLI's pro-life missionaries that priests around the world continue to need training and resources to learn how to best communicate the Church's teaching on Life and Family issues in their community. Unfortunately, many priests still dissent from Church teaching, as expressed by Blessed Pope Paul VI in *Humanae vitae*, and the encyclicals of Saint Pope John Paul II. Thanks be to God, this was not my experience in Turkey, but the priests here were in need of pro-life support and resources.

Fr. Julius had a shared passion for the life-saving mission of HLI and was very happy to receive the pro-life resources I had available. He asked for extras to give to another priest. Father also expressed interest in



Dr. Acosta giving a talk at the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, Istanbul, Turkey.

HLI PRESS RELEASE

HLI Statements on BSA Scandal, by HLI Staff

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia – July 31, 2015 – Following are statements from HLI board member and president on Boy Scouts of America's decision to allow openly homosexual men to serve as troop leaders, reversing its long held policy.

Father Shenan J. Boquet, president of Human Life International:

“With its decision to allow men to promote the homosexual lifestyle as troop leaders, Boy Scouts of America has unwittingly ensured its demise, as it has undermined its own fundamental moral structure. Further, no one believes that the exemption available for religious-based troops will stand, as BSA has given up the only principled ground on which to stand against the LGBT attack on its values. It may be too late for BSA to recover its essence, its moral code, but it is not too late for parents and other BSA supporters to move their boys to Trail Life USA or other institutions who are built on more solid ground, and who recognize that morality is an essential component of the formation of young men.”

Richard Mathews, HLI Board member, former General Counsel of the Boy Scouts and current General Counsel of Trail Life USA.

“This decision is particularly tragic because of the impact on young boys – not only because it communicates that gender and sexual orientation are fungible, but because it removes one of the few safe havens from our children being accosted by the issue of sexuality. There were probably homosexual leaders in the past, but they did not feel the need to publicly proclaim their personal sex lives or demand acceptance and applause for the ‘courage’ of expressing their sexuality. Scouts will be taught that sexuality is now something to be openly celebrated. While Boy Scouts will still be barred from participating in uniform in Pro-Life events, marching in ‘gay pride’ parades will be celebrated.”

attending HLI's upcoming ASPAC conference in Taiwan, Province of China. During his homily in the Mass that I attended that evening, **he even read quotes from HLI's "A Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook"** which I had given him earlier that day!

The following morning I met with Fr. Anton Bulai, OFM, General Secretary of the *Conference Episcopale de Turquie* (the Catholic Bishops Conference of Turkey), who also serves as the parish priest of the Basilica of St. Anthony. He was very supportive of HLI's mission in Turkey. By the grace of God, he postponed the regular activity for that Sunday to allow me to lead a pro-life training session, and he encouraged the congregation to attend through their email list.

Truly everything happens according to God's plan. Despite little time to publicize the talk, around 70 people attended. My talk on marriage and the family incorporated Church teaching on contraception, abortion, and natural family planning, which touched many participants. In fact, they not only showed great attention, but asked for more, so I extended my talk to almost three hours! Like in the many countries I have visited, migrants struggle with their marriages and families. They leave their home country to provide for a better existence, but the long absence has led to many succumbing to the temptations and deceptions of the Culture of Death.

In the end, the mission to Turkey proved very successful. With Fr. Anton's support, we will plan to return after Easter 2016 with a pro-life training mission that will hopefully include many bishops.

As always, I thank with all my heart all the generous benefactors of Human Life International, without whom this mission would not have been possible. May God bless this urgent mission to reclaim the world in defense of life, and family.

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The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life is an important resource in ongoing liturgical formation for clergy, religious and laity, and makes a significant contribution to the renewal which embraces the riches of liturgical tradition as a valuable treasure.

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro is the former Executive Director of HLI's Rome office, a position he held from September 1998 to July 2015. Msgr. Barreiro has published hundreds of articles on theology and life issues, and historical subjects in popular and scholarly publications in the U.S., England, Italy, France, and Spain.

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