



Mission Report

No. 369
Dec 2015

A PUBLICATION OF HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL



- * **Dr. Ligaya Acosta Reports from Malaysia**
- * **Dr. Brian Clowes and Fr. Boquet Give Pro-Life Training in Ireland**
- * **Updates from Malawi, India, and Hungary**
- * **New HLI Pro-Life Resource: Marriage: Person, Family, Community, and State**

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

Let me begin by wishing you a very Merry Christmas! I pray that the Lord blesses you, your family, and all your loved ones during this most holy season and throughout the coming year.

In this month's newsletter, Dr. Ligaya Acosta reports from Malaysia, where she conducted pro-life training at a Congress organized by one of HLI's affiliates, Human Life Service (HLS). While in Malaysia, Dr. Acosta also provided training to several key groups, including priests and seminarians, who are of particular importance because of the role they play as leaders and future leaders of the Church.

Dr. Brian Clowes also gives an account of a trip that he and I made to Ireland, where the assaults of the Culture of Death have been increasing lately at an alarming rate. Thanks be to God, there are still many who resist and who work to counter this onslaught, including our director in Ireland, Patrick McCrystal.

This issue of *Mission Report* also includes updates from other HLI affiliates, who relate the wonderful work they are doing in the field to fight for the Culture of Life in their region, including Malawi, India, and Hungary.

In this happy and holy season, let us thank the Lord for His many blessings on our work, knowing that our battle is truly His battle, and He is the ultimate victor. As we contemplate the baby Jesus in the crib, let us appeal to Him now more than ever to give strength and perseverance to His soldiers in the field, fighting in His name for the protection of the innocent pre-born.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

President, Human Life International



MISSIONARY TRIP TO MALAYSIA

By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, September 2015

My mission trip to Malaysia was primarily for a Pro-Life Congress organized by HLI affiliate Human Life Service (HLS) that was held in Miri on September 12, 2015. To maximize my trip, HLS Executive Director Dorothy Kuek organized a side-trip to Kuching, which is an hour away by plane from Miri, for two similar congresses – one with church leaders of the Diocese of Kuching and another one exclusively for seminarians and priests of St. Peter's College Major Seminary, also in Kuching.

Coming to Malaysia is always a joy for me because I have established countless friends and mission partners in the many states of this beautiful country. And, more importantly, because **IPPF, the number one abortion organization in the world, has a very strong presence here**, including a regional office in the nation's capital of Kuala Lumpur, which serves neighboring countries as well. Thus, **constant counter-offensives need to be done here, otherwise IPPF's tentacles would be left to grow unhampered**. Through our massive missionary work in Malaysia, we have by God's amazing grace converted some of IPPF's troops who were initially sent as spies in our pro-life conferences, but ended up being converted to our cause. God is good!

Human Life Service was organized in 1994 by the Bishop of Miri, His Excellency Bishop Anthony Lee. After attending an HLI Conference in the U.S., Bishop Lee was so moved by the conference that when he returned to Miri, he started HLS. Soon afterwards, HLS established a Crisis Pregnancy Center where unwed mothers are lovingly welcomed. They are given a comfort-



able temporary home and needed skills and supplies until they have delivered their babies. Initially just wanting to hide their pregnancies and give up their babies for adoption, a majority of the women end up keeping their babies and reuniting with their families.

HLS has also hosted one of the most successful HLI Asia-Pacific Congress (ASPAC) on Faith, Life and Family, held in 2009, under then Bishop Lee, who was also then awarded HLI's Cardinal Von Galen Award for his courage and determination to promote and defend Life and Family. Today, Miri has a new Bishop, the Most Rev. Richard Ng, whom I first met when he was still rector of the seminary in Kuching, where I was joyfully brought in to give talks to the seminarians and priests. He attended my entire half-day session and told me to come again whenever I might be in Malaysia.

It was thus a great joy for me to be reunited with these two Bishops. Bishop Ng celebrated the opening Mass during the Miri Conference where he gave a very powerful homily. Bishop Lee on the other Hand gave a powerful talk entitled, *"The Role of the Holy Spirit in the promotion of Faith, Life, and Family."*

I left home in Manila, Philippines at 3:00 a.m. on September 11 and arrived in Miri at 3:30 p.m. on the same day. Dorothy Kuek's sister Juliana and her friend met me



Dr. Ligaya Acosta (center) with His Excellency Bishop Anthony Lee (far right) and Fr. Paul.

at the airport, and it was a happy reunion for us. Dorothy and her family have become a family for me, too.

My first appointment was an early dinner with Bishop Emeritus Lee, which was a happy reunion for us after more than five years. Much as I wanted to spend more time with him, I had to beg to be excused as Dorothy informed me that my meeting with some government officials was moved to after dinner that day instead of the next day.

The special meeting arranged by Dorothy was with Temenggong Elizabeth and leaders of several ethnic groups in the state of Sarawak. Temenggong is a title of nobility awarded by the government of Malaysia. Traditionally, a Temenggong is an official responsible for maintaining law and order and for commanding the police and army.

Dorothy was very recently in a meeting called by the government where she met the Temenggong who strongly advocated sex education as an answer to the growing number of teenage pregnancies and promiscuity in their country. Alarmed by the development, Dorothy at once asked me if I could meet with the Temenggong and her group, which of course I was happy to accept.

Since we had more than two hours, I asked to be able to present my talk on “*Sex Education: Delusion and Destruction.*” As I made my power-point presentation, which included actual sex-education materials, **the listeners became convinced that secular sex education is the main culprit of growing promiscuity and teenage pregnancies in their communities,** which they should fight against instead of endorse. Unknown to them, sex education has actually been taught already for some time in Malaysian schools.

We ended by agreeing that HLI should



Temenggong Elizabeth (left of center) and leaders of Malaysia.

return and give talks to their young people, as well as conduct a pro-life training for their leaders. When told by Dorothy that I was also planning to give a talk on marriage and the family, the Temenggong asked that the same talk be given to their people, which she said are also experiencing marriage and family breakdowns. Since my schedule is already full for the year, we agreed to schedule the same talk for early next year.

They thanked me profusely after our session, and I thanked them too for their kindness in agreeing to meet with me. After a very long day, I went back to my hotel room joyful and grateful to the Lord for another opportunity to change hearts. Truly, there is joy in the splendor of truth.

I was up very early the next day to prepare for the 7:00 a.m. opening Mass of the Miri Congress, celebrated by Bishop Ng, who gave a very powerful homily. We had a short meeting after the Mass, and I was glad he still recognized me. He was happy to

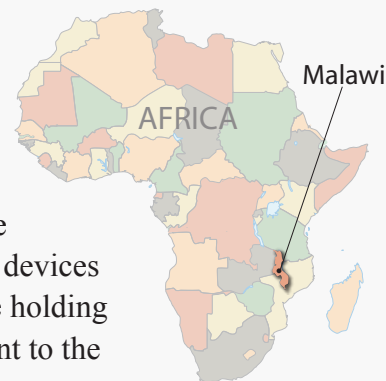


HLS Director Dorothy Kuek and volunteers of Human Life Service.

HLI Malawi

Country Director: Brighton Kalulu

Due to the HLI Malawi educational efforts about contraception, anti-life organizations have seen a decrease in the acceptance of contraception devices among the people. Hence, now the anti-life organizations in the country are holding lunches in regions where they offer food and contraception at the same event to the attendees. HLI Malawi, sensing the growing defeat of the contraception program, continue to strengthen their educational campaign efforts. Also, HLI Malawi has obtained the support of Catholic legislators in the Parliament of Malawi to defeat a legislative bill that would introduce a self-abortion program.



HLI India-Bangalore

Country Director: Sister Mary Annunciata, RGS

HLI India-Bangalore now provides online and onsite counseling at their central office, particularly to young people, on Life and Family issues. They also offer printed and audiovisual educational materials. Earlier this year, HLI India-Bangalore offered seminars on Life and Family issues to students and teachers at Christ University, Sacred Heart University, Jyothi Nivas Preparatory University College, and Saint Teresa Catholic School. Also, at Good Shepherd Center for Children, HLI India-Bangalore members received a large group of children where they offered talks to them on values and morality.



HLI Hungary

Country Director: Imre Teglas

HLI Hungary offers programs on Life and Family issues on Radio Maria Hungary and Radio Contact. They also provide materials and financial support to families in need in Hungary. Recently, they provided special help to a single young mother who had been pressured by a social worker to abort her unborn child but who decided against it after receiving counseling by a parish priest. In addition, HLI Hungary director Imre Teglas is preparing a video documentary on the sale of vaccines that were made with aborted fetal cells by international companies.





St. Peter's College Major Seminary, Kuching, Malaysia.

receive the HLI *Pro-Life DVD Library* and *The Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook*, as well as other HLI materials and publications.

Much as I wanted to have a longer talk with the Bishop, I could not do so, as I had to hurry to the conference hall where I was to speak the whole morning on two topics: “*The Dictatorship of Moral Relativism*” and “*Marriage and the Family: Bedrock of Civilization.*” **The hall was packed with almost 600 participants, coming from all over the Diocese of Miri**, many of whom looked familiar to me. By God’s amazing grace, they were touched. We had a lively open forum afterward, where questions on divorce, abortion, *in-vitro* fertilization and the like were asked.

Many people came up to me after my session to

express how grateful and touched they were with my talks. Some also told me that, after hearing I was to speak, they brought their whole family along to hear my talk. Some wrote me to ask for prayers for marriage and family problems they were experiencing. Truly, the theme for the conference was most fitting: “*Be Transformed! Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*” (Romans 12:1-2)...*the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace* (Romans 8:6).

The next day we made an early start for the one-hour flight to the Diocese of Kuching. Our flight was very much delayed due to haze covering Kuching (and other parts of Malaysia as well) brought about by forest fires in Indonesia. Thus, on arrival we had to go straight to the venue and start the sessions right away.

We had two sessions in Kuching – one with youth and Church leaders of the Diocese, which we gave immediately on arrival, and the next day with the seminarians and priests of St. Peter’s College Major (Catholic) Seminary. **Our talks so touched the participants that they decided to organize a much bigger congress next year for more people to receive this training.**



Dr. Acosta speaking at St. Peter's College Major Seminary.

SESSION WITH FUTURE PRIESTS

On September 14, we headed to St. Peter’s College Major Seminary for a one-day session with the 38 major seminarians and three priests, as well as some lay professors, including Dr. Lek-Lim Chan, National President & Education Scientific Coordinator of the

Natural Fertility Awareness Service of Malaysia (WOOMB Malaysia). Rev. Fr. Nicholas Ng, Rector of the Seminary, warmly welcomed us, together with all the seminarians coming from all over Malaysia. One of them was a youth leader from Kota Kinabalu who told me he had attended and was inspired by my talk for the youth I gave there some time back.

The seminarians had just come back from their vacation, and our Pro-Life Congress was a fitting opening activity for them. **Hopefully, when they become priests they will be courageous promoters and defenders of Faith, Life, and Family.** After the session, everyone came to us to thank us and tell us how much they were touched by the talks. How blessed I am indeed to be part of HLI's global mission!

The next day, Dorothy and I had a breakfast meeting with some church leaders in Kuching. Among other topics, we discussed HLI's possible return early next year for a much bigger congress and speaking tour.

As I returned to my home in the Philippines, I profusely thanked God for another most powerful anointing, giving Him back all the glory and entrusting to Him everyone who attended our talks.

As always, I also thank with all my heart our dearest benefactors of HLI. Please know how much I thank God for you everyday – for without your generosity and selfless giving, we would not be able to do our mission. In my many prayers each day, I beg God to keep

you and all the members of your family under His love and care, and to protect and multiply your resources so you may continue to give to HLI.

To the staff and personnel of HLI Central, I also thank you for your continued and ever ready support and inspiration.

May everything we do glorify the Lord!

MISSIONARY TRIP TO IRELAND

By Dr. Brian Clowes, HLI Director of Education and Research, September 2015

Traditionally, three nations have been enduring bastions of regard for unborn human life — the Philippines, Malta, and Ireland. Unfortunately, the Culture of Death recognizes their symbolic importance in the battle over abortion and many other evils and has laid ferocious siege to all three over the past two decades.

During this time, Ireland has been hardest hit, seeing a catastrophic collapse in the Faith and family life. These evils have actually been voted in by Ireland's Catholic population, which is rare. Usually, anti-lifers use courts and corrupt officials to make their gains; however, in the case of Ireland, the people themselves voted for divorce, for the loosening of restrictions on abortion, and, on May 22 of this year, for homosexual "marriage."

Kathleen Sinnott, a member of the European Parliament, has said that Ireland is desperate to be thought of as being as modern as the rest of the European Union and would do *anything* to be recognized as such. Its desire is being fulfilled, as Ireland has been rewarded with the moniker of "Celtic Tiger," a reference to its improving economy like the famous "Asian Tigers" of South Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

But what is Ireland giving up in return?

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and I flew to Ireland to meet Patrick McCrystal, Director of HLI Ireland, on September 8. Our mission was to inform, encourage, and activate pro-lifers to stand up and resist the tide of death,



Fr. Boquet (left) with Patrick McCrystal (right) and friends at a strategy-planning lunch.



which threatens to engulf their nation. We intended to demonstrate that **the Culture of Death can never be satisfied; it always lusts for more death and corruption, and it is the duty of every faithful Catholic to fight its many evils.**

We began the trip with a four-day Catholic Pro-Life Activist's Training Course at the Legionaries of Christ Center in Leopardstown, Dublin. About 45 people, most under the age of 35, attended. We covered an immense amount of material, from organizing to history, and talked about specific issues from abortion to *in-vitro* fertilization to homosexuality. We gave a preview of *Pro-Life DVD Library*, which is an immense theological and life issues library, and distributed many other materials, including *The Pro-Life Pastoral Handbook*.

The 30 hours of training was well-received by the participants. One said, "How do I say it? *Brilliant*. Really learning new things ... this is just the beginning." Another commented "Thanks to HLI for another fantastic day of fellowship, worship, and speaking the truth."

After the Training Course,



Fr. Boquet speaking to the crowd at the Drummond Hotel in Limavady during the "Be Not Afraid" tour.

we traveled a thousand miles through Ireland under the banner "Be Not Afraid, Catholic Ireland!" Our talks each evening in Limavady, Monaghan, Limerick, and Dublin had the intention of lifting the sagging spirits of a battered pro-life movement and activating good Catholics to start moving again. Once again, we strongly emphasized that it is not our job to win; it is our job to work and to trust in God's plan, and that His alone is the victory. It is arrogant indeed to expect that we can make any kind of meaningful difference without His help. **Final victory will surely come if and when God wills it, and not one second before.** Our job is merely to be His obedient servants and *try*. "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD" [Proverbs 21:31].

We laid a heavy emphasis on prayer and reparation during these evening talks. Patrick spoke about how Ireland, by approving homosexual "marriage," has decisively turned her back on her Catholic Faith, and now needs to perform serious penance and reparation in order to avoid a disastrous chastisement. Fr. Boquet outlined the roots and the fruits of both the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death, and I talked about how the Devil attacks us through specific and identifiable means. Patrick, to emphasize the importance and necessity of trust in proclaiming the Gospel of Life, reminded us of Sacred Scripture's mandate to "not be afraid."

After one of our evening sessions, an elderly man approached Fr. Boquet and said, "I truly appreciate your frankness, especially from a priest. There's not enough of it today. I'm going home now to tell my wife and family that I was right." Father asked him what he meant, and he replied, "Everyone, including my wife and family, tells me I'm too bold and speak my mind too openly. Tonight you gave me permission. If you, a priest, can do it, so can I. I can't wait to get home! Thank you!"

I would have liked to be a fly on the wall of *that* house for the next day or two!

The main point I personally tried to make is the same one I always try to get across. There are many activities that can amuse us — travel, drugs, casual sex, food, “life experience,” television, and so on. Some of these are legitimate when taken in moderation, but **the culture tries its best to get us hooked on them as a distraction from the only two things that can make us truly happy and content: Faith and Family.**

It is certainly no coincidence that these two things are also the greatest obstacles to the Culture of Death, which is why it is trying so hard to sideline and neutralize the Church and re-define and destroy the family.

Patrick’s message was certainly sobering. The anti-life plague that has infected Ireland has been metastasizing for at least 20 years. This, unfortunately, is a problem the Church created. Years of improper, incomplete, and just plain false catechesis and formation have led to a timid and uncertain Church and a confident and aggressive secularism in the Emerald Isle. **The media instructs Catholics here much more than the Church does,** and it is the most biased and corrupt media I have seen anywhere in the world. People cannot prevent being affected by the constant drumbeat of condemnation for the Church and the exaltation of every type of false freedom.

The result: It seems that most Irish are *ashamed* to be Catholic in public.

The remedy: The Church must stand up and re-assume Her proper role as teacher and preacher. She must evangelize her people (not just catechize them) and “send them forth” to save souls and lives. **Catholic Ireland must turn away from the glittery but empty allures of the world and refocus on the eternal things of God.**

Centuries ago, Saint Patrick lit a bonfire to challenge the oppressive and crushing influence of paganism; it is time for a thousand new bonfires to be lit by a new generation of saints all over Ireland, bonfires that cannot be extinguished, bonfires that will endure despite the rage of Satan and his Culture of Death here on earth.

We can do our part as well. Let us beseech the intercession of the great St. Patrick for his homeland, and let us pray that he will assist us in driving this new generation of snakes from the shores of the Emerald Isle.

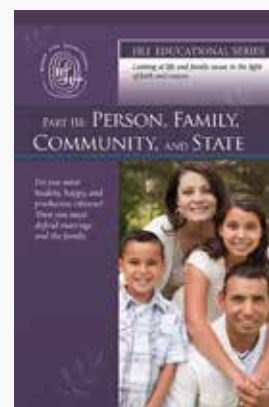
Catholic Ireland — *Be not afraid!*

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 latest pro-life educational resource: ***Marriage: Person, Family, Community, and State***. This is the third part of a 4-part series on marriage. (See next month’s *Mission Report* for Part IV.)

We are surrounded by story after tragic story that confirm what happens when God’s love is left unreceived and God’s law denied. In this part of our series on marriage, we will look more closely at how the decay of society around us reveals the consequences of turning away from God and His plan for marriage and family. Before we step out of Church teaching and into the research and observations of a society at war with itself, we should note the truly incredible wisdom in the doctrine of the Church, the harmony between the moral and social doctrine of the Catholic Church.

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



***Marriage: Person, Family, Community, and State* is this month’s pro-life educational resource.**