Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

You have helped us reach our 159th mission country, Palau! Please peruse this month’s Mission Report for the full story, as recounted by HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta. Palau is part of a group of islands among the Pacific Island republics, collectively known as Oceania. There, sadly, contraception, abortion and divorce are widespread and the people need your prayers.

Next, we hear from our Salzburg, Austria Affiliate, Lebenszentrum Salzburg. Recently celebrating their 15th anniversary, the center has rescued 500 babies and counting. Taking the 49th anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI’s remarkable encyclical Humane Vitae to heart, members processed through the streets and honored the Unborn with white crosses and roses, unintimidated by hecklers. Their resolve is fortified by an Adoration chapel, where they honor Our Lord around the clock.

And finally, HLI’s Dr. Joseph Meaney paid a visit to Iceland in August. With only 13,000 Catholics among a population of 300,000, they still have a steadfast presence in the pro-life group Lifsvernd, which has prayed for 10 years without fail for babies being aborted there.

We try to take St. Pope John Paul II’s maxim to heart, “Be not afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ!” Stand with us for we require your help to proclaim Life, Faith and Family throughout the world.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International
MISSIONARY TRIP TO PALAU
By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, HLI Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, June - July 2017

My mission trip to Palau marked the very first time that the Palauen people ever heard a pro-life talk. As you may know, Palau is a group of islands among the Pacific Island republics, collectively known as Oceania. Trusting in God, I embarked on our first-ever mission trip to the Republic of Palau in June, making Palau the 159th mission country HLI has reached.

With a total population of only around 21,000, the population is dying with a fertility rate of 1.7 births per couple. Aside from massive contraceptive promotion and use, abortion, promiscuity and divorce are also rampant. Please pray for Palau.

I discovered girls as young as 13 years old are being injected with the contraceptive depo-provera. As is often the case with the death peddlers who provide the drugs, they do not tell girls of potentially serious side effects, only that they will not get pregnant. Women are likewise left in the dark. One 26-year-old nurse who works at Belau (the local name for Palau) National Hospital told me she had been having depo-provera injections, and had been rendered at least temporarily infertile. Shaken, she said no one ever told her this could happen. I’m sure she was also not told of the many other issues with depo-provera, from bone loss to increased risk of HIV/AIDS transmission. Contraception is never the answer.

STARTING THE MISSION WITH PRAYER
Your prayers and generosity make it possible for us to visit places like Palau. As is often the case when I travel for HLI, I arrived on a flight from my home in the Philippines, not knowing a soul. To take courage, I looked to the Apostles. Faith gets me through these visits. I felt the trip was
inspired by the Holy Spirit. Arriving in the wee hours of the morning, I took a few hours rest. Then awaking, I headed straight for a courtesy call to “the Boss,” Jesus Christ, at Sacred Heart Church! This is the main church, located on the island of Koror, where this mission was focused. Koror is the main commercial center in Palau, where two thirds of the population reside.

After an hour before the Blessed Sacrament, praying for guidance, I went to the parish office to make initial introductions but found it closed for the weekend. People nearby informed me the parish priest was in Chuuk but would return Monday. So I used the extra time to return to church for another hour of prayer, offering the entire mission to Him.

Afterwards, I decided to speak with those gathered outside the church, awaiting early evening Mass. Initiating conversations with locals has always helped me get to know the area more and make contacts. People here generally congregate on benches outside the church before and after Mass, and activities of religious groups are done within the church compound. This custom was a great opportunity for me to introduce HLI. Most of the people I met were lay leaders and respected professionals, serving the Church in various capacities.

Mistakenly, I occupied the pew reserved for the choir when I attended the Saturday evening Mass. My mistake proved a blessing. To my happy surprise, the choir members were warmly welcoming Filipinos. We stayed awhile after Mass and I further introduced myself and our mission at HLI. Two of those I met were a couple

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can make a tax-free gift from your individual retirement account (IRA) directly to our organization. This law no longer has an expiration date, so you are free to make annual gifts to qualified charitable organizations from your IRA this year and well into the future.

**How It Works**

- You must be 70½ or older at the time of your gift.
- You may transfer any amount up to $100,000 directly from your IRA to Human Life International.
- The transfer is not considered to be taxable income, and therefore does not generate an income tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Stan Kuta at 540-622-5272 or email Stan at skuta@hli.org.
heading the El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic group. I’ve had associations with the group in the Philippines, where it was founded and is primarily based. Right then they invited me to speak on HLI at their next Sunday gathering after Mass. HLI’s coming was God-sent, they said, as they had actually been praying for a speaker, hard to manage because of the cost.

Aside from Catholic Church groups, I was also able to meet members of other Christian denominations, who also invited me to speak. Unfortunately, they were at exactly the same times as the Catholic groups, and so I politely responded I would, the next time.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE MISSION

Our first step is always to introduce ourselves to the clergy. On Monday I went early to the Sacred Heart Church parish office to see parish priest and Vicar General, Fr. Rusk Saburo, who had just flown in from meeting with the Bishop on the nearby island of Chuuk. Fr. Rusk also serves two other parishes in Koror: St. Joseph’s and Fr. McManus Churches. He told me there are only four priests in the country. The Bishop, he said — His Excellency Bishop Amando Samo — has been confined to a wheelchair for some years now, and thus is unable to travel. He runs the whole diocese from Chuuk.

Fr. Rusk warmly welcomed me, expressing joy at receiving the HLI materials I had brought. These included many comprehensive pro-life resources, such as the HLI Pro-Life DVD Library, the Pro-Life Handbook, our contraceptive series, even feet pins. We discussed a great many subjects, including the return of HLI to conduct a speaking tour, diocesan pro-life training for clergy and another session for lay leaders. Fr. Rusk also happily received my invitation to attend the coming HLI Asia-Pacific Congress (ASPAC) on Faith, Life and Family, our regional pro-life conference to be held in November this year in Bangkok, Thailand. If he comes, it will be the first time the Republic of Palau will be represented in the ASPAC. Other lay leaders I met also expressed interest in attending, among them one of my new-found friends who works in the Supreme Court of Palau, Hasinta Tabelual.

HLI COMING IS AN “ANSWER TO A PRAYER”

My first talk was July 1st, Saturday after the evening Mass. This was a direct fruit of my courtesy call with Fr. Rusk, whom I mentioned is the highest-ranking clergyman in Palau. During our meeting, Fr. Rusk assured me he would get the word out and announce my talk during Masses. I met Father two more times that week, where we spoke about the coming talks. He also told me to feel free to speak with parishioners.

Unfortunately, Fr. Rusk forgot to announce the talk during the Masses. So there were only about ten in the
church, people I personally had met and invited to the talk. I still ploughed ahead, though, and found these participants proved key to the mission – all of them leaders and professionals occupying crucial positions in various Palau offices. See how God provides? We exchanged valuable information, confirming a need for HLI’s mission in their country. They were wide-eyed as I addressed topics like contraception’s demographic impact on their country. *If they continue along the same road, I warned, there will come a time when there will be no more Palauans in Palau.* One high school teacher responded, saying HLI’s arrival was an “answer to a prayer.” This she said because two weeks prior she was present at a “family planning conference” that encouraged depo-provera injections for high school students. She said these activities are financed by foreign groups. Though she didn’t agree, she also didn’t know how to respond, and just kept quiet. She requested I return to talk to the teachers and government officials on the harms of contraception.

**SHORING UP FAMILIES WITH YOUR HELP**

Given God’s amazing grace, I was also asked to give a short talk the next day at Sunday Mass — right after communion and before the Final Blessing. I introduced the mission of Human Life International and invited everyone to stay for my talk right after Mass, and many did, filling the church.

Centering on “Marriage and the Family: Bedrock of Civilization,” which is a comprehensive discussion on God’s plan for marriage and the family, I dwelt on the roles of husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, and grandparents, as well as the preciousness of life. I also touched on contraception, abortion, pornography and promiscuity, which I was previously told are common here — especially among the migrants who don’t have their families with them. The session was attended by mostly Filipino members of El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic Group. The address generated interest for more talks and so, together with their Head, Brother Tony, we planned a return trip, and they promised a lot more participants. They expressed their interest in promoting the mission of HLI, which they reiterated is truly needed in Palau.

**OPENING PEOPLE’S HEARTS AND MINDS**

From my various meetings with Catholics and non-Catholics alike, I saw the need for Natural Family Planning (NFP). Since my formal talks were limited in
time, I requested couples pay a visit to my hotel, where I
gave special NFP sessions. I also found I had to include
counseling sessions due to the many problems couples
faced, without them even knowing that the same were
caused by the contraception they’ve been using. For the
first time, the participants realized the beauty and wisdom
of NFP and the lies of contraception.

Truly, there is joy in the splendor of Truth and the
Gospel of Life. As I started the long trip back home, I
couldn’t help shedding tears of joy. As St. Pope John Paul
II told HLI’s founder, Fr. Paul Marx, ours is the greatest
and most important work on earth. What a privilege to
have been sent to open people’s hearts and minds.

As always, I give back to God all the glory. I also thank
the employees at HLI Central, who never fail to support
and inspire us. We are forever grateful to all the generous
benefactors of Human Life International, without whom
we would never be able to do the Mission. In my daily
prayers, I beg God to repay you a millionfold, to always
grant you and your loved ones good health and abundant
blessings. May you continue giving to HLI so we will be
able to do the mission wherever GOD brings us. I hug you
with my unceasing prayers, and ask those who hear my
talks to pray for you. Please also pray for us.

PRO-LIFE SALZBURG, AUSTRIA MARKS
49th ANNIVERSARY OF HUMANAE VITAE
Leaning together on Mother Church
By HLI Affiliate, Lebenszentrum Salzburg
Blessed Pope Paul VI’s prophetic encyclical, Humanae
Vitae, marked the 49th anniversary of its promulga-
tion on July 25, 2017. Despite antagonistic forces,
pro-life organizations like Human Life International,
“EuroProLife” and our HLI Affiliate, Lebenszentrum
Salzburg, assembled 250 people in front of Mozart
Square in Salzburg, Vienna.

Pope Paul VI’s encyclical spoke about the “respect
due to the transmission of human life,” about the beauty
of the calling of husband and wife in marriage, and about
the importance of each human life. Human life, however,
is under great attack worldwide today. This is where you
help, with your caring prayers and donations.

Salzburg’s prayer procession drew attention to both
the dignity of human life, and also the sins crying out to

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HLI Affiliate, Lebenszentrum Salzburg, assembled 250 pro-
lifers in front of Mozart Square in Salzburg, Vienna, for a
prayer procession for all the children never allowed to see
the light of the world.
WARM WELCOME IN ICELAND FOR HLI

HLI’s Pro-Life Voice Crying in the Wilderness

By Dr. Joseph Meaney

Iceland has the infamous distinction of being one of the earliest countries to legalize abortion. They passed a permissive abortion law in 1935. Currently, about 20% of pregnancies end in abortion on this Nordic island. Virtually all Down Syndrome babies are also aborted. My August 11th mission was to see what we can do to assist them in spreading the Gospel of Life.

Stopping over in Iceland on my way back to France from an HLI meeting in Virginia, I had the pleasure of meeting with Lifsvernd, the Catholic pro-life movement there. Newly appointed bishop David Tencer, a Capuchin missionary from Slovakia, also kindly personally welcomed me to his diocese—the entire island!

Lifsvernd is a small but very faithful pro-life group. Its members have prayed in front of the hospital that performs abortions every week for over 10 years now without fail. Fr. Denis O’Leary, an Irish missionary priest and Deacon Michael & April Frigge, wearing the “Precious Feet” pins representing a baby’s feet at 10 weeks of conception, lead the group. They’ve also hosted pro-life art contests and publish a pro-life calendar. In general, they pray and speak up in public for the respect of human life.

The Missionaries of Charity also have a convent and 6 sisters in heaven for the taking of innocent human life. White crosses, carried by the participants, spoke louder than words. In a memorial ceremony, 100 roses were cast into the river, while a bell tolled in memoriam for all the children never allowed to see the light of the world. The peaceful prayer assembly was disturbed by radical groups, with masked men screaming violent attacks and slogans. But HLI’s Regional Director, Joannes Bucher, reminded the participants, “We are all nine months or older and these crosses are a tribute and call to reflection.” After all, he said, people annually hold commemorative ceremonies for war victims. Bucher urged all to read or reread Humanae Vitae, stating: “We all can profit from the prudent advice and guidance of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.”
P.S.—This month, when you donate $53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission, we would like to send you an audio CD of the talk *Families As the Building Blocks of a Culture of Life*, by HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet.

In this talk, Fr. Boquet discusses how families, as witnesses to the transforming power of God’s grace, are essential for God’s plan for healthy and faithful societies. Are we living witnesses to the love we have for God in every moment? This powerful message is not just for parents, for we are all tasked with teaching and preaching God’s love to every generation! Fr. Boquet offers some reflections on how to grow and flourish in faith in order to build a sustainable Culture of Life.

Fr. Boquet gave this talk at the Eucharistic Convention in Auckland, New Zealand in April 2015.

Please send your donation of $53 or more to HLI today, and we’ll rush this gift out to you!