



Mission Report

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- * **Thanks to Your Support, Palau Becomes the 159th Country in HLI's Mission Field!**
- * **Please Pray for the Pro-Life Movement in Iceland!**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Families As the Building Blocks of a Culture of Life* audio CD.**

Left: Thanks be to God and to your faithful support, many in Palau heard the pro-life message this year for the first time!

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 *Lifsvörnd*, 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



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

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



Dr. Ligaya introduced HLI's mission to many valuable contacts in the Republic of Palau.

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- You must be 70½ or older at the time of your gift.
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- 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.



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



Dr. Ligaya speaks with a couple that heads the El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic group and makes plans to speak at their next Sunday gathering after Mass.



Youth Leaders in Palau enthusiastically received the news of HLI’s mission work, resolving to embrace it personally and spread it far and wide in their country.

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



Vicar General Rev. Fr. Rusk Saburo, of the Republic of Palau (shown here with Dr. Ligaya), sends his gratitude to all HLI supporters for making this pro-life mission possible.

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

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or another HLI expert
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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 promulgation 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's CFC number is
10253**



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.



Lebenszentrum Salzburg's pro-life prayer procession commemorated the 49th anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI's prophetic Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*.

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.*"

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



Dr. Joseph Meaney, HLI Director of International Outreach and Expansion on location with Lifsvernd in Iceland.

Reykjavik. Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta made it a priority to send her sisters to Iceland where the poverty is mainly spiritual rather than physical. It was a joy to go to Mass in their chapel and share some pro-life experiences with them afterwards. They actively support the pro-life apostolate and take in pregnant mothers who have no place to go.

Another reason for my trip to Iceland was the close link between HLI and Couples for Christ Foundation for Family & Life (CFC-FFL). Deacon and Mrs. Frigge are the national representatives for CFC-FFL and they have met HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet, Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta, as well as Austria's HLI Director, Joannes Bucher and Dietmar Fischer of HLI at different international events. HLI now officially provides the pro-life training for CFC-FFL members. In Iceland, as elsewhere, many of the members of CFC-FFL are Filipinos.

We had a good discussion on what could be done in

Iceland to promote life. Bishop Tencer was particularly concerned about the Polish immigrants to Iceland who form the majority of Catholics. Most are only there for a few years to make money and then return home. Pregnancy and children are usually not part of their plan, and in Iceland the cultural context makes it very tempting to abort. The bishop was interested in having pro-life missionaries in Iceland from Poland. It could very well be that HLI Poland can help their compatriots in Iceland.

Only God knows what the future holds, but HLI may be called to make a big difference in the North Atlantic. Please pray! There is certainly interest in Iceland for HLI's pro-life training program.

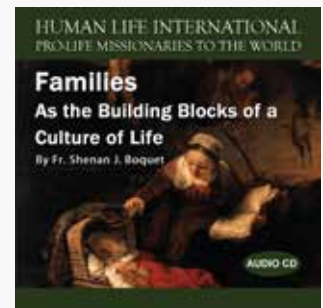
*Catholicism began officially in Iceland in the year 1000. Sadly, Lutheranism was imposed by the Danes in the 16th century and the Catholic bishop beheaded. Up until 1874 it was illegal for Icelanders to become Catholic. **Today there are about 13,000 Catholics in Iceland out of a population of approximately 330,000.***

DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

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.



Families As the Building Blocks of a Culture of Life is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$53 or more!

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