



Mission Report

No. 410
May 2019

A PUBLICATION OF HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL



- ✳ **Hundreds Educated by HLI Tanzania on Dangers of Pro-Contraceptive Mentality**
- ✳ **HLI Miami Helps Women One Crisis Pregnancy at a Time**
- ✳ **Dr. Joseph Meaney Extends Warm Welcome to Belgian March for Life**
- ✳ **This Month's Special DVD Gift to Donors: Ralph Martin of Renewal Ministries interviews Fr. Shenan J. Boquet on "The Choices We Face"**

Left: Dr. Joseph Meaney gives the keynote at the Belgian Pro-Life March.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Never let it be said that one person can't make a difference.

Recently, in an airport on my way to Africa, I met Fr. Ezekiel, a priest from Uganda, who told me that he had the privilege of meeting Fr. Marx and HLI's missionary team when he was a young seminarian. He said the encounter forever changed his perspective and understanding of the importance of defending Life and Family. He said, "from that day forward I knew I had to be part of this life-changing movement, especially in my home country and throughout Africa, which is threatened by the West and its anti-life agenda."

In this very brief encounter on our way to our respective departing gates, Fr. Ezekiel, celebrating nearly 17 years as a priest, said, "I am so grateful to HLI and Fr. Marx. Because of him and the ongoing work of HLI in my country, I am dedicated to this cause and try to inspire others, especially seminarians and my brother priests." Though he had only met Fr. Marx that one time, Fr. Ezekiel was blessed to have had encounters with others from HLI who visited his seminary afterwards, providing materials and giving lectures. "Each left an impression upon me," he said, and "further fostered the importance of my commitment to supporting Life and Family as a future priest, pastor, and teacher."

I cannot tell you how many times I have heard similar stories throughout the mission field from pro-life, pro-family leaders – lay, religious, and clergy. So many owe their beginnings in this movement to the heroic and faithful witness of the "Apostle for Life."

Fr. Marx was ordained a priest on June 15, 1947, and spent the better part of his priesthood, nearly 40 years, proclaiming the Gospel of Life, *in season and out of season*. He traveled over three million miles and visited 50 states and 91 countries. He was devoted to this cause and sacrificed much to promote its message. He took to



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Over, please

One man can and *did* make a difference!



In November 1979, Pope St. John Paul II said to HLI Founder, Fr. Paul Marx, O.S.B.:
“You must bring this pro-life, pro-family movement all over the earth; and if you do that, you will be doing the most important work on earth.”

heart the words and invitation of Pope St. John Paul II who said to him in 1979, “You must bring this pro-life, pro-family movement all over the earth and if you do that, you will be doing the most important work on earth.” These words of the saintly pope encouraged Fr. Marx – as it encourages us today – and forever changed the global landscape of the pro-life, pro-family movement.

Yes, we owe much to Fr. Marx, who founded the Human Life Center in 1972 and Human Life International in 1981, pioneering the way for the pro-life, pro-family movement in the U.S. and abroad. Countless people involved in this movement today have Fr. Marx to thank. However, I was recently reminded of how close the movement came to losing one of its pioneers.

Recall that on December 21, 1988, Fr. Marx was scheduled to fly from Frankfurt, Germany to Detroit via London and New York on Pan Am Flight 103, which was destroyed by a bomb, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew members – a disaster known as the Lockerbie bombing. By Divine Providence, Fr. Marx missed this flight. Imagine if he had not? HLI and its global mission *may* not be here today. Imagine the people who would never have met him, heard him speak, be encouraged by his teaching, or received his support? I dare say, the movement and its landscape would be drastically different.

We are grateful to Almighty God, in His permissive will, for sparing Fr. Marx that day, allowing the words of Pope St. John Paul II to be fulfilled. In

gratitude, Fr. Marx would spend his life and energy confronting the anti-life, anti-family environment, seeing through formation and education the greatest potential to influence the structures of society. Through various programs and focusing upon targeted groups (seminarians, religious, priests, bishops, lay faithful and professionals), he sought to unite people to actively cultivate, build, and sustain a Culture of Life. He made it his life’s mission to help others to know the truth and its freedom. This is why he traveled the world proclaiming the *most important work on earth*.

I never had the privilege of meeting Fr. Marx. I knew of him and HLI’s mission through Father’s appearances on EWTN, radio outlets, and various media. From my seminary days, I was involved in the pro-life, pro-family movement. In some way Fr. Marx contributed to this activity. I was inspired by his courageous witness and priestly example. Little did I know that one day, through Divine Providence, I would have a share in his great work and legacy, making a difference and transforming culture and society.

See, one man can and *did* make a difference!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

HLI TURNS ILANGAMOTO PARISH PRO-LIFE

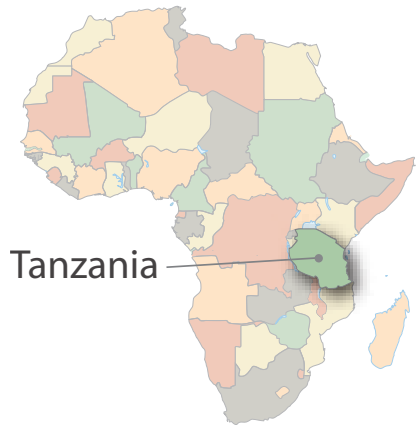
By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa

At the invitation of Fr. Arnold Likiliwike of Ilangamoto Parish, I traveled a couple miles south of Makambako Township, located in the Catholic Diocese of Njombe, Tanzania (Njombe is the name of the region as well as the name of the diocese). Anti-life activities have invaded his parish – and the region – for three decades.

MARIE STOPES AND HIV/AIDS

Fr. Arnold seeks HLI's ongoing help to counteract the devastating influence of the population control giant, Marie Stopes. Under the guise of philanthropic charity, Marie Stopes Tanzania exploits the poor and illiterate in my country. Though registered as a non-governmental organization offering health services, Marie Stopes Health Center at Makambako illegally provides abortion services, plus contraception and sterilization, promising "a better life." **Promoting the use of condoms has corrupted the moral standard of chastity.** It has further ravaged the people by contributing to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. According to Tanzania's December 1, 2018 HIV/AIDS report, Njombe leads the national infection rate at 13%.

Regrettably, Tanzanians trust Marie Stopes – an organization that manipulates them to naively believe anti-life misinformation. Tanzanians don't even have fresh water! What do they need with sterilization? Tanzania is in dire need of **true development**, such as good quality hospitals, fresh plumbed water, decent schools with professionally trained teachers, and solid roads so farmers can transport produce.



HLI HELPS TACKLE PASTORAL CHALLENGES

Facing these obstacles, I completed a five-day pro-life mission visit at Ilangamoto Parish from April 6-11, 2019. Fr. Arnold hopes HLI can help break the Culture of Death's grip on the people in his area. He shared with me many grave challenges confronting his people. **Some suffer the many adverse consequences of contraception, and sadly some have even endured forced male and female sterilization.** So many condoms are sold in their small shops – by people mistakenly believing that condoms prevent HIV/AIDS – that he wryly observed, "*There are more condoms in this township than the number of people.*" He fears there may be more nominal Catholics than authentic ones – those faithfully adhering to Church tenets on life, marriage, and family. He's concerned his sheep exhibit signs of the same downward spiral of faith that's responsible for closing churches in the West. But he trusts HLI to work alongside him and help turn the tide back to a pro-life parish.

Armed with my pro-life materials, PowerPoint equipment, and



Emil Hagamu, HLI Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, and Fr. Arnold Likiliwike present Precious Feet pins to HLI trainees at Ilangamoto Parish.

“I [now] understand the harmful effects of contraceptives; many use them because of ignorance. I’ll teach my fellow people . . . to use Natural Family Planning methods.”

the rosary, I ventured into this Marie Stopes anti-life stronghold! Making this visit during Lent was an added advantage, as people prayed, fasted, and sought penance and renewal from past sins. Fr. Arnold had started urging parishioners to attend our training two weeks in advance because, as he put it, “It will help liberate you from the yoke of contraception and abortion.”

EMBRACING GOD’S PLAN

Thus began our conversion process from embracing the Culture of Death to embracing a Culture of Life. On Sunday, 240 participants greeted us. On subsequent days, an average of 80 people came every day during the work week. **A few sacrificed unpaid leave to attend sessions, while another 24 government-employed**

couples told me they had sacrificed part of their annual vacation so they could attend the training!

First came the catechesis necessary to understand the sacred meaning and beauty of human life, marriage, and family according to God’s plan for creation. We started at the beginning: conception. We showed them the video entitled *Window to the Womb*, where they saw for themselves *for the first time* how babies grow. They also saw the need to respect and care unconditionally for each new human life and to defend and protect each person until natural death. Next, **we exposed the lies of Marie Stopes, who calls pregnancy a “blob of tissue.”** We ended with the racism and lies behind the population control agenda and screened *The Silent Scream* and *Hard Truth* videos, revealing the barbarism of abortion.



Emil Hagamu and Fr. Arnold Likiliwike with HLI training participants from Ilangamoto Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Njombe, April 2019.

Finally, we discussed Natural Family Planning (NFP). The concept of NFP can be tricky because many assume it's "Catholic contraception." It's not, but if treated improperly, it can become another way of living the contraceptive mentality. Therefore, a proper moral foundation of the theology of responsible parenthood must first be understood. **I took a considerable amount of time going over the demands of responsible parenthood as explained in *Humanae Vitae*.** With this understanding, many young mothers were especially keen to learn the Billings Ovulation Method of NFP to recognize and gauge fertility in their married lives.

The training had another intention, and one parishioner expressed it best: "Now I know the Billings Ovulation Method of family planning and can teach others." HLI hopes that participants will become educators themselves, capable of disseminating what they have learned to the rest of their community.

Some stated on their final evaluation forms that these lessons changed their perceptions. Fr. Arnold Likiliwike

said: "Judging from conversations with participants, they've achieved a lot and will be missionaries for life within and outside the parish." As one participant wrote: "I [now] understand the harmful effects of contraceptives; many use them because of ignorance. I'll teach my fellow people . . . to use Natural Family Planning methods." This person should have added, "And good-bye, Marie Stopes!"

As a case study, in Uganda, when the "ABC" method that focused on abstinence and being faithful was stressed, the incidence of HIV/AIDS was cut dramatically – from 18% to 7%. Unfortunately, since then, condom use has prevailed over chastity, and the HIV/AIDS rate has increased again. From the Centers for Disease Control website: "Is abstinence the only 100% effective HIV prevention?" Answer: "Yes. . . . Abstinence is the only 100% effective way to prevent HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and pregnancy."

June 2019 Events

Please pray for HLI's Mission Work in June:

- June 12-23: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet returns to the Philippines for HLI's 57th trip, where he meets up with Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta. Even pro-life countries like the Philippines are under constant attack from anti-family groups and there are always new youth, seminarians and priests coming down the line to educate.
- June 12-July 8: Members of HLI's Latin American Team will be on three missions in a row: HLI Latin American advisor Nancy Tosi travels to Cuba; then Latin American Regional Director Mario Rojas and OAS advisor Marlene Gillette-Ibern travel to represent HLI at the Organization of American States assembly in Colombia; with a final trip by Nancy to Argentina.
- June 29-July 13: Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, will be leading Natural Family Planning (NFP) workshops in the Mtwara Diocese in Tanzania. Africa is a hotbed of abortion and contraception groups. NFP is key to countering the Culture of Death and supporting women and children's health.

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

HLI MIAMI ANSWERS ANNA'S CRY FOR HELP

by *Adriana Thurdekoos*

For over a decade, Human Life International Miami has received an average of one call every day from a woman in a crisis pregnancy. Oftentimes women call – despite the name “Vida Humana Internacional” (Human Life International) – and ask in Spanish if HLI can get them abortion-inducing drugs.

Adriana Thurdekoos, part of HLI Miami’s team on the ground, fields these difficult calls. She says, “The average woman is Hispanic. I start by emphasizing woman-to-woman how important their current health and future lives are. These chemical abortions can seriously endanger their health, and nobody tells them!” In fact, taking these drugs unsupervised – something pushed by pro-abortion forces – can even be fatal in certain cases, such as in an ectopic pregnancy. The HLI staff all understand that a woman calling for abortion-inducing drugs is really crying for help, and they answer that call

by getting each woman to see her baby in an ultrasound. This is not deception in any way. The law requires this verification to determine the gestational age of the baby. HLI works with Heartbeat International to assist each mother in need, along with her growing baby.

Recently, HLI Miami encountered an extraordinary case. A woman we will call “Anna” phoned in distress. She had been raped, was pregnant, and desperately wanted an abortion. She had also come all the way from Latin America because abortion is illegal in her country. Anna was naturally terribly upset by the rape and needed assistance. Adriana knew very well that the baby is an innocent victim and should not be forced to die in an abortion. Tensions were high.

Adriana told Anna that the first thing required by law was an ultrasound, so she made the appointment with Heartbeat International and accompanied her.



Anna is proudly smiling and holding her ultrasound baby pictures with Heartbeat volunteers. Her face has been blurred to guard her anonymity.

HLI Miami receives an average of one call, every day, from a woman in crisis pregnancy.

As the ultrasound technician put gel on Anna's belly, Adriana waited outside the room to offer support. Anna's belly was scanned and the technician announced the baby's age: 13 weeks old. "What?" cried Anna. "Could you please measure again?" The ultrasound technician checked again and repeated, "13 weeks."

Anna was shocked . . . and elated! The rape had occurred 9 weeks before. If the baby was 13 weeks, this baby was her husband's! *She had almost aborted her own husband's child by accident.*

Exhilarated, Anna called her husband immediately with the great news. "Thanks be to God," said Adriana, when thinking about what might have happened if HLI and Heartbeat International had not been there to help. And thanks to state limitations on abortion, which require an ultrasound, another baby has been saved.

HLI Miami is ready every day to answer the phone when it rings, vowing to be there for those in need.



Adriana Thurdekoos, part of the HLI Miami team.

Heartbeat International can be reached 24/7 in both English and Spanish at its Option Line. The organization fields over 1,000 crisis pregnancy calls each day. Please spread the number: 1-800-712-HELP.

Buying or selling a home?

You can support Human Life International at no cost to you by taking advantage of the **Real Estate for Life** program.

HLI is pleased to announce our brand new partnership with Real Estate for Life. If you are looking to buy or sell a home, you can support HLI's pro-life work at no cost to you. Contact Real Estate for Life and they'll refer you to a pro-life realtor in your area, who will then donate a portion of their commission to HLI. If you aren't in the market right now, but know someone who is, please help us spread the word.

The sale of a \$150,000 home through Real Estate for Life will generate about \$1,000 for HLI, at no cost to you!



Call 877-LIFE-US1 or visit realestateforlife.org

HLI TRAINING IN PERU

HLI's first trip to the Diocese of Cajamarca, Peru was filled with opportunities to spread the Gospel of Life. Three hundred sixty seminarians, religious, students, and teachers attended lectures, and HLI even appeared on a television program! Check out the photos below to see the impact.



(Right) Raymond de Souza trained seminarians and religious (above and below). We were honored to have present Bishop Jose Carmelo Martinez of the Diocese of Cajamarca. With him were over 20 priests and seminarians. Topics discussed were how HLI's pro-life training "REDESSVIDA" works, as well as John Paul II's Theology of the Body and human dignity and sexuality.



(Above) HLI Advisor for Latin American Missions, Nancy Tosi, engaged over 150 high school students and 80 teachers from various schools as she lectured on human dignity and sexuality.





(Right) HLI experts appeared on TV Norte Cajamarca, where they were alongside physicians and lawyers, discussing issues ranging from abortion to same-sex attraction.



(Above) Lola Sheen exposed the lies behind the gender ideology movement in a presentation to over 100 students at Cristo Rey High School.



(Above) Over 100 religious listened to HLI lectures on Life and Family issues at the “Baths of the Inca” church.

Two Marches for Life in Europe

By Joseph Meaney, PhD

Since the last Mission Report, I'm pleased to share with you Human Life International's (HLI) active presence at two European Marches for Life, those in Paris and in Brussels.

On January 20th, I was thrilled to see the broad avenues of Paris between the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower filled with 50,000 pro-lifers. Although it was freezing cold the atmosphere was warm and joyful, especially among the 1,000 young people volunteering to help with all the technical needs of the march and rally. Priests and religious sisters were quite visible in the crowd, and it was reported that Bishop Rey was marching. Young people and families with children were everywhere. These numbers are significant, especially in Western Europe where Christianity is marginalized more and more. If held today, I imagine the crowd might even be larger, given the sad fire at Notre Dame.

In addition to those marching, there was a wide show of support among Church leaders. Twenty French bishops signed a letter of support for the March, and Pope Francis sent words of encouragement through the papal nuncio.

As in the USA, the Paris March for Life is really several days of events. There were many signs of hope that took place throughout these events. One of these was a meeting of pro-life leaders who organize marches throughout Europe. I enjoyed learning about the hundreds of marches for life that are being planned.

At the rally, a speech was given by Dr. R. Fiad, an Argentinian senator who is also the president of Argentina's health commission. He had strong, rousing words on the importance of defending innocent human life. Argentina achieved a major pro-life victory in 2018 when a bill aiming to legalize abortion was defeated. Despite the huge amounts of money poured into Argentina from international sources in support of this bill, almost two



Courtesy of March for Life Brussels.



million Argentinians rallied, refusing to sit back and allow this travesty of justice! Thank Heaven their representatives also stood firm. It is always wonderful to see the solidarity between peoples in banding together for the right to life. The French crowd enthusiastically waved scarves in the colors of the Argentinian flag.

Another theme in Paris was the defense of the rights of conscience for healthcare workers. A bill introduced in the French Senate in September aims at rescinding the right to conscientious objection currently protected by French law. It is one more sign of the radical nature of the pro-abortion side. How can anyone call themselves “pro-choice” when they want to take away the choice of doctors and nurses to refuse to participate in the killing of babies in the womb? Thankfully, this drastic proposal has a poor chance of becoming law at this time. The head of the French Gynecologists and Obstetricians openly declared to the press that he himself is a conscientious objector to abortion! *Conscience rights are fundamental human rights listed as such by the Universal Declaration*



Courtesy of March for Life Brussels

of Human Rights and other foundational documents of international law.

On March 31st I returned to the Belgian March for Life, an event I have attended many times in the past. *This year I was asked to address the Belgian rally, and I brought them the warm greetings of Human Life International and our affiliates around the world.* I also brought with me the many signs of hope from the Paris march. I spoke of the pro-life victory in Argentina which had so ignited the Parisian marchers. I also urged renewed vigilance at any attempt to undermine Belgium’s own rights of conscience protections for healthcare workers.

At the march, we were blessed with a sunny afternoon and, once again, with a family atmosphere. Ready to intervene if needed, a few dozen police officers wearing riot gear escorted the several thousand marchers. Last year an anti-life group tried to block the march by laying down across the road and sidewalk, but this year, only a few people called out insults, while other passers-by applauded the marchers.

Belgium has had both positive and negative developments in the last year on the Life front. On the plus side, parents may now get an official death certificate and have a burial for children who die after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Also, Catholic hospitals and homes for the aged are not required by law to perform abortions or euthanasia in Belgium. Still, conscience clauses that protect Catholic institutions and health care workers are under threat from pressure to allow these immoral practices. Once again, the Little Sisters of the Poor are proving heroic in their defense of the weak and the sick. Just as in the USA, where they challenged the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate (that would have required them to pay



Courtesy of March for Life Brussels

for contraception in their health plans) all the way to the US Supreme Court, the Belgian Little Sisters of the Poor are refusing to let the Culture of Death into their homes for the elderly.

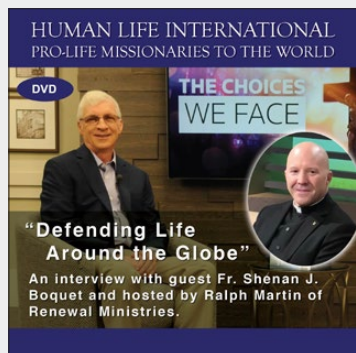
I encouraged the pro-lifers in Brussels and Belgium to bring their joyful defense of life and family to all the institutions and people around them. Given the gravity of the situation in this country, a real conversion needs to take place inside and outside the Church. It was lovely to see the priests and nuns participating in the march. Recognizing the evident truth, that doctors must be healers and not killers, would be a tremendous step in the right direction for the Belgian pro-life movement.

We thank the Lord there are people and institutions taking a conscientious stand for life in Belgium, France, and around the world.

P.S. HLI would not be able to impact the lives of women and families around the world without your prayers and generous financial gifts. Our Miami office (featured in this issue of *Mission Report*) is a good example. Women in crisis pregnancy call our Miami office on a daily basis. The majority call seeking abortion drugs, but what they receive, of course, is very different. What if there were no one there to answer the call? Another number may deny them the real help they need or worse, provide abortion-causing drugs that will kill their baby and possibly harm them.

Our Miami office focuses on pro-life *Hispanic* outreach in the United States. They publish a weekly newsletter, appear weekly on EWTN Catholic Radio in Spanish, hold workshops on topics like *Theology of the Body*, translate articles we issue in English into Spanish, and more. They even have their own website where one can take an online course for pro-life certifications. This is surely answering Christ's call to "Launch out into the deep and cast your nets" (St. Luke 5:4).

So please support this effort and our entire global mission of building a Culture of Life and Love with the most generous contribution you can give today. With a gift of \$53 or more, I would like to send you a DVD of my recent interview with Ralph Martin of Renewal Ministries on "The Choices We Face." This is a special offer for HLI donors, prior to its airing later this year on EWTN Global Catholic Network!



Our HLI Miami staff.

If you prefer to donate online, please visit www.hli.org and click the donate button on the top right.

As the Marian month draws to a close, we ask the Mother of Our Lord for her intercession for your intentions and for those of Life, Faith and Family. We are grateful for every Hail Mary as well!

The DVD program *The Choices that We Make* is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$53 or more!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Boquet".

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International