



Mission Report

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- * **Sorsogon City Celebrates Pro-Life Month**
- * **Japan Uses Abortion as Birth Control**
- * **Woman Studies NFP with HLI Tanzania in Hopes to Conceive**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: the CD *Families As the Building Blocks of a Culture of Life***

Left: Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, with Bishop Paul Toshihiro Sakai, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Osaka, Japan.

Dear Friends in Christ,

"We can't have many children," proclaimed a young professional woman in Maseru, "because we are too poor." These unfortunate sentiments were the consensus of many we encountered during HLI's recent mission to Lesotho. However, Sr. Theresa, a 72-year-old religious from the Holy Family Congregation, had the perfect response, which shatters the glass façade of this great lie:

"You say we were poor when we had seven children, [then] six, [then] four, and today with the average of three children per family you still claim that we are poor; however, it is in your mind. I have lived here my entire life. Today we have larger homes, cars, nicer clothes, access to more things, and money—things that were scarce when I was a young girl. You are not poor. You have convinced yourself that you are poor to justify your response to family life and children. You have embraced the propaganda."

In a country covering about 11,718 square miles and a population density of about 2.2 million people, there are not too many ethnic Basotho. In 1960, the average number of children per family was six or seven. Today the average size is three and decreasing. Nearly 80 percent of the population are Christian; approximately 23-24 percent are Catholic.

I have seen many atrocities during missions to over 83 countries and have come face-to-face with various groups who—without shame or conscience, and under the guise of "healthcare"—market their anti-life, anti-family comprehensive and concentrated wares. Since 1996, the so-called "developed nations" have spent nearly \$170 billion on population control programs—\$80 billion in Africa alone. And they are doing this among a people who love life and family and who struggle simply to obtain basic human necessities.

Imagine what would happen if the aforementioned funds were used for things like clean water, sanitation,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Over, please



Imposing population control on Africans does not fix their poverty problem. It simply turns larger poor families into smaller poor families.

education facilities, hospitals, electrification, farming equipment, and infrastructure—things that would benefit the well-being of the African people and help communities flourish. The reason for abject poverty is not the number of Africans, but the corruption of governments and non-governmental agencies. Little to nothing has been done to change the fundamental reasons for abject poverty, and contraception and abortion do nothing to change the systemic reasons. We have simply made larger poor families into smaller poor families.

This country is under assault, and the colonization of its people's minds has worked. On our trip, we saw all the typical major population control groups. We had scarcely landed at Moshoeshe I International Airport when we encountered the first sign of an inherent anti-life mentality. In the airport bathrooms, we saw boxes of condoms with the message of "safe-sex." Everywhere we went—hotels, restaurants, public buildings, restrooms—we found boxes of condoms and bold advertisements stressing the importance and necessity of using them. Sadly, we even found them in properties owned by so-called Catholics. Lesotho has the second highest rate of AIDS in the world, and this mentality of "safe sex" has increased the number of cases.

The distribution and encouragement of utilizing condoms is only part of a much larger and sinister agenda. Within minutes of leaving the airport, we encountered Population Services International, a group whose primary mission is to promote contraception and abortion. Minutes later we saw vehicles labeled with USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and JHPIEGO (Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Gynecology and Obstetrics)—agencies working for the promotion of "re-productive health and family planning" (i.e., contraception, abortion, and sterilization). Within a half-hour we encountered ActionAid International,

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), World Vision, Africare, and numerous other groups either working directly in population control or dabbling in it and who try to convince Basotho people that their economic problems are the consequence of too many children.

Population control groups like PSI employ local people to pimp their wares. Once employed, they are offered good salaries, nice cars and clothing, opportunity for travel, and homes. We encountered examples in each village we visited. For example, one young mother we met was offered a job by PSI and told us of the numerous benefits she would receive if she accepted the job. She also told us that many Catholics and Christians are employed by PSI and other groups we had mentioned in our presentations. After much conversation, we convinced her that this job would not be in her best interest or that of her family or community.

This is exploitation at its worst. With so many Basotho people in need, these scoundrels exploit the weakness of youth and families, using them to manipulate and exploit their own people.

This is what makes HLI's work so invaluable. Because of your generosity and the commitment and dedication of our staff and international team, we *go to the ends of the earth* to preach the Gospel of Life, defend the vulnerable, teach and uphold the perennial truths of the Church regarding life and family, expose and confront the deceptive tactics of the anti-natalist, and support local pro-life and pro-family leaders in their efforts to cultivate and build a Culture of Life.

During our nearly two-week mission, we traveled almost 750 miles and covered seven of ten districts. At the invitation of the bishops, we gave presentations in each of the four dioceses, meeting with religious, priests, and lay leaders. We did media interviews; gave a seminar at St. Augustine Major Seminary; and met with King Letsie III, the King of Lesotho, who is Catholic. Our work during this time was just the beginning. The bishops have already begun preparations for our return.

HLI's mission was summarized best by Bishop Joseph Mopeli Sephamola, OMI, of the Diocese of Qacha's Nek, when he stated:

Thank you for coming to our country, which desperately needs your help. Our people are under attack and need information, education, and formation on the issues affecting life and family. You bring experience, knowledge, and genuine care and love for our people. We are indebted to you for your kindness.

Ours is a never-ending work and will continue until every life and family are safeguarded from the anti-life, anti-family assault. Your support, care, and sacrifices make this mission and its global programs possible. Thank you!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

HLI BRINGS MESSAGE OF LIFE BACK TO JAPAN

By Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Regional Director of HLI Asia and Oceania, March 2019

Japan, the small island country in East Asia, encompasses a population of over 126 million. Yet now few children are born here; the population has a negative growth rate of -.24% or 1.42 total fertility rate, one in three marriages ends in divorce, and only one parent may be legally granted child custody. This makes the mission of Human Life International so important in this country. **Abortion is considered “a major form of birth control”** and is basically allowed even for social reasons, i.e. abortion on demand.

This trip was primarily intended for meetings with pro-life leaders and Church hierarchy but, to

maximize my trip, I gave two talks; one for young people on “Love, Intimacy, and Life,” and the other for couples and singles on “Understanding God’s Plan for Marriage and the Family.”



Dr. Ligaya Acosta with the superiors of the Salesian nuns, Tokyo, Japan, March 2019.

“It is amazing to know that this kind of gathering of young generations exists in Tokyo. I wish this kind of movement would spread all over Japan.”

THE MISSION

Despite many challenges, spreading HLI and the Church’s message is always for God’s higher glory. I not only get to continue what St. John Paul II told our founder is “the greatest and most important work on earth,” but I am also blessed to witness the power of the Gospel of Life as we touch people’s minds and hearts.

Cassandra, one who attended my talk on marriage and the family, commented afterwards, *“This conference has helped me deepen my understanding of what it really means to be a true Catholic and a faithful wife. What I have learned today are values and ideology that I have missed all this time as a Catholic. This is a liberating moment. God is good!”* Koichi Tsukasaki, another par-

ticipant, echoed Cassandra’s sentiments and said, “It’s good to have these kinds of lectures. Without this kind of ongoing formation, we might be swallowed up by the trends of this world.”

Even the young people who attended the other talk called the session the “best ever.” One participant who didn’t want to be identified said, “Thank you for your comprehensive lecture on human life and love. It is amazing to know that this kind of gathering of young generations exists in Tokyo. I wish this kind of movement would spread all over Japan.” Another participant said the HLI event, “made me think that pro-life sexual education should be promoted [even] more.”

Given the situation in Japan, more than a few shared



Dr. Ligaya giving a talk on marriage and the family.

they were glad “sensitive” issues like love, life, promiscuity, contraception, abortion, and pornography could be discussed. After showing a video on the reality of abortion and discussing the beauty of human sexuality, those present agreed to take a chastity pledge. Adeleine Francesca Tajora said she became “more knowledgeable” while Dr. Gabriel Osaheni Aghedo, who has attended all my talks in Japan, said HLI has made him “much more pro-life.”

Several people also sought private counseling with me on issues mostly related to abortion and promiscuity. The case of a 17-year-old pregnant woman who wanted to have an abortion was brought to my attention by a friend who wanted to know how to help her. Two days later, this person informed me that her friend decided to keep her baby! Truly it’s such a great privilege to be on this life-saving mission.

Establishing lasting relationships with people who share the same values and passion, or with those who are converted by the talks brings both parties immense joy. One such person is Izumi Sakura, who first attended ASPAC in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2017. Izumi works at the Provincial House of the Salesians in Japan and actively serves as lay minister at the Jesuit-run St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo, where most of my talks have been held. Witnessing to Izumi has helped advance HLI’s mission in Japan, and she in turn serves as interpreter in my talks. People such as Izumi are constant proof that God always accompanies HLI in its cause.

Another great soul in Japan is the



Inspecting a possible venue for the Japan ASPAC with Izumi Sakura.

very humble Ikeda-San, founder and organizer of the nation’s annual March for Life. Ikeda-San attended my talks in Tokyo last year, and I attended the March to show HLI’s solidarity with the Japanese people in fighting the scourge of abortion. I openly admire Ikeda-San for his unquestionable dedication and commitment to the March for Life, but a pro-lifer’s work is never done. We must strengthen marriages and families, educate young people about the true meaning of human sexuality and the life issues, and we need to show our concern and compassion for affected groups, like post-abortive women. This is why we will continue to hold HLI talks and plan an HLI Pro-Life Training Program in Tokyo. In order to become effective influencers for the pro-life cause, we must increase our numbers by training additional laborers for the vineyard.



Meeting with auxiliary bishops, Josep Maria Abella Batlle and Paul Toshihiro Sakai of the Archdiocese of Osaka, Japan.



Ikeda-San and Izumi Sakura at the pro-life restaurant where pregnant women receive a 50% discount.

A PRO-LIFE RESTAURANT

Ikeda-San is unique in that in addition to beginning the March for Life here, he also opened a pro-life restaurant in Tokyo, which gives a 50% discount to pregnant women! Everything served is organic and raised right at his farm. Not only is the food cooked to perfection - dare I say, “heavenly?” - but the restaurant also hosts a beautiful stained glass window of the Nativity, and elsewhere hangs a huge poster that states: “I Am the Pro-Life Generation.” And since his wife is a licensed nurse and midwife, Ikeda-San says that they can convert their Japanese-style room to a delivery area if ever a pregnant woman delivers while there! Naturally, we urge everyone to patronize this restaurant.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF TOKYO

Through God’s amazing grace, I met with His Excellency Tarcisio Kikuchi Isao, Archbishop of Tokyo. The Archbishop listened intently and applauded the work of HLI. Our 30-minute meeting extended to an hour.

THE BISHOP OF KAGOSHIMA

I also met with Bishop Francis Xavier Nakano, Bishop of Kagoshima, who has just been appointed chair of the newly formed Family and Life Commission of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan.

Bishop Nakano was the rector of the Diocesan Major Seminary in Tokyo who welcomed me very warmly during my talks there in July 2018. When he learned I was coming to Tokyo, he humbly travelled from his far-away diocese to meet me.

THE AUXILIARY BISHOPS OF OSAKA

From Tokyo, I travelled two-and-a-half hours by Shinkansen (or bullet train) to the city of Osaka where I had a very cordial and fruitful meeting with the two auxiliary bishops: His Excellency Bishop Josep Maria Abella Batlle, CMF, and His Excellency Bishop Paul Toshihiro Sakai.

MEETING THE JESUITS

While in Tokyo, among some of the



Presenting HLI materials to His Excellency Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi, Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan.

Jesuit Fathers, I met the very gracious Rev. Fr. Renzo de Luca, provincial of the Jesuit community. Fr. Renzo understands the urgency of HLI's mission in Japan. He committed the attendance of Jesuit seminarians in the upcoming HLI Pro-Life Training (2020), as well as the use of Jesuit facilities.

ADORATION

While in Japan, I participated in Eucharistic Adoration at the St. Francis Chapel of St. Ignatius Church, lifting up HLI's mission in Japan and around the world, along with all the benefactors of HLI, whom I always include in my daily prayers. I also prayed for the Salesian Sisters, in thanksgiving for their fellowship and hospitality.

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Every **Monday**, HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet writes on current issues that affect life and family.

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NFP Empowers Couples

“Our baby girl was born 16 years ago, in November 2002. Since then I have been desperately trying to conceive.”

Thirty-five-year-old Elizabeth Kitui and her husband, Goziberth Muchunguzi, live in Korogwe, Tanga, located in Tanzania. Through her place of work she became acquainted with Elmina Kalunga, who works for HLI.

Elizabeth stated, “Through our conversations, it soon came to pass that I opted to join HLI’s Natural Family Planning program in December 2018. I was motivated to learn more of the Billings Ovulation Method because of the grave consequences I experienced from using contraception for over five years.”

Elizabeth had been advised to permanently discontinue using contraceptives due to stomach discomfort and severe bleeding, yet six months later, she continued to skip periods. She lamented, “I have yet to be blessed with another child! I am so desperately desiring to conceive. I tried to use the calendar method for child spacing but found myself confused by the use of terms such as ‘safe’ and ‘unsafe’ periods. Now I thank God for meeting Elmina and Jane at HLI, who introduced me to Natural Family Planning, specifically the Billings Ovulation Method.”

Goziberth fully supported Elizabeth’s decision to try NFP. As part of the basic training, HLI Tanzanian representatives Elmina and Jane first gave “Responsible Parenthood” lessons. This is critical because NFP is not a type of “Catholic birth control.” Rather, it is the opposite of the contraceptive mentality.

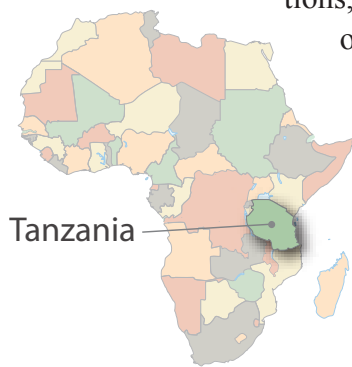
Elizabeth related her newfound knowledge:

“Previously I had been told that fertile periods were ‘unsafe’ and infertile ones ‘safe.’ Now I had a completely different interpretation! My educators helped me find my ‘fertile phase’—the optimal time for conception, and I learned how couples who need

to space children may also use the infertile period if they have serious reasons. Those who simply distribute contraception debase human sexuality. It leads women to hate their own fertility. This is too bad. After learning Natural Family Planning, now I hate contraceptives because of their evil nature.”

Thanks to the education made possible by generous supporters of HLI, Elizabeth is now very hopeful that God will bless her with another precious child. She told us, “I pray, because I know my fertility has been freely given to me by God as His gift. I understand the contraceptives I used might have caused some long-term harm, but with the method I am learning, hopefully healing will take place and I will be able to conceive again.”

Elizabeth said that after three months of study, she’s learned enough to share her knowledge with those around her. She calls NFP “liberating.”



Elizabeth Kitui (right) receives specialized instruction on NFP by Elmina Kalunga, her educator at Korogwe Tanga.

“Contraceptives enslaved me – there was the cost, the daily pill, the suffering. Now I feel liberated...” — Elizabeth Kituiand

In conclusion, she related, “Contraceptives enslaved me. There was the cost, the daily pill, the suffering. Now I feel liberated. No more buying, suffering, or dependence on artificial hormones. I’m empowered by my own fertility, a blessing from God, not limited, which is wonderful. I plan to teach as many people as possible so they too may benefit from what I have experienced

through God’s grace.”

Elizabeth sincerely extends her gratitude to HLI’s Regional Director, Emil Hagamu, for making this opportunity possible, as well as to all HLI’s benefactors. This education has truly changed her life, and she happily stated, “My husband and I will continue praying for your good hearts and great generosity!”

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.

The sale of a \$150,000 home will
GENERATE ABOUT \$1,000
for HLI, 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.

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HLI SPEARHEADS SORSOGON CITY'S PRO-LIFE MONTH CELEBRATION

In celebration of Pro-Life Month in Sorsogon City, Philippines, Human Life International spearheaded a one day pro-life symposium in February with Dr. Ligaya Acosta, HLI's Regional Director for Asia and Oceania, as the main presenter. The day was divided into two sessions to allow maximum attendance by groups to hear talks on "The Threat of Ideological Colonization" and "The Dictatorship of Relativism." These talks were first delivered by Dr. Acosta during the 19th HLI Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC), held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, in 2013. Mayor Sally Lee of Sorsogon, who attended the Kota Kinabalu ASPAC, was inspired by these talks and other presentations, and as a consequence, decided upon her return home to declare her city pro-life.

Since the 2013 ASPAC, Mayor Lee has subsequently attended and participated in the 20th and 21st Congresses. Inspired and encouraged by Dr. Acosta's passion in the 21st ASPAC, held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2017, Mayor Lee invited Dr. Acosta to offer presentations to her constituents and collaborators during Sorsogon City's Pro-life month celebrations in February. Mayor Lee wished the people of Sorsogon to be informed, encouraged to embrace the life-giving message, and become active in the pro-life movement. She wanted life and the family to flourish through the proclamation of the Gospel of Life.

Mayor Lee led 200 city officials and employees in attending the event, which was entitled "The Family United Towards the Promotion of Life."



Dr. Ligaya Acosta with Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, Sorsogon City, Philippines.

There we met village officials, heads of various government agencies, health workers, police, and school heads and teachers from both government and private schools across the city. There were also NGO representatives, women's groups, priests and religious from various congregations, Diocesan Family and Life director Fr. Ronnie Dolosa, lay leaders of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Sorsogon, and some who had attended the 21st ASPAC in Bangkok in 2017. Speaking to the assemblies, Fr. Dolosa, who has attended HLI ASPACs for several years, praised HLI for its zeal in promoting Life and Family, which led to his own willingness to head the Diocesan Commission on Family and Life.

A first-time attendee, who was a retired Department of Education official, said that she'd been touched and grateful for the talks, listening keenly for three hours. She stated that the topics were "very informative and truly relevant and important especially in today's world." In addition, she said that she hopes that "everyone hears the talks to better understand the issues and how we have indeed been ideologically colonized, so we can turn again toward God and become pro-life and pro-family." Though registered only for the morning session, she couldn't resist attending in the afternoon as well. When it came time for an open forum for exchanging ideas, she stated: "It's amazing no one ever left during the talk; we forgot the time!"

One businesswoman stood up and voluntarily shared her thoughts:

“Though the topics were heavy, the speaker had a way of making it simple and understandable to everyone. We should really all be doing something to combat the Culture of Death and promote a Culture of Life.” The priests and religious present urged Dr. Acosta to continue the HLI mission and assured her of their prayers and support. The talks and Q&A were simultaneously aired on Sorsogon radio and on television stations, thus reaching a wide audience.

Mayor Sally was delighted by the turnout and positive feedback for the event and immediately planned another, next time to focus on youth. In her message, she again graciously acknowledged HLI’s role in influencing her to declare Sorsogon City



Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee delivering her message at the pro-life symposium, Sorsogon City, Philippines.

a “Pro-Life City.” “I have always thought I was pro-life,” Mayor Lee said, “but I never did anything and kept that conviction to myself. However, when

July 2019 Events

Please Pray for HLI’s Mission Work in July:

- June 28-July 8: HLI Advisor for Latin America, Nancy Tosi, will travel on HLI’s first mission to Cartamarca, Argentina; the HLI team will work with both religious and laity.
- June 29-July 13: HLI Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, Emil Hagamu, visits the Diocese of Mtwara for special NFP Educators’ training program in Ndanda.
- June 30-July 7: Fr. Boquet, Dr. Joseph Meaney, and George Wirnkar, Director of French-Speaking Africa, will travel to Burkina Faso for HLI’s Summer Priests Institute. This annual event is an HLI highlight with priests attending from multiple African nations.
- July 12-22: HLI Regional Director of Asia/Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta, returns to Japan to strengthen relationships and discuss plans for future pro-life events.
- July 11-16: Fr. Boquet will travel to New Jersey to participate in the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) National Convention.
- July 13-23: HLI Advisor for Latin America, Nancy Tosi, goes on a mission to Guatemala, continuing pro-life training for all ages.
- July 22-25: Fr. Boquet will participate in and give workshops at the Trail Life USA Summer Adventure and Family Convention in Toccoa, Georgia.

Watch for details of these events in future issues of HLI’s *Mission Report*.

I attended the Kota Kinabalu ASPAC, I came to a full knowledge of the issues, and what it means to be pro-life. Right there and then I resolved to declare Sorsogon City a Pro-Life City.”

Mayor Lee plans to attend the 22nd ASPAC in Kerala, India, and both her city and the Diocese of Sorsogon will send a large contingency. She is promoting the event through various means, including printing t-shirts with the slogan: “Sorsogon City loves life!”

Sadly, many do not know the wondrous teaching of the Church regarding life and family, so this was a golden moment. However, this would not have been possible without you. Through your generosity, care, and sacrifices, we were able to impact the lives of hundreds, thousands of people during this symposium.

Thank you! Together, we are making a difference.

P.S. I have seen many atrocities during missions to over 83 countries and have come face-to-face with various groups who—without shame or conscience, and under the guise of “healthcare”—market their anti-life, anti-family comprehensive and concentrated wares. Since 1996, the so-called “developed nations” have spent nearly \$170 billion on population control programs—\$80 billion in Africa alone. And they are doing this among a people who love life and family and who struggle simply to obtain basic human necessities.

But there is Good News!

Courageous pro-life warriors like Sr. Theresa of Lesotho ... the many pro-life advocates Dr. Ligaya Acosta met in Japan ... HLI Tanzania’s NFP training program helping couples break the “chains” of the contraceptive mentality ... and Mayor Sally Lee of Sorsogon City, Philippines, leading the celebration of her city’s Pro-Life Month!

These are just a few of the many HLI pro-life missionaries working around the world every day to impact lives and proclaim the Good News, the Gospel of Life. Jesus said, “The Harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Compared to the billions spent to promote the Culture of Death, HLI’s resources are few. But, with your prayers, sacrifices, support, and generosity we, with God’s grace, can produce a bountiful harvest. Together, we are saving lives and families and fulfilling the prophetic words of Pope St. John Paul II, who said to HLI’s founder, Fr. Paul Marx in 1979, “If you do this, you will be doing the most important work on earth.”

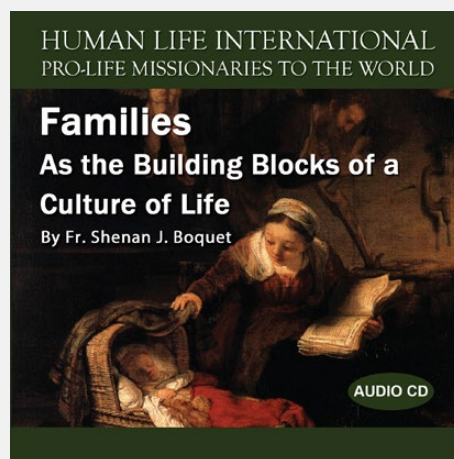
Your care and commitment to this mission make all this possible, for which I am truly grateful. I humbly ask for your continued support through prayer and generosity. And with a gift of \$53 or more, I will send you my audio CD “Families As the Building Blocks of a Culture of Life.”

You can give online at www.hli.org.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



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!