



Mission Report

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- * **HLI Attends Taiwan's Historic *First March for Life***
- * **IVF Bill Stopped in the Colombian Congress**
- * **Dr. Joseph Meaney Attends UN Commemoration honoring the 25th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Inseparable: Five Perspectives on Sex, Life, and Love in Defense of Humanae Vitae***

Left: Dr. Ligaya Acosta with Mother Compassionis, SSVM, at Taiwan's first March for Life, May 2019.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am often asked why I travel to the Philippines so often, my most recent trip being my thirteenth. The answer is provided by Father Paul Marx, OSB, who said, "If the Philippines falls to the Culture of Death, we have lost."

The Philippines, with a population of nearly 110 million, is one of the last bastions of Catholicism in the world, with eighty-three percent being Catholic. In 2021 it will celebrate 500 years of Catholicism. Ten million Filipinos live outside their homeland, influencing cultures and societies around the world. This is a rich and vibrant culture whose identity is synonymous with its Catholic faith; however, a radically different message and agenda is introducing "new" influences and values. If left unchallenged, the impact will not only be felt in the Philippines, but throughout the whole world.

During the recent mission in June, I was fortunate to meet with Senate President, Vicente C. Sotto III, who for decades has been a faithful advocate for life and the family. During our meeting, we spent ample time discussing current issues confronting Filipinos, particularly the blatant assault on Filipino culture by Western anti-life, anti-family ideologies. Senator Sotto emphasized the necessity of defending core values rooted in faith and the family, the building blocks of culture and society.

As the Senator spoke, it became evident how faith and the family have contributed to his own identity, moral convictions, and values. Among the memorabilia in the Senator's office were numerous pictures of his family as well as religious images. With exuberance he shared with me one of his prized possessions, a rosary blessed by St. John Paul II, which he carried in his pocket and prayed daily. Moreover, with joy and pride, he spoke of how blessed he was to have been raised in a God-loving family with parents who practiced, in word and action, a faith-filled life. "This is how I was raised," said the Senator and "every other Filipino family."



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

Over, please



“When I travel to the Barangay, I am never asked for contraceptives. I am, however, always asked for a basketball.”
— Senator Sotto



Father Boquet during a meeting with Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, Senate President (Senate of the Philippines) and from left Sandy and Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Gerry Padilla and Aida Sotto. Hon. Sotto is a faithful and courageous advocate for life and family.

Honestly, I could not help during my time with the Senator to think how different the Philippines would be (and every nation) if every civil servant and leader lived in accord with the core values being affirmed by Senator Sotto. Faith, religion, moral teaching, and family values are not in opposition to serving in public office. On the contrary, they are desperately needed. Sadly, however, it has become rare to encounter such a person unashamedly “wearing” his faith and moral values.

So, why is the Philippines targeted by Western elites? The answer can be found in a declassified U.S. document, *National Security Study Memorandum 200*. *NSSM-200* is the blueprint for United States population suppression activities overseas. It was written under the Nixon administration in 1974 and is titled “Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests.” It says that “The U.S. economy will require large and increasing amounts of minerals from abroad, especially from less developed countries.” The document does not mention the welfare of the people or raising their standards of living, it simply asserts that the United States must hold down the population of the developing world so that we may have access

to its natural resources. One of the thirteen nations that was targeted by the United States for special attention in its population suppression efforts was the Philippines.

I have seen firsthand the impact and consequence of this document and U.S. policy in developing nations around the world, especially in Africa and Asia. Because of this policy and Western elites wishing to maintain their own materialistic lifestyles, Filipinos (as with Africans) have been targeted by population controllers seeking to drastically reduce the number of children being born. Their tactics and propaganda, unfortunately, are gaining ground. Filipinos are having fewer children, an average of three (Total Fertility Rate 2.71); whereas, in 1965 the average Filipino family had six-to-seven children (TFR 6.98). If unchanged the TFR will be 1.58 by the year 2050.

“When I travel to the Barangay, I am never asked for contraceptives. I am, however, always asked for a basketball.” — Senator Sotto

Of course, anti-natalist and Western elites do not wish to be perceived as self-consumed, materialistic, racists, or discriminatory. Instead, they creatively portray their motives as purely humanitarian and philanthropic, which is a deceptive

illusion, wanting us to believe they are motivated by the plight of the poor. Yet, their *modus operandi*, population control through contraception and abortion, does nothing to change the reasons for abject poverty or raise the standard of living. As Filipino Congressman Lito Atienza told me, “We are not a poor country. We have vast amounts of resources and potential. Our battle with poverty is not because of a lack of material resources or overpopulation but because of corruption.”

Does contraception create or provide ordinary necessities like clean water, hospitals, infrastructure, schools, homes, farm equipment, electrification, or economic prosperity (or sports equipment)?

No! It simply turns large poorer families into smaller poorer families.

HLI is resolute in defending life and the family in the Philippines (and around the world). We cannot allow the tactics and strategies of Western elites and anti-natalists to achieve their goals. We will, in collaboration with Church and civil leaders, tirelessly *fight the good fight*. Your continued support, dedication, prayers, and sacrifices will make this possible.

Yes, there has been ground lost in many parts of the world, but it only means we must intensify our efforts and commitment. Together, we will turn the tide.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

MISSION TRIP TO TAIWAN, PROVINCE OF CHINA

By Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Regional Director of HLI Asia and Oceania, May 4-12, 2019

Taiwan, Province of China, is in Eastern Asia. Ranked as the 22nd wealthiest country in 2016 by a U.S. monthly magazine, Taiwan has a population of 23.5 million (July 2018 estimates), only 3.9% of which is Christian.

For all its wealth, Taiwan is extremely poor in the protection of the unborn. **Abortion is staggeringly high at 40%, rising to as high as 70% for second pregnancies.** It is thus no wonder that the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 1.13 children born per woman, with a population growth rate of 0.15% (both 2018 estimates). The situation has been made worse by the recent legalization of same-sex unions. Furthermore, Taiwan’s population is aging quickly, with those over 65 expected to account for nearly 20% of the island’s total population by 2025. As a result, Taiwan relies upon its migrant population for its workforce. The migrant population totals 770,000, a large portion of which is plagued with problems such as promiscuity, broken marriages, contraception, and abortions.

The mission of Human Life International is thus urgently needed in



Dr. Ligaya Acosta at the St. Gianna Pro-Life Center with Hsu, Kuo-Chiang, Sr. Fidelis, and Fr. Thomas Onoda.

Taiwan, and with God's grace is gaining much headway. On my first visit in May 2013, I received the invaluable assistance of Sr. Desierto, SSVM, then running HLI's affiliate, the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Center. I had fruitful meetings with four bishops, several great priests, religious sisters, professionals, and migrant leaders to whom I introduced HLI and offered our programs. The 2013 trip led to another trip in 2014, this time to conduct two three-day pro-life training sessions – one for clergy (attended by two bishops) and the other for lay leaders. This led to HLI's 20th Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life, and Family (ASPAC) being held in Taiwan in 2015, hosted by Most Rev. John Baptist Lee Kehmien, Bishop of Hsinchu, who was also the Director of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Chinese Regional Bishops Conference of Taiwan. Amazingly, this conference attracted 500 participants from 22 countries and gave rise to many committed pro-life leaders.

THE MISSION

I returned to Taiwan from May 4-12, 2019, primarily to attend the country's first March for Life, and also to spread HLI's pro-life mission. I was again helped by HLI's mission partner, the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life



With Taiwanese School Children in Taichung City.

Center, now headed by Sr. Fidelis, SSVM, and situated in the Sacred Heart Church compound in Zhongli. During this trip I gave four talks: one in Taipei, two in the city of Zhongli, and one in the city of Taichung. My talks reached almost 1,500 people during this mission, the majority of whom were migrant workers. I also had great meetings with family and life leaders from Hong Kong, with whom I discussed future pro-life training. The trip provided HLI with another wonderful opportunity to expand to the Diocese of Taichung, where I had a very fruitful meeting with the Diocesan Moderator, Rev. Fr. Joseph Huang. I



Dr. Ligaya Acosta speaking after a Mass for migrants at Sacred Heart Church in Zhongli City.

“Everyone took the Vow of Chastity after my talk, and many shared with me commitments to practice virtue in their daily lives.”

also had the opportunity to give two talks to migrants, which led to more opportunities for future work with the huge migrant community in Taiwan.

TALK IN TAIPEI

A day after my arrival, Sister Fidelis and I travelled to Mary Mother of God Parish in the Diocese of Taipei attended by more than a hundred parishioners. The officiating priest graciously let me speak for 30 minutes after Mass. The parishioners listened intently, and some of them sought private counseling with me after the talk. Some also sent their children to attend my talk for migrants the following Sunday.

TALK WITH MIGRANTS

The number of Catholic migrants is so high that in Sacred Heart Church where I spoke, there are four Sunday Masses in English and one Mass in Filipino, while there is only one Mass in Chinese for the Taiwan natives. **But while migrants fill the churches on Sundays, many of them live secular lives – having affairs and being sexually active even if they are not married.**

I was given 15 minutes to speak after the Mass celebrated in English, which was filled with over 500 migrants, most of whom were Filipinos, with a few Indonesians and Vietnamese. Around 100 participants returned for my two-hour

Sunday talk on “Love, Intimacy, and Life.” It was extremely successful and impressed many of the migrants on a very personal level. Everyone took the Vow of Chastity after my talk, and many shared a new commitment to practice virtue in their daily lives. They also requested more sessions with the migrant community of Taiwan. I happily accepted.

TALK IN TAICHUNG

From Zhongli City where I was based, I travelled to Taichung City for a two-hour talk at Holy Martyrs of China Parish Church, run by the IVE Community, the brother congregation of the SSVM sisters.

The talk attracted around 70 participants, which included lay leaders, Catholic faithful, priests, seminarians, and SSVM sisters. For Taiwan, it was an unusually large number of participants. Everyone stayed after the talk to share their touching impressions and pro-life resolve, which proved once more the power of the Gospel of Life. They shared their strong realization of the gravity of abortion and contraception, both for their personal and spiritual lives, as well as concern over the demographic facts of their country. They also expressed the desire to know more about pro-life issues and hear other HLI talks, particularly on marriage and the family.



An SSVM sister expresses her enthusiastic approval after a talk given at Holy Martyrs of China Parish Church in Taichung City.



Participants of the first ever March for Life in Taiwan, including Most Reverend John Baptist Lee, Bishop of the diocese of Hsinchu.

THE HISTORIC MARCH FOR LIFE

It was such a great privilege for HLI to participate in the first ever March for Life held in Taoyuan City on May 11, the Feast of Our Lady of China, where our participation was especially acknowledged. The March was organized by the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Center, our mission partner, and **was attended by over 600 Catholic and Protestant participants from all over Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, and the Philippines.** The historic event was fully supported by Most Rev. John Baptist Lee Keh-mien, Bishop of Hsinchu.

The March started with a Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Taoyuan City, officiated by Bishop Lee and concelebrated by 10 priests. Bishop Lee delivered a very powerful homily focusing on the sacredness of human life and gave a special blessing to pregnant women and mothers. After the Mass, the people marched joyfully around Taoyuan City amid busy traffic, bringing the pro-life message to the people of Taiwan. They received some signs of approval from the crowds. At one point during the March, people were graciously offered tea and water at another Catholic Church, with the Most Rev. James Liu, former Bishop of Hsinchu, leading the reception line. Afterward, he joined the March. The March lasted for an hour and ended where it started — at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish — and culminated with Adoration and a Eucharistic blessing for all the participants. **Henceforth, the March will be an annual activity in Taiwan, held at a date coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of China and the celebration of Mother's Day.**

CONCLUSION

As I left Taiwan in the late evening of May 12, I couldn't contain my tears of joy and thanksgiving for God's goodness throughout this stunningly successful mission. I was able to share the pro-life message with hundreds of clergy and laity. Furthermore, everywhere I talked, I was greeted with requests to return and speak again. These requests came from parish leaders, religious, the migrant community, and lay leaders. Just one example of this is the fruitful meeting I had with the Moderator of the Diocese of Taichung, the very gracious Rev. Fr. Joseph Huang. After I introduced HLI and offered our programs, Father Joseph asked us to return in December this year to speak one day each with the clergy, laity, migrants, and students. He was happy to re-



Diocesan Moderator, Rev. Fr. Joseph Huang, and Parish Priest Fr. Michael from the diocese of Taichung, Taichung City.

ceive my gifts of HLI materials, and happier still to know that we would provide these materials free of charge to all the clergy. He also offered to host the ASPAC, and he was confident it would receive the full support of the government. Sister Fidelis and I also planned future pro-life training and speaking engagements for the coming year to equip new clergy, religious, and volunteers, and also to refresh/update those who were previously trained.

To our generous benefactors of Human Life International, I can't thank you enough for enabling us to continue with this life-saving mission. As always, I pray that God continues to bless you and your families, as He keeps you all under His loving care. Thanks to God, and to your generosity, the seeds of a Culture of Life are not only sown in Taiwan but are actively thriving!

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Pro-Life Victory in the Republic of Colombia!

By Gladys Buitrago de Amaya, President of HLI Colombia

(Adolfo J. Castañeda, HLI Director of Hispanic Education and Research contributed to this report.)

HLI is happy to announce that we have made great strides in the pro-life effort in the Republic of Colombia! Gladys Buitrago de Amaya, President of HLI Colombia, sent us a report detailing the incredible success that pro-life efforts had in stopping a dangerous bill authorizing IVF facilities in Colombia.

Amaya writes, “In 2018, the Colombian Congress presented a bill to authorize the establishment of medical facilities to employ reproductive technologies, such as In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). It is known that IVF involves the destruction of countless human embryos. Additionally, the facilities would include the use of surrogate motherhood.”



Surrogate motherhood is condemned by the Catholic Church because it involves a deliberate perversion of procreation. Even in secular society, commercial surrogate motherhood is recognized as a dangerous practice that has either been banned or heavily restricted in many countries due to the risk of exploitation. **Many surrogate mothers are desperately poor women treated as mere contracted incubators and are not provided with adequate pay or care.** The babies they carry and birth are essentially sold to prospective families, a rising percentage of which are homosexual couples.¹

Amaya explains why the introduction of IVF facilities would have threatened the dignity of families and marriage in Colombia: “All of these technologies involve the separation of reproduction from conjugal relations. Such reproductive technologies contribute to the destruction



Gladys Buitrago de Amaya, President of HLI Colombia.

of natural marriage, the introduction of third parties (gametes from third parties and surrogate motherhood), and the **making of the baby into a lab product, which reduces children to mere byproducts and denies the inherent dignity of man.**”

HLI Colombia has worked diligently in the past year to expose the threats of IVF to both the population and the politicians of Colombia, and their sacrifice has culminated in a remarkable result. According to Amaya, “Thanks to the work by Laicos por Colombia (Lay People for Colombia) and Cultura de la Vida Humana (Culture of Human Life), otherwise known as HLI Colombia, the bill was finally stopped in March of 2019.”

Both organizations contributed “intense lobbying in Congress” as well as “great efforts to educate the public” on the personal and social dangers of IVF pregnancies. One of the most critical contributions to public education was provided by Amaya herself. She humbly relates, “One factor that helped stop this anti-life, anti-family bill was my book *Seres humanos, material de laboratorio?* (*Human Beings, Laboratory Material?*) written with coauthor Senator Carlos Corsi Otálora, a good friend

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“The establishment of ‘baby factories’ has been stopped.”

both of mine and that of HLI Colombia. We delivered the book to every member of Congress, which helped them decide to vote against the bill.”

This astonishing victory promises wonderful things for the future of pro-life activism in the Republic of Colombia! **Amaya firmly promises, “We won’t discontinue our educational efforts on behalf of legislators or the general public, because we know that Culture of Death activists will try other approaches again in the future. But, for now, the establishment**

of ‘baby factories’ has been stopped.”

HLI extends its heartfelt congratulations to the brave pro-life activists of the Republic of Colombia. We also extend our gratitude to our generous donors, whose gifts help fund the international pro-life efforts that achieve such wonderful victories with the grace of God!

¹ Cermak, Peter. “5 Facts About Altruistic Surrogacy”. Human Life International. Published Feb.4, 2019. Accessed June 17, 2019. hli.org/resources/altruistic-surrogacy/.

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HLI Co-sponsors Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Human Life International marked the importance of the family at a high-level event at the United Nations' headquarters in New York by co-sponsoring a side event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the proclamation of the International Year of the Family.



Dr. Joseph Meaney represented HLI and delivered an address that discussed how 1994 proved to be a turning point in modern history.

In 1994, the United Nations declared May 15 as the International Day of Families, raising awareness of the modern family's need for protection by, and support from, public leaders. This decision was based primarily on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. At this assembly, **governmental delegates from all over the world spoke about the need**

to promote and defend the family as “the natural and fundamental group unit of society.”

At the commemorative event, Dr. Joseph Meaney represented HLI and delivered an address that discussed how 1994 proved to be a turning point in modern history. He credited the Holy See for its long-standing work as a strong leader in defense of life and family, particularly the unique role played by Saint John Paul II.

Dr. Meaney eloquently stated: “Saint John Paul II made a passionate appeal for all people and governments of good will to come to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, and resist the determined efforts of a radical but powerful few to declare abortion to be an international human right. He sent a letter saying the following:

Moreover, questions involving the transmission of life and its subsequent nurturing cannot be adequately dealt with except in relation to *the good of the family*: that communion of persons established by the marriage of husband and wife, which is - as



Mrs. Christine Vollmer is awarded the Maximilian Kolbe Medal in recognition of her lifetime of work for the family.

the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* affirms - “the natural and fundamental group unit of society” (art. 16.3). The family is an institution founded upon the very nature of the human person, and it is the proper setting for the conception, birth and upbringing of children. At this moment in history, when so many powerful forces are arrayed against the family, it is more important than ever that the Conference on Population and Development should respond to the challenge implicit in the United Nations' designation of 1994 as the “International Year of the Family” by doing everything within its power to ensure that the family receives from “society and the State” that protection to which the same *Universal Declaration* says it is “entitled” (ibid.). **Anything less would be a betrayal of the noblest ideals of the United Nations.** (emphasis added)

Saint John Paul II wrote his *Letter to Families* a quarter of a century ago, making a passionate and successful appeal for people of good will to band together and prevent proponents of the Culture of Death from proclaiming a human right to abortion at the 1994 International

“Since 1994, radical feminists, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and other proponents of the anti-life and anti-family agenda have had to contend with a broad-based and growing coalition of pro-life groups and countries at UN conferences and around the world.”

Conference on Population and Development.

Dr. Meaney went on to give credit to HLI and the many other Non-Governmental Organizations and nations that responded to Saint John Paul II's call to defend life and family at the Cairo Conference and at the level of international institutions. As a result of the this conference, HLI created one of the first full-time pro-life apostolates at the UN — The Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute. Today it is an independent organization known as C-Fam.

Also at this event, Mrs. Christine Vollmer was awarded the Maximilian Kolbe Medal in recognition of her lifetime of work for the family. Vollmer founded the Latin American Alliance for the Family and was a founding member of both the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Academy for Life. She has

concentrated her efforts in recent years on the creation and promotion of a values and chastity education curriculum for students in both English and Spanish.

The family is our hope for the future. Men and women united in lifelong marriages can and do transform the world by procreating and educating future generations. The Church and HLI have not tired in supporting this bedrock institution. Our work has only become more important as deliberate attacks on marriage and a confused understanding of the true dignity of the human person become more widespread. Since 1994, radical feminists, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and other proponents of the anti-life and anti-family agenda have had to contend with a broad-based and growing coalition of pro-life groups and countries at UN conferences and around the world.

August 2019 Events

Please Pray for HLI's Mission Work in August:

- August 16-23: Emil Hagamu undertakes a mission trip to Zimbabwe where he will be attending a national-level conference on Natural Family Planning.
- August 24-31: HLI Advisor for Latin America, Nancy Tosi, will continue our pro-life work in the Vicariate of Moyobamba, Peru, where 300 volunteers are completing HLI's pro-life course. HLI team members Dr. Rafael Cabrera of Nicaragua and Elisa Lanza of Bolivia will accompany her.
- August 13-27: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet will travel to Prague in the Czech Republic, along with Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Research, for the CFC-FFL European Conference.
- August 27-29: Father Boquet and Father Francesco Giordano, HLI's Rome Office Director, will travel to Trnava, Slovakia to meet with Archbishop Ján Orosch to discuss ways to strengthen pro-life efforts in the archdiocese.

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

Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to maintain and support this work of HLI and other pro-life organizations, both in local communities and in international politics. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Saint John Paul II for his strong international call for the proclamation of the Gospel of Life that HLI and others carry forward!

P.S. First ever March for Life in Taiwan, Province of China! The impact of that will be felt in this island nation for generations to come. The people of Taiwan refer to themselves as an independent people, but that same sentiment is not maintained in Beijing. So standing up for life and marching in the streets takes tremendous courage. That courage and public testament only comes from years of work and nurturing.

From the seeds planted in 2013, tilling the soil in 2014, and the 2015 ASPAC, Dr. Ligaya experienced the fruits of HLI's labors in the many life-affirming stories she heard from the participants at the various talks during her most recent mission to Taiwan. Both the joy of reuniting with Drs. Jimmy and Rosario Lim and the impact of the numerous stories Ligaya was told after her talks was astounding. But we are not done yet! There is more work to do! By working with the St. Gianna Beretta Molla Pro-Life Center and the bishops of Taiwan, HLI is poised to enable the Culture of Life to grow and blossom.

HLI's missionary efforts to build a Culture of Life in Taiwan, and around the world, can only occur with your most generous prayers and financial contributions. Your gifts made it possible for Dr. Ligaya to reach migrant workers in Taiwan with the message of "Love, Intimacy, and Life." Imagine that! You made an impact in the lives of everyone who attended Dr. Ligaya's talks and training, which was made possible by previous missions and your support. And future missions to Taiwan will build upon this past May.

Now imagine what the world would look like without HLI. A world where migrant workers in Taiwan never hear the message of love and life or the truth about the evils of contraception and abortion. A world where women and their husbands never hear or learn about the beauty of Natural Family Planning. A world where youth and young adults never hear the truth about human sexuality, virtue, chastity, and purity. It would indeed be a world much darker than it is today.

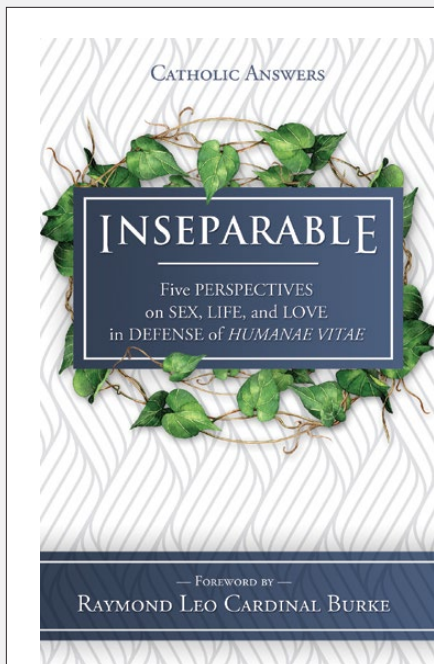
But we are a people of Truth and Light! And we are commanded to preach the Gospel of Life to all the nations. HLI can carry that banner into the breach only with your prayers and financial contributions. To be counted among those working to build a Culture of Life and Love, please send your most generous contribution today! And with a gift of \$53 or more, I will rush you *Inseparable: Five Perspectives on Sex, Life, and Love in Defense of Humanae Vitae*.

You can also give online at www.hli.org.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International



This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission, you'll receive the book, *Inseparable: Five Perspectives on Sex, Life, and Love in Defense of Humanae Vitae*.