



Mission Report

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Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, with NFP trainees from Nandembo Parish, Tanzania.

- * **How Parishes Are Fighting the Contraceptive Mentality Across Tanzania**
- * **Countering HIV/AIDS in Papua New Guinea**
- * **“WOOMB” Conference in Mexico**
- * **This Month’s Gift to Donors: *Spirit & Life, Sampler 2019*, a collection of articles from Fr. Shenan J. Boquet’s weekly e-newsletter**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Because of you, a shareholder in this global mission, the Gospel of Life is being proclaimed and witnessed around the world. Together, we are making a powerful impact – transforming hearts and minds, one person, one group, and one country at a time. Without your commitment, prayers, and sacrifices this mission would not be possible and many of the pro-life programs and activities being offered would cease.

I would like to share with you an example of the difference we are making. Frances, a participant in one of our U.S. HLI training programs, shared with me how vastly different her married life would be today if not for her encounter with HLI: “Your [HLI’s] pro-life missionaries saved my life,” she said, “I was so confused and my life was on a perilous path. **The Lord used HLI’s dedicated team as instruments of His truth, forgiveness, and healing.**” She continued, “I am forever grateful for being enlightened by the Truth. Thank you for your courageous witness.”

Your support and prayers provided the program that helped transform Frances’ life, and you continue to help HLI’s dedicated missionaries, 365 days a year, further the vision of Fr. Paul Marx, the “Apostle for Life.” Moreover, your generosity enables HLI to fortify her efforts in countries where she already has a foundation, while also fostering relationships and opportunities in new territories. You facilitate and strengthen our ongoing support of bishops in their endeavors to instill the Gospel of Life within their respective dioceses. You help us reach priests and religious men and women, providing formation, mentorship, and encouragement, and HLI also has the privilege of assisting seminarians, our future spiritual leaders, in receiving a richer understanding of the Gospel of Life and its demands. We can share with these young men our experience and expertise, inspiring them to be ardent defenders

Over, please



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

of life and the family, and challenging them to courageously teach and lead others to *love, respect, defend, and serve* Life.

Finally, your dedication enables us to form and educate the laity – civil servants, politicians, professionals, parents, young adults, and youth, Catholic and non-Catholic. Cultivating and building a Culture of Life demands, without exception, that all people hear the *Good News*.

Of course, proclaiming the Gospel of Life and living its daily demands can be daunting. **When faced with such challenges, I often reflect on the prophetic words of Fr. Marx, who said, “a truly Catholic life is not the easiest ... but the hardest and least comfortable. The more seriously we take Catholicism the more tasks and obligations await us.”**

Joyce Canig, a participant in HLI’s pro-life training seminar in Newark, New Jersey, hosted by the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), echoed this sentiment, saying, “Living our Catholic faith in this difficult time is not easy, but it is necessary.” Regardless of the struggles and sacrifices, we passionately preach *Christ in season and out of season*, as Mariela Valbuena reiterated during the same conference, “Though the task is hard, knowing the truth [what the Church teaches] makes it easier for us to make our voices louder.”

Think of how many souls, every day, are impacted by this life-saving mission!

Your dedication and support afforded Joyce and Mariela, along with their fellow attendees, the chance to



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet trains over 100 participants at HLI’s pro-life training for the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) from the MFC East Region, which covers from Maine to Florida.

better understand the issues affecting life and the family, to learn Church teaching, and how to give witness to these truths as active pro-lifers in their spheres of influence. Furthermore, you have provided thousands around the world with similar opportunities.

I believe Jovito Gacayan, another attendee at the recent seminar in Newark, best summarized the overall impact of HLI when saying, “This conference strengthens my belief in my Catholic faith, which lately has been challenged a lot for many reasons. I walk out today with an array of convictions that the Catholic Church is always telling and teaching the truth.”

On behalf of our global family and those we serve, thank you for all you do and offer to strengthen the impact of our mission. As one of our fellow donors recently told me, “I can’t physically travel in the U.S. or to another country to proclaim the Gospel of Life, but through you [HLI] I can.”

Be assured of my gratitude and prayers during Holy Mass. Please continue to pray for the success of our global programs and activities and please pray for me.

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shenan J. Boquet".

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

MISSION OF DISCOVERY AND HOPE IN TANZANIA

By Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, November 2019

Why is everyone silent about the depopulation of Africa? Contraception is everywhere, and it is critical for Africans to actively challenge agents who are persistently teaching the contraceptive mentality, bringing physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds to a people who love Life. While contraception inflicts nothing but damage and heartbreak, the Catholic Church's teaching on Natural Family Planning (NFP) is life-affirming, protecting the sacredness of marriage and the beauty of families. With this inspiration to help my fellow Tanzanians restore our love for Life and the family, we launched an all-country campaign for Natural Family Planning in Tanzania early in 2019. This program includes basic education, which in turn is used to train additional educators. As of my mission in November, 587 individuals were helped through the life-affirming principles of NFP, one of whom is Happiness Samadan Eliud, an NFP client in Morogoro. She told me in November, *"NFP acts like medicine! It not only offers physical benefits to the woman, NFP...provides remedial effects to broken married relationships."* Apart from HLI and the Catholic Church, no one counters the destructive contraceptive mentality that is so persistently taught, and I give thanks for the generous donors of HLI who are truly providing for life-changing mission activities. We already see the benefits manifesting from our country-wide program.



NANDEMBO PARISH

My mission in November was primarily focused on visiting Catholic dioceses in Southern Tanzania – Tunduru-Masasi, Mbinga, Songea, Njombe, and Morogoro. My first destination was Nandembo Parish, headed by the fearless Fr. Mario Luoga. Following HLI's NFP Conference in July in Dar es Salaam, Fr. Luoga launched a similar NFP program with great zeal in his parish, which is in a largely Muslim area. Thankfully, Fr. Luoga receives solid support from his bishop. Because NFP also resounds greatly with the Muslim community, in just four months Father established a program and trained four educators. **By October, 52 NFP students had signed up, and the numbers are growing.**

NG'OMBO PARISH

My second destination was Ng'ombo Parish in the Diocese of Mbinga. Ng'ombo, my home village at the Mozambique border, and like all villages in Tanzania, has been



Flavia Mtitu, NFP Educator in Morogoro, trains Happiness Samadan Eliud.

“Natural Family Planning...gives us back lost hope, it reunites our marital bond. It is ‘medicinal.’”

fiercely invaded by population controllers. Women are offered contraception instead of food as a remedy to their poverty. Despite its adverse side effects, contraception is insultingly marketed as a remedy to “over-breeding.” During this visit, I was able to spend three days training 13 more volunteers in the Catholic teaching of NFP, explaining how the Church views responsible parenthood. In this short time, I cultivated two new NFP educators!

MATOGORO AND RUHUWIKO PARISHES

In the Matogoro Parish, Fr. Fussi is a passionate pro-lifer. However, he does not have the support needed to run such a project alone, so he asked me to do a two-day intensive NFP course. While only nine individuals showed up, five of them were catechists! So in two days we covered the Church’s teachings, and these catechists are ready and willing to aid Fr. Fussi in this mission of evangelization. The Ruhuwiko Parish, situated about five kilometers west of Songea town, is a Capuchin parish managed by Fr. Nolascus Mwandambo, who is

a longtime friend and pro-life collaborator. Again, the focus was three days on life and family issues, as well as the Billings Ovulation Method of NFP. **Participants were very eager, not only to learn, but also to pass on the knowledge to fellow parishioners.**

ILANGAMOTO PARISH

The Marie Stopes clinic is situated close to this Parish. Their nefarious activities wound countless women with their fake promises ending in abortion and contraception. Marie Stopes is notorious as the greatest promoter of contraception, abortifacients, chemical abortions, and surgical abortions in this area. My visit earlier in April 2019 had many attendees, and this was my second visit to the parish. I was assisted by the parish’s priest, Fr. Arnold Likiliwike, and 26 participants, mostly women and mothers, attended the one-day responsible parenthood training. Elizabeth Nzigilwa and Evodia Ng’ande, who received the training in April, are now passing on their knowledge and inspiration as HLI NFP educators!



A newly-trained NFP team of educators at Ruhuwiko Parish in the Archdiocese of Songea, Tanzania, after three days of intensive training.

MOROGORO

This mission's road ended in Mindu, in Morogoro. Flavia Luoga is our NFP Educator at this center, and she shared with me the work she is doing, her challenges and hopes. She invited Happiness Eliud, her first client, to share with us her heartwarming story of conversion from a wounded woman to a happy mother, and Happiness is now a joyful activist in the movement!

HLI'S MODEL IS SUCCESSFUL

While population control advocates claim the contraceptive prevalence rate is about 38% in Tanzania, in reality 75% of women encountered are on contraception. Marketed as an unmet need for prosperity, contraceptives have not made Tanzanians prosperous. Instead, they have inflicted misery and exacerbated the country's poverty. No contraceptive promoter tells women about side effects. I witnessed many wounds and scars caused by Norplant insertion or removal. I heard women crying out from abdominal pain, backaches, and migraine headaches. They tell me of bleeding, marital conflicts – all unnecessary harms undisclosed for the willful deception of these people in the name of population control. But HLI's NFP program is counter-ing these lies, and changing lives – as Happiness, our NFP client in Mindu said to me, *“Natural Family Planning ... gives us back lost hope, it reunites our marital bond. It is ‘medicinal.’ With 587 clients in seven dioceses in one year, just think how God's Culture of Life can grow in another one, two, or ten years!”*

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HLI's CFC number is **10253**



Happiness Samadan Eliud with her two children, Gloria and Gordon.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DIOCESE MARKS WORLD AIDS DAY

By Deborah M. Piroch, HLI Director of Public Relations

A WHOLESOME WAY TO COUNTER HIV/AIDS

On November 30, the Catholic Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, in Papua New Guinea, marked World AIDS Day, a day ahead of the worldwide observance on December 1. As a shepherd of souls for a diocese containing only 24 priests responsible for over 54,000 Catholics, Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos, C.M., gave witness with fellow Catholics to the teachings of both science and the Church.

The staff of Star of Hope Center, the HIV/AIDS Center of the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, led the awareness march to public gathering places: the wharf, the town plaza, and the marketplace. They called slogans like, “Make a difference. Fight HIV/AIDS.” However, unlike many who shout such slogans to incite fear and urge condom usage to counter the problem, **here the Diocese was supporting those who truly wish to stop the spread of AIDS by bringing awareness to the root of the issue.**

Papua New Guinea has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the whole of Oceania. In 2018, Papua New Guinea was estimated as having 45,000



cases of AIDS, and the dilemma is considered by the UN to be at an epidemic level. Some areas of sex workers show a nearly 20% infection rate; many of those with the disease do not realize they are carriers, and various groups (heterosexual, homosexual, children, among others) are being studied by the government for rates of infection. If a person is unsure of whether he or she has contracted the disease, they were advised to make an immediate visit to the Star of Hope Center, or another outreach center, for anonymous testing and counseling. If the test is positive, one should refrain from sexual activity so as not to contaminate others, specifically one's spouse.

In his address at the march, Bishop Santos said that the demonstration was meant to give hope, not to scare people. As HIV/AIDS is mainly transmitted through sexual relations, Bishop Santos spoke about the beauty and sacredness of marital love, emphasizing that sex should be saved for the context of marriage and should not be used in selfish or unchaste ways. **Following God's plan for marriage and honoring human sexual integrity calls for an exercising of greater self-dis-**

“Following God’s plan for marriage and honoring human sexual integrity calls for an exercising of greater self-discipline, social responsibility, love for the family and community, as well as respect for oneself.”



Bishop Rolando Santos of the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, Papua New Guinea.

cipline, social responsibility, love for the family and community, as well as respect for oneself. These standards protect the sacredness of human love according to the teaching of the Church, and in the context of World AIDS Day, these principles promote the health of individuals against the carrying and transmission of HIV/AIDS. Bishop Santos noted that it is a myth that condoms and contraceptives can protect oneself from HIV/AIDS. Rather, the use of contraceptives worsens the situation, since it creates a false sense of security and leads to increasingly irresponsible and illegitimate sex, and higher rates of HIV/AIDS transmission. As the bishop emphasized, following God's plan for married love not only affirms the dignity of every person, but also protects the health and lives of spouses and children. In this way, HIV/AIDS will be countered and eradicated by looking at the root of the issue – the importance of sexual integrity – rather than by temporarily and superficially covering up the problem with condom usage.

Bishop Santos ended his address with encouragement to the listeners to be faithful – to follow God's commandments, to protect the sacredness of sex within the context of marriage between one man and one woman, and to practice purity and chastity, whether single or married. In doing so, **the truth of these standards will lead to authentic freedom and genuine joy!**

*Bishop Rolando Santos, C.M.,
Bishop of Alotau-Sideia, contributed
to this report.*

FROM PAIN TO HEALING: THE TESTIMONY OF ONE TANZANIAN WOMAN

The story that follows is the testimony of Rebecca Dalali Shija, the 30-year-old wife of Ephrem Isaac, with three lovely children. Though now happy and sacramentally married, Rebecca's first sexual partner valued neither her nor her fertility in the least.

A number of years ago, Rebecca was unmarried but became pregnant. She was overjoyed, but her boyfriend was not; he wanted sexual gratification without responsibility and he objected to and denied fatherhood. Trying to keep the peace, Rebecca sought advice from a fellow parishioner, and she and her boyfriend eventually agreed to DNA testing. Rebecca, her boyfriend, and their friend went to a nearby hospital, but the testing could not be done that night. Her boyfriend began to pressure Rebecca to abort. She refused him, telling him she could raise the child alone.



Rebecca Shija and her three children (Isaac, Ivan, and Innocent I) during an interview with Emil Hagamu.

“I cry for long hours when I remember the cruel act I did to my child.” –Rebecca Dalali Shija, Tanzania

The next day, they met with the medical doctor and all preparations were allegedly made for a DNA test. Rebecca lay on the exam table, but was then given anesthesia!

She awoke on the cold table to discover her 3-month-old baby had been forcibly aborted. Violated in a way worse than rape, she cried for hours. The father had disappeared and no one considered the doctor's culpability in this horrific procedure.

As if her suffering was not enough, after a day of intense stomach pain, convulsions, and continual bleeding, Rebecca was rushed to the hospital. The abortion doctor told her he needed to do another procedure because he had failed to remove all the fetal parts from her womb. After the anguish of an abortion, Rebecca was again subjected to another agonizing procedure.

Rebecca mourned her lost baby, her partner's betrayal, and her parents' loss of their grandchild. Thankfully, her parents understood and did not throw Rebecca out of the house, a tragic reality for many others as abortion is illegal by law and carries a stigma in Tanzania. She had been traumatized, in both mind and body. To this day, Rebecca confesses suffering from fear, shame, and flashbacks every time she sees a child who is the age of her own first baby.

Over time, Rebecca became engaged to Ephrem and though not married yet, they had their first child in 2010. She became pregnant again. Though Tanzanian culture is pro-family, they worried the first child would suffer from lack of nutrition if she became pregnant again too soon, and they elected to abort chemically. Rebecca took the medication and experienced severe stomach convulsions

February 2020 Events

Please Pray for HLI's Mission Work in February:

- January 30-February 7: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet will be on mission in Rome, Italy, for various meetings at HLI's Rome office as well as with Vatican officials.
- February 1-10: Emil Hagamu, Regional Director of English-Speaking Africa, will complete a follow-up mission in Zambia, including four days of pro-life training for priests along with separate trainings for laity across three parishes.
- February 6-7: VHI Advisor for Latin American Missions Nancy Tosi travels to Loja, Ecuador, to participate in the second Life and Family International Congress on the theme, "Family Wounds."
- February 8-March 14: Nancy Tosi is on mission again in 12 different dioceses in Venezuela. Nearly 600 people have already finished HLI's pro-life course, and 290 more are expected to graduate this year! Please pray for their success, as well as for four days focusing on trainings for priests, nuns, and laity involved with Project Rachel (post-abortive trauma counseling).
- February 19-March 6: HLI President Fr. Shenan J. Boquet and Dr. Brian Clowes, Director of Research and Education, will participate in various mission activities in the Philippines, organized by HLI's Country Director Dr. Rene Bullecer and HLI's Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, Dr. Ligaya Acosta.

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

Please pray for our Tanzanian response team, as well as for all those they serve, that through the Holy Spirit they may have the strength to continue such life-saving work, especially through Radio Maria.

and diarrhea, and the dead baby was expelled in bloody sections from her body. When she became pregnant again, she miscarried; then, they had a healthy baby.

There is a tremendous need for Natural Family Planning everywhere. But not having heard of it and rather than go through more closely-spaced children, Rebecca opted for Norplant, even though her husband was opposed. The side effects – including months of continuous bleedings – caused her to insist the device be removed. Then the “family planning clinic” tried to convince Rebecca to allow herself to be sterilized. **Rebecca refused, telling them she would rather accept pregnancy if that was the will of God than to suffer from contraception again.**

One day Rebecca tuned into Radio Maria, and heard a program on responsible parenthood and Natural Family Planning (NFP). The program changed her life. Rebecca

contacted HLI Tanzania, and the staff there arranged for post-abortion counseling to begin for Rebecca. By the grace of God, Rebecca and her husband’s marital relationship is greatly improved, Ephrem now attends church regularly, and their union has been recognized by the Church. As Rebecca stated: *“Madam Grace, who works for HLI Tanzania, said nothing but the truth when she told me: ‘Those promoting contraception are falsely claiming contraception is good. Many women are wounded by contraception.’ So I feel duty-bound to also become a missionary for life and a positive agent in shaping marriage values.”* **Please pray for our Tanzanian response team, as well as for all those they serve, that through the Holy Spirit they may have the strength to continue such life-saving work, especially through Radio Maria.**

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350 FAMILIES ATTEND “WOOMB” CONFERENCE IN MEXICO

By Raymond de Souza, HLI Delegate for International Missions, November 2019

In November, I attended the 22nd Billings Natural Family Planning Conference, held in Pachuca, Mexico. Hosted by the World Organization of Ovulation Method Billings (WOOMB), Dr. Pilar Mercado Calva, the geneticist who worked with Dr. Jerome Lejeune in France, had taken the initiative to see HLI was represented at this annual event. We were honored to have with us the diocesan bishop, Bishop Juan Pedro Juárez Meléndez. Another prominent speaker was Dr. Juan Francisco Stecher Miranda from Chile, who gave presentations on the nature and various aspects of fertility.

This conference aimed to continue the formation of instructors of the Billings Method in Mexico, and the attendees numbered over 350 families. Bishop Meléndez spoke on the topic of “The Option to Recuperate Harmony with Nature”, which was a good fit with how the Billings Method coordinates naturally with the way the human body functions. At the end of the bishop’s seminar, he lamented to me the lack of vocations in his diocese. Sometimes, he said, there are priests who say four or five Masses each Sunday, and continue to minister to funerals and baptisms among their other priestly duties. I suggested contraception was the main culprit. How many priests speak against contraception on a regular basis, I asked? Today, especially in the United States, I added, priests are afraid to address contraception or abortion, thus making themselves complicit in the lack of vocations. If he wanted more vocations, I suggested he encourage his clergy to defend larger families and to speak widely against contraception and abortion.

During my seminar with the married couples, some Mexican gentlemen raised the common argument against the Billings Method, one of the vari-



ous methods for couples to practice Natural Family Planning (NFP): many of the couples who live it have large families. Therefore, it does not work! But this is not the case, and I had the opportunity to clarify Church teaching about NFP throughout my talk, pointing out that NFP is not intended to be used as “Catholic birth control”. **As with all methods of NFP, the couple must always have an openness to receiving life.** The Billings Method may be used to increase fertility, as well as to space children. Self-discipline and periods of abstinence are involved as well. In contrast, birth control is all about opposing life and rejecting the fertility that is the beautiful part of God’s plan for married couples.

To my pleasant surprise, large numbers of Mexican married couples who attended the conference held hands during the various talks. **Couples practicing NFP, in contrast to contracepting ones, recognize that they must act as one, and it was beautiful to see their joy and unity in a tangible way.** Perhaps a sign of this was the happy noise made by all the children present!



Raymond de Souza, HLI Delegate for International Missions.

“As with all methods of NFP, the couple must always have an openness to receiving life.”

At another time during the conference, I addressed a group of teenagers who had come to participate. Most were single, as I suspected that a few were dating at the time. They paid much attention throughout the talk, asking good questions at the end. Then one young woman followed me to whisper the same question I have been asked countless times over the years by adults and teenagers: “How could you have eight children? Today prices are high and everything is so expensive!” My answer startled her as I said, “As each baby was born,

my income improved. My wife and I were not wealthy, but we were healthy. We therefore had the means to bring up numerous children, which was our dream in life. That’s it.” She showed surprise that my eight have gone on to lead successful lives. **I am not rich, but God saw I earned sufficiently to keep them all healthy and well-educated. So, we should never doubt Divine Providence in those matters, especially when we responsibly obey His Law. Not everyone can have a family of seven or eight, but we are called to be generous, and Our Lord will provide for those young ones He sends.**

After the conference we enjoyed a lunch where the atmosphere was happy, the air full of conversation, and everyone was welcoming as is characteristic in Mexico. Next year the event will be held again, in a place yet to be confirmed, but organizers made a point of asking me to return as the HLI representative. May these conferences bear much fruit through the grace of the Holy Spirit!

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to Human Life International rather than a cash gift may allow you to provide a larger gift with transformative impact and at the same time give you a larger tax deduction. If you have held your stock for over one year, you may take a charitable deduction for the Fair Market Value of the stock on the day of the gift. By donating your stock directly, you will also avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase of the stock’s value. This assumes you are taking itemized deductions. The same benefits also apply to bonds and mutual funds.

Please contact Stan Kuta at HLI’s Development Office (skuta@hli.org or phone at 540-622-5272) and your broker to discuss the process.

This information does not constitute and is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax, legal, or investment planning advice from a qualified tax advisor, CPA, financial planner, or investment manager.

P.S. In my opening letter, I told you the stories of Frances, Joyce, Mariela, and Jovito – how through your prayers and sacrifices, we were able to transform their lives and create lasting pro-life and pro-family impacts in their communities. We would not be able to passionately preach *Christ in season and out of season* without your financial contributions, both here in the United States, as well as around the globe.

Every month, HLI sends wires totaling \$56,387 so that our Directors, Affiliates, and Partners may run their programs and fund their day-to-day operations. That means we only need 1,128 \$50 gifts this month and every month ... or 752 \$75 gifts ... or 564 \$100 gifts ... or 376 \$150 gifts to keep all programs in the black! Please send your most generous gift today!

For every gift of \$53 or more, I would be pleased to send you our newest resource, the *Spirit & Life, Sampler 2019* booklet. Please send your gift today!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

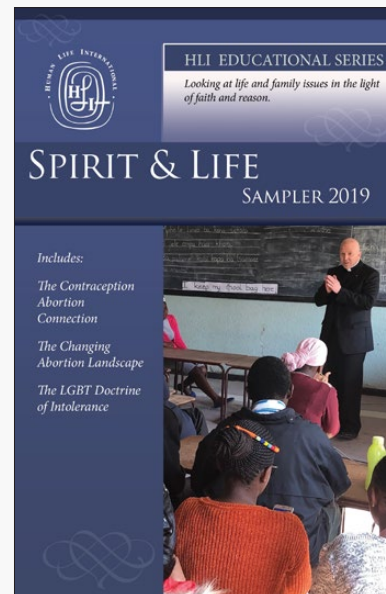
This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI's life-saving mission, you'll receive our newest resource, the *Spirit & Life, Sampler 2019*, a collection of three articles from Fr. Shenan J. Boquet's weekly e-newsletter. This collection includes:

The Contraception-Abortion Connection: HLI's founder, Fr. Paul Marx, O.S.B., ardently believed that, looked at one way, abortion is merely one symptom of a much deeper cultural and spiritual disease, which is the "contraceptive mentality."

The Changing Abortion Landscape: The pro-abortion movement in the United States is on the defensive and pro-abortion activists are legitimately worried that they're losing.

The LGBT Doctrine of Intolerance: A decade ago, homosexual activists were arguing that legalizing same-sex "marriage" would have no impact on the daily life of most ordinary citizens. However, just as pro-family advocates warned at the time, things haven't turned out that way.

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



***Spirit & Life, Sampler 2019*
is this month's pro-life
educational resource.**