



# Mission Report

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- \* **The Story of HLI's Rome Library**
- \* **Providing Formation to Influencers of Society**
- \* **Over 7,500 Volumes on Topics Concerning the Family, Bioethics, and Demography**
- \* **This Month's Gift to Donors: *The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro**

Thanks to you, Ariel Hobbs (pictured with Fr. Giordano) has had at her disposal one of the finest bioethics resource libraries in Rome. Like her, countless students, priests, sisters, and seminarians come to HLI's Rome Library to study topics concerning the family, bioethics, and demography.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Because of HLI's vision, strategies, programs and activities, and a dedicated international network of pro-life and family leaders working on the ground in five continents, **we are making incredible strides in cultivating and sustaining a global pro-life movement.** This movement, which you and our donors support, aids the universal Church, her pastors, and the People of God in serving and defending life and the family. I hate to imagine what things would be like without HLI and her contribution. As I have said numerous times, "there would be no pro-life movement in many parts of the world without HLI." I am not being boastful about HLI's importance, but rather I am stating a simple truth that I have personally experienced.



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President

Key to accomplishing our mission, building a great campaign for life, is **to effect necessary change by providing formation to groups that have the greatest potential to influence the structures of society.** HLI accomplishes this strategy by providing educational and sometimes financial resources, as well as ongoing formation and mentorship to support local leaders and their programs. The objective of these programs is to increase greater awareness of the assaults to human life and the family, motivating people on every level – civil and ecclesial – to see the urgency of this crisis, actively becoming involved in the great campaign.

There are many ways in which HLI carries out her strategy and vision, which this report could not contain, but there is one key contributor to this effort that I would like to share with you – **HLI's Rome Office.** When

## HLI's SPIRIT & LIFE WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

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

Join 19,234 other pro-lifers who receive Fr. Boquet's column every week.

**Subscribe at [HLI.org](http://HLI.org)**



HLI commissioned the office in 1998 to assist in her global missionary activities, she could not have fully envisioned the tremendous impact this decision would make upon the lives of numerous religious men and women, seminarians, priests, and lay students studying for their degrees in Rome.

**Of course, the impact of HLI's Rome Office would not be possible without your prayers, support, and faithful commitment.**

HLI in her strategy targets two specific groups: seminarians and students, and priests, religious, and lay professionals. We separate these groups into those in a *transitional state* – seminarians and students – and those in a *permanent state* – priests, religious, and lay professionals. HLI supports and helps form those in transition *to influence their culture and*

*society*; after all, they will become husbands, wives, parents, priests, bishops, religious, and professionals. If formed properly, they will impact our societies and values (moral and religious). If they understand and embrace the teaching of the Church, specifically the bioethical issues, they will be amply prepared to articulate pro-life truths and defend them in the public square. Let me share with you how the Rome Office contributes.

Because of its proximity to the Vatican, HLI's office makes for a convenient location from which to serve and collaborate with Vatican and Curial officials and to assist future leaders who are studying or serving in Rome, as well as introduce them to HLI's global mission. Not only does the office serve as an administrative center, an extension of HLI headquarters in Front Royal, but it also contributes to numerous programs and activities in Rome, and Fr. Francesco Giordano, S.T.D., our Director of the Rome Office, also helps direct our missionary work throughout Europe. In conjunction with HLI's efforts to cultivate and strengthen relationships with Vatican and Curial officials is a work most unique to HLI – **the support, education, and mentorship of religious, laity, and priests (and seminarians) in the field of bioethics.** This is why HLI created a bioethics library within the Rome Office.

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function of assisting students who are studying in the pontifical universities on topics related to life and the family, generally of bioethics. **On average, there are 4-6 people per day in the library, with between 80 and 120 people utilizing it per month.** Many are surprised to find that despite the large number of students who pursue advanced degrees in bioethics in Rome,

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**“The idea of a library in the office, from the heart of the Church in Rome, is key in helping fulfill HLI's mission and vision.”**

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there are few libraries with adequate research. Because our library specializes on these subjects – **over 7,500 volumes from ceiling to floor** on topics concerning the family, bioethics, and demography – students can consult various Catholic academic and professional resources, find assistance from Fr. Giordano and his

dedicated staff, and do research for their licentiate and/or doctoral thesis.

Consider the impact. The library welcomes religious, priests, seminarians, and laity from around the world, particularly from some of the poorest countries in the world, who are dominantly the ones suffering from the plague of the Culture of Death. **These will be future teachers and professors in some of the pontifical universities or in their respective dioceses and religious institutions, or bishops and religious superiors.** This benefit of helping religious, priests, and lay professionals to strengthen their formation on life and family issues is two-fold: to be strong defenders of the constant teaching of the Church in bioethics, and to provide knowledge and counsel to those with practical dilemmas in hospitals and clinics worldwide. Through your care and support, HLI is making an impact, directly influencing countries and peoples around the world.

In a recent interview, Fr. Giordano highlighted the significant role of the library saying, “The idea of a library in the office, from the heart of the Church in

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**For details, visit: [hli.org/myhome](http://hli.org/myhome)**



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Ariel Hobbs, a sophomore at Catholic University of America, is one of the 80 to 120 people per month who utilize HLI's Rome Office Library.

Rome, is key in helping fulfill HLI's mission and vision." He continued, adding that, "by working directly with seminarians, laity, religious, and priest students from around the world, employing Catholic social and moral doctrine in addition to scientific and data-based arguments, **we are directly influencing and preparing**

**them to be ardent defenders of life and the family in their vocations and professions."**

In her 22 years of existence, HLI's Office and Library have touched the lives of thousands. I often meet many of them during my times in Rome for meetings and programs. I wish I could tell all their stories and personally express their heartfelt gratitude for what you and our loyal donors make available to them. Let me share just a few.

Ariel Hobbs, a sophomore at Catholic University of America (CUA) who recently spent a semester studying at CUA's program in Rome, spoke of the impact of her experience with Fr. Giordano (her theology professor) and HLI's Rome Office and Library. Her comment best captures the essence of why HLI's Library in Rome exists and why it is making such a tremendous impact:

*"To me HLI's Library in Rome exemplifies a convergence of educators and students from around the world who seek to bring back that 'faith in life' to our culture and society. From the priest writing a bioethics textbook*

## June 2020 Events

### **Please Pray for HLI's Mission Work in June:**

*Much of our mission travel is being affected by COVID-19.*

*Please pray that we can continue our international work uninterrupted!*

- June 5 - 8: Mario Rojas and Nancy Tosi will be on mission in San Jose, Costa Rica for a pro-life congress for the laity in public life.
- June 20 - 30: Marlene Gillette, Adolfo Castañeda, Felipe Vizcarrondo, Luis Martinez, and Mario Rojas will be at the 50th General Assembly of the OAS to be held in the Bahamas Islands.

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

across the table from me, to the religious sister silently praying her rosary over her books on culture and society after hours of study, each person I observed in the library around me brought a sense of hope in a society that seems to focus on death and despair.”

Aneta Sadovska is another recent student who benefited from HLI’s Office and Library. Aneta, who is from Slovakia, on January 16, 2020 defended her doctoral thesis in the field of bioethics. A few years prior, Aneta visited HLI’s office in Rome to find support for her newly undertaken studies. At that time, Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro was the director of HLI’s office. After speaking with Msgr. Barreiro and Dr. Joseph Meaney, Aneta was able to obtain a partial scholarship, which allowed her to cover the costs of her studies at the *Regina Apostolorum*. “It is the education and formation of youth and families that will ultimately help reorient society back to God and to the Christian values of its roots,” said Dr. Aneta, and she added:

“HLI’s Library in Rome provided a serene environment for me to immerse myself in a treasure cove of academic literature and spiritual writings.”

Currently Dr. Aneta serves on the Faculty of Bioethics at the Pontifical University of the *Regina*



**Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro was the director of HLI’s Office from September 1998 to July 2015.**

**Dr. Aneta Sadovska (below, left) was able to utilize the Rome Library during her doctoral thesis in the field of bioethics. She now serves on the Faculty of Bioethics at the Pontifical University of the *Regina Apostolorum*. Next to her is Serenella Verduchi, one of the employees of the HLI Rome Office.**





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## When people say how can we change the current anti-life climate, one of my responses is to talk about the irreplaceable work of HLI's Library in Rome where we are radically making a difference.

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*Apostolorum*. All made possible because of you and HLI.

The library is also a meeting point for people. In fact, you can meet pro-life people from all over the world. Recently, during a trip to Rome in February for meetings, I had the blessing of meeting some religious sisters and priests from Nigeria who were utilizing the library for their studies. It was also very providential and a joy to become reacquainted with Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi, IHM.

Sister's long history with HLI began in 1990 when Fr. Marx visited the Enugu Diocese in Nigeria. Even though Sister didn't have the opportunity to participate, she received some of the materials from the programs. "After reading some of the materials, I immediately developed interest in the pro-life work," said Sister. In 1992 Sr. Rosanna wrote Fr. Marx informing him of her interest in spreading the pro-life message. "Fr. Marx sent me four big boxes of pro-life materials (books, pamphlets, CDs, videos, posters, pin-ups, etc.). I was so encouraged." Then in 1999, Sr. Rosanna participated in an HLI pro-life training program directed by Dr. Brian Clowes at the Awka Diocesan Retreat Center, Okpuno



**Sr. Mary Rosanna Emenusiobi, IHM, has benefited from HLI's Rome Library since 2012.**

Awka, in Anambra State, Nigeria.

Even though Sr. Rosanna didn't utilize HLI's Library for her doctrinal studies in moral theology, she has availed herself since 2012 to the Rome Office staff and services of the Library:

"Since then, I have benefited a great deal from the Library each time I visit Rome. I am delighted to say that the Library is really serving its purpose and the users, especially students and others interested in the Gospel of Life."

The late Msgr. Barreiro was of great help to Sister providing her with ideas and suggestions when preparing materials for her pro-life and family apostolate in Nigeria. **Today, Fr. Giordano continues to assist Sister, even providing her with resources to carry out her apostolic work on behalf of life and family.**

Another story is about Fr. Augustine Okon, from the Archdiocese of Calabar, Nigeria, who did his doctorate at the *Alphonsianum*. Currently, Fr. Okon serves as Chancellor of the Calabar Archdiocese and Pastor of St. Luke's in Ikot Effanga Mkpa, Calabar. While studying in Rome, a friend introduced him to HLI's Office and Library. He explains his experience:

"The staff were very helpful and readily and happily helped me to search

for materials related to each topic. The knowledge I gained during my further studies and the use of HLI's Library help me in my pastoral ministry. For instance, when offering marriage courses for intending couples, using parts of my doctrinal dissertation, I expound and explain the pro-life issues such as contraceptives, abortion, killing, dignity of marriage and procreation, respect for life, etc."

Evan Simpkins is very grateful for the opportunities the Library offers him, saying, "Libraries in Rome at the pontifical universities are very protective of their books whereas HLI allows us to make copies and use the books quite freely." Evan, who is doing advanced research on St. Thomas' *Commentary on the Metaphysics*, also appreciates that the Library is highly Thomistic in nature, as well as the pro-life and family environment. Listen to what he says:

"There's always a reminder of pro-life events, like the March for Life. The Library, to me, is truly an exceptional place. Soon, I will receive my doctorate and the Library has certainly played a part in that. I am thankful for all the help from the HLI Library and those who work there. I hope to carry the same values that we share here at the Library into my teaching career. Even now I teach Latin to the Thomas More College students and stop in to prepare at the Library."



Students from around the world are served by over 7,500 volumes on topics concerning the family, bioethics, and demography. These students can consult Fr. Giordano and his dedicated staff as they do research for their licentiate or doctoral thesis. Second from the left is Marcello Riccobaldi, another of the HLI Rome Office employees.

I could go on and on, but there is not enough space or time. As you can see, **HLI is making a valuable impact through these current and future leaders.** When people ask how can we change the current anti-life climate, one of my responses is to talk about the irreplaceable work of HLI's Library in Rome where we are radically making a difference. A priest for example, has the potential to impact the Church, families, and society for 40-60 years. **Think of how many people within this timeframe he will influence!** The same may be said for lay professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, professors, scientists, and so on. By working with these groups and providing on-going formation and mentorship, and establishing pro-life guilds, HLI is positioned to impact society in each of its spheres.

I cannot repeat it enough. **You and every one of our donors make this life-changing work a reality.** I know it, and everyone who is fortunate to receive any benefit from HLI knows it. Thank you!

But, imagine if we could grow this work? Of course, that is what I would like to do. However, we need a larger space to accommodate more students and more books. An increase in funds will also help us to potentially provide scholarships for those from poorer countries, giving

them an opportunity to study for a degree in bioethics. This way we are assisting those who will in turn influence others, thus shifting the pendulum toward a genuine Culture of Life and Civilization of Love. Please join me in praying for this intention; may it become a reality.

I would like to repeat the words of Dr. Aneta, since she best summarizes the heart of the situation we confront today, and why HLI's Library serves a strategic and vital role, when she says, "It is the education and formation of youth and families that will ultimately help reorient society back to God and to the Christian values of its roots. For this to happen, educators and parents need to have the opportunity to be enriched with an understanding of orthodox theology, modern culture and the reasons behind Church teaching on life and sexuality."

As long as life and family are threatened, and through God's abundant blessings and your sacrifices, our missionaries will rise each and every day *to fight the good fight*. I am truly grateful for all you do to make this all possible. Together, we are building a great campaign for life.

As always, but most especially during these unsettling and uncertain times, be assured of my prayers for you, your family, and intentions during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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 pro-life educational resource: *The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro.

*The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* is an important resource in ongoing liturgical formation for clergy, religious, and laity, and makes a significant contribution to the renewal which embraces the riches of liturgical tradition as a valuable treasure.

Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro was the former Executive Director of HLI's Rome Office, a position he held from September 1998 to July 2015. He lived a life of dedicated service and passed away in April 2017. Msgr. Barreiro published hundreds of articles on theology and life issues, and historical subjects in popular and scholarly publications in the U.S., England, Italy, France, and Spain.

**Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today,** and we'll ship you this new pro-life resource!



***The Sacred Liturgy and the Defense of Human Life* is this month's pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!**