



Mission Report

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Dr. Bullecer of HLI: Philippines reaches a quarantined audience through radio ministry.

- * **Radio and Television Ministry Overcome COVID-19 Travel Restrictions in the Philippines**
- * **Training and Empowerment: The People Who Give HLI Missions their Staying-Power**
- * **This Month's Gift to Donors: *Three Kinds of Love*, a Talk Presented by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on Audio CD.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of our international pro-life family and those we lovingly serve, thank you for your *faithful* and *generous* support of this mission. Together, we are defending life and family around the world. Moreover, your prayers and numerous sacrifices in support of this global mission ensure that we are capable of making our vision a reality – a world where the incalculable value of every human life is *respected, protected, loved, and served*, and the family is ordered in accordance with God's design.

Though we are confronted with many uncertainties in these unsettled times, our fervent commitment to assure that our vision comes to fruition remains the same. Our global missionaries, because of travel and social distancing restrictions, are temporarily prevented from much of their normal activities, but their dedication to defending life and family spurs them to find creative ways to carry out their apostolic programs. Each seeking, as Fr. Marx would say, “to *alert* the complacent, to *inform* the concerned, and *arm* the dedicated.”

I wish I had space to share with you the impact of all the people you empower through your care and generous support. In this *Mission Report* you will read about two of these remarkable pro-life warriors – Sr. Teresita Almonte and Dr. Rene Bullecer. A longtime friend of HLI, Sr. Teresita, often called the “Highway Nun,” tirelessly works to spread pro-life education across her beloved country through her apostolic service to the People of God. As Dr. Ligaya will share, “Sister Teresita can be found on highways, taking jeepneys, tricycles, busses, planes, and even motorcycles to bring catechesis to the poor-in-spirit.” Sister is very grateful to HLI and to you for the many opportunities she has received throughout the years. Dr. Bullecer, a medical doctor who began his collaboration with HLI in 1985, serves as our country director in the Philippines. I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Bullecer on numerous occasions, supporting him in his service to life and family.

Recently while talking with Dr. Bullecer about his daily radio program broadcast from Cebu, he said to



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President

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me, “God has His own mysterious ways in this time of forced quarantines, where most people are inside their homes.” Recognizing the opportunity, he continued to say, **“through the radio ministry, we are able to disseminate a spiritual and pro-life and family message to the hundreds and thousands of people across many parts of Visayas and Mindanao.”** Dr. Bullecer uses his program to proclaim Church teaching, give counsel and insight on how to live the faith in daily life, and expose listeners to the issues affecting life and family, calling all to defend the sacredness of human life and the sanctity of marriage.

I have listened to Dr. Bullecer’s radio broadcasts. His love of God and passionate concern for his neighbor are self-evident to all who tune in. Though currently unable to be on mission around the Philippines, Dr. Bullecer sees the daily radio program as a golden opportunity, one for which he is extremely appreciative. “I’m very grateful to God,” he said, “for giving me this rare opportunity to be His instrument to deliver the most needed day-to-day messages to God’s people who are super hungry for His life-giving word.” Even though Dr. Bullecer knows he will soon return to previous activities in the mission field, he hopes to continue the daily radio program, integrating it into his service to the Gospel of Life.

The importance and necessity of utilizing media platforms was also made vividly clear during a recent mission to Venezuela by Nancy Tosi, HLI’s Advisor for Latin American Missions. I will tell you more about this mission in a future *Mission Report*, but for the moment let me share with you a couple of details that highlight the impact made through media platforms.

Nancy spent 35 days in Venezuela, giving lectures and seminars in 12 dioceses, physically reaching approximately 8,000 people. **Because of the internet, TV, and radio, nearly 10,000 more were able to participate through live streaming. What is even more remarkable is that Globo Vision [a regional TV network] televised the programs, which extended the impact to more than a million people. Amazing!**

As many groups and apostolates have learned during the Covid-19 crisis, we must seek new ways to bring forth our message. HLI knows from her nearly 50 years of experience that physical missions will always be necessary, but we must also seek ways to extend our outreach through the various platforms available. It is not a question of one way, but “both and.”

Throughout these months I have remained in contact with our international team, assuring that they, their families, and the people they serve are safe and well. I enjoyed hearing how they have creatively found ways to carry out their apostolic activities, despite the restrictions – for example,

HLI’s on-line training program and virtual seminars in Latin America, Emil Hagamu’s programs on Radio Maria, Adolfo Castaneda’s weekly radio program on EWTN, HLI Ireland’s use of billboards across the country, and the numerous virtual seminars being offered by Dr. Ligaya Acosta, Father Francesco Giordano and others throughout the mission field. I am truly amazed by their ingenuity and grateful for their commitment.

Moving forward, we will take what we have learned in these months and seek new and more creative ways to fulfill our vision. Together, and with your continued prayers, it will become a reality.

I hope you enjoy the stories contained in this month’s *Mission Report*, which you made possible. As always, *thank you* for your care, support, and sacrifices. Be assured of my prayers, especially during the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In closing, I leave you with the inspiring words of Dr. Bullecer. “May the most Holy Spirit guide us, direct us, protect us, and inspire us to do our very best in this most important mission, which is entrusted to our care.” Amen!

Yours in Christ and Our Lady,



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President, Human Life International

Remote Evangelist in the Philippines

By Jenna McGuire, Staff Writer

As you know, the coronavirus has affected every part of the world, and the Philippines are no exception. Churches closed, families were instructed to stay in their homes, and HLI has been temporarily unable to host many of the events that normally serve that country's educational and spiritual needs.

Fortunately, When God closes the roads, he opens the airwaves. Rene Bullecer, M.D., HLI's country director for the Philippines, can hardly wait to resume his person-to-person ministry. But these months of social distancing have born great fruit for the pro-life cause. "The Lord offered us something bigger and better as we cross the bridge of uncertainties and are forced to be confined in one place, and this is through the Radio Ministry. Through the air-lanes, we can reach millions of people and deliver [the Gospel of Life] directly into their ears, minds and hearts...in the midst of the secular world."

HLI RADIO: A VOICE OF REASON AND LOVE

Through God's providence, Dr. Bullecer has already built a reputation as a radio presenter from his weekly Church news program, "Flowers of Mary." It was a challenge to get from the HLI Center to the studio without violating the local lockdown, but with God, all things are possible. **Dr. Bullecer used this platform to show the country how to preserve the dignity of the human person during**



the viral pandemic. Among other things, he advocated for respecting the elderly, and allowing the dying access to the sacraments, especially Extreme Unction. When many other media outlets were spreading fear, Dr. Bullecer encouraged



Remote evangelization through radio broadcast allows Dr. Bullecer to speak out against violations of human dignity in his country's COVID-19 response.

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his listeners to “avoid the 5Ds (despair, desolation, depression, discouragement and division) sowed by the devil in these times of health crisis.” This message of hope was just what the doctor ordered.

*“If not through your program on the radio...we would already have surrendered. Because of your encouragement and constant reminders that the battle must go on in the protection of the family and human life...we are ever committed to life and family. **Human Life International is more visible than any other pro-life movement anywhere in the country.**” —Salterio, Archdiocese of Ozamis*

This program reaches more than two thirds of the country through nine different radio stations spread throughout the archipelago. But radio was only the beginning.

FROM RADIO TO TELEVISION MINISTRY

Dr. Bullecer was blessed with the opportunity to speak for an hour on CCTN (Cebu Catholic Television Network)

which reaches ten million people all over the country. He used this time to address the sin of abortion, which is endorsed across the world in the name of “human rights” and population control. Even in the Philippines, where most people are Catholic, abortion kills hundreds of thousands every year.

A week later, in the first-ever televised conference of the National Council of the Laity, Dr. Bullecer called out the government Population Commission for using the media to push for increased contraceptive use during the lockdown, and for including condoms with the rice and canned goods distributed to Filipinos in need. But we will not allow anyone to be tricked into rejecting God’s law. At a time when the UN and hundreds of other organizations are teaching Filipinos to respond to this crisis by embracing the culture of death, HLI sends a voice for life through every available outlet.

“I am now very knowledgeable about the... plans to bring down our population. I never knew all

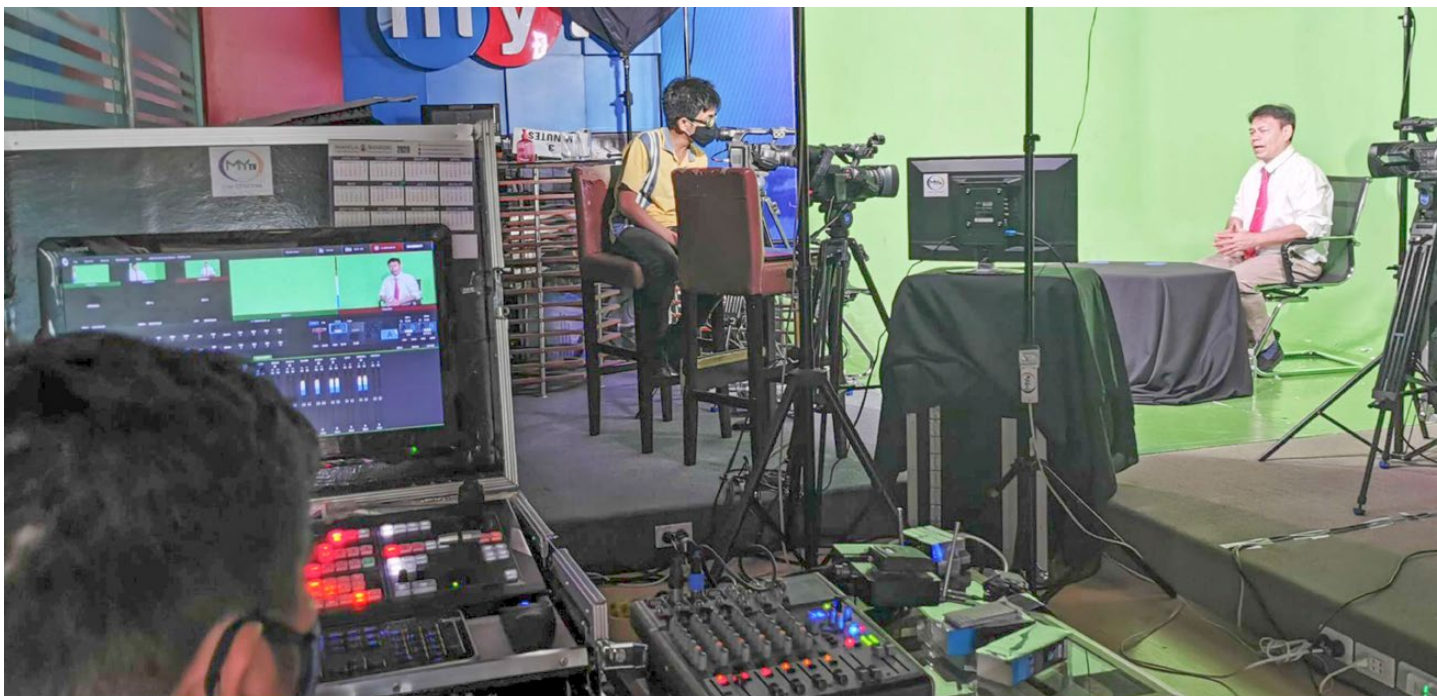
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WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

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Television broadcasting brings Dr. Bullecer's message to an even wider audience.

these things...Now I'm a proud Catholic, and I will courageously share my knowledge with others. You know, I have a daughter; she said that the midwife told her to use an IUD or pills but [now I know] that it is very dangerous, so I did not allow my daughter to use that kind of family planning. —Fred, Cebu City

"This is what every Catholic should know about how the devil is destroying us all through their anti-Catholic and anti-life programs like sex education in the schools, pills, IUDs, sterilization, etc. To support you in this very dangerous crusade, we assure you of our prayers for HLI Pilipinas." — Sr. Juliet, Dumaguete City

These are just a few examples of the TV programs, teleconferences, and radio shows that Dr. Bullecer conducted in recent months. With God's help, and yours, the voice of Truth is ringing through the Philippines.

A DOCTOR FOR BODY AND SOUL

Dr. Bullecer's mission as a medical practitioner and as an evangelist are one and the same. **A true Catholic physician knows that the body and the soul are not separate; what we do to one affects the other.** Even

when he cannot encounter his patients in person, he is there to help them protect their souls by treating their bodies with respect and dignity, instead of rejecting their life-giving nature through contraception, abortion, and sterilization.

Giving up his travelling ministry has been a huge sacrifice for Dr. Bullecer; "I'm like a passenger aircraft, designed to soar in the skies and not to standby on the airport tarmac." But while the pandemic lasts, he will continue his remote evangelization from an improvised recording studio in the HLI Center. The Gospel of Life is too important to be locked down.

Combine Federal Campaign

Federal employees and members of the Armed Services: Support HLI with your CFC pledge.



**HLI's CFC
number is
10253**

Stories from the Mission Field: The Highway Nun

By Dr. Ligaya A. Acosta, Regional Director of Asia and Oceania

This month, I have the honor of introducing you to an outstanding defender of life in the Philippines, who multiplies the impact of every pro-life event she attends. We empower individuals to defend life by organizing everything from huge regional conferences to small parish-level training sessions. **But events are only the beginning. The real measure of our success is the impact that these empowered individuals have on their communities for years to come.** Do not think that if two hundred people attend a conference only two hundred lives are changed; the message of life does not stay locked in a private lecture hall. It is carried out into the community, onto the highway, by spirit-filled individuals like Sr. Teresita Almonte.



The HLI staff equips Sr. Teresita (second from right) to bring the Gospel of Life to families, public officials, and religious sisters all over the Philippines.

PLANTING SEEDS OF LIFE ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES

She is called “*The Highway Nun*” because she can always be found on highways taking jeepneys, tricycles, busses, planes, and even motorcycles to bring catechesis to the poor-in-spirit all over the Philippines. This petite Missionary Catechist of St. Therese (MCST) is a long-time friend and mission partner of Human Life International. Since I came to HLI, the amiable and indefatigable Sr. Teresita has attended all but one of the Asia Pacific Congresses on Faith, Life and Family, as well as other local HLI

events. She has brought in countless participants who are now actively working in our mission for God, life, and family. I will never forget one of the religious sisters she brought to an ASPAC. She came to me on Day 2 of the three-day congress, telling me “*I thought I came to have a vacation abroad.....After hearing all the talks, I can’t sleep thinking what I can do to help.....I never realized the enormity of the anti-life agenda, until I came.*”

Through Sr. Teresita, countless people have become pro-life because she makes it a point to re-echo what she has learned from each congress. The ripples of her witness reach from the homes of rural Filipino families all the way to the political stage. It was Sr. Teresita who introduced Mayor Sally Lee of Sorsogon City to us – first to support the huge National Marian Pilgrimage for Life that HLI organized in the Philippines some years back, and later in the Mayor’s first attendance at an ASPAC which inspired her to declare her city a “Pro-Life City.”

THE COMPLETE EVANGELIZATION TOOLKIT

At every event, our goal is to make our presentations motivating and useful, so that after the speaker says goodbye, everyone in attendance returns home with a mission plan. The education you make possible provides people all over the world with the knowledge they need to live the gospel, **and teaches them how to use that knowledge to build a Culture of Life.**

Our approach is effective because it is holistic. Issues of family, culture, and lifestyle matter because

The message of life does not stay locked in a private lecture hall. It is carried out into the community, onto the highway, by spirit-filled individuals like Sister Teresita Almonte.

they form the foundation of respect for life that should live in the heart of every person. That is why we make scientific and spiritual information on all topics related to human life available to pro-life warriors like Sr. Teresita. She's glad to say that your generosity supplies her with everything she needs: *"I use [HLI materials] for my personal reflections, and share them too with catechists and families, wherever I am. I use material I get from HLI every time I facilitate seminars for parents, individuals, children, and families"*, she adds, and *"I share the information in conversations every time I do home visits."*

One of the keys to our success is that we work in concert with every level of evangelizer, from the bishop to the parents of young children, and everyone in between. As Sr. Teresita says, our work is *"a way of evangelization to all individuals and families."* She believes that it was God's plan for her to be introduced to HLI, because of the integral role we play in her ability to bring the pro-life message to everyone she meets.

OUR MINISTRY STARTS WITH YOU

On behalf of Sr. Teresita, thank you for the support you give to Human Life International. The conferences you make possible through your generous donations serve to deepen her knowledge and insights, and



Sr. Teresita (center) brings more religious sisters into the pro-life mission at every ASPAC.

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For details, visit: hli.org/myhome

the connections she makes with families strengthen her missionary zeal. The education you provide ignites her enthusiasm and courage in her mission for families, and in her life as a religious. ***“HLI is a living instrument for the evangelization and catechizing of families,”*** Sr. Teresita says with all sincerity. *“You are doing what Christ said to his apostles: “Go therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you” (Matthew 28:19-20).*

To our beloved benefactors of Human Life International, this is another testimony to the bountiful fruits multiplied by the resources you so generously share with us. For without your support, we cannot do the enormous things that we do all over the world.

Please know of our boundless gratitude for your help. **Because of you, lives are changed, and we are able to multiply the workers in God’s amazing vineyard for life and family** I constantly pray that the Lord, the owner of heaven and earth, will continue to bless you abundantly, prosper the work of your hands, and give you and your loved ones the true love, joy, and peace, that only He can give.

And as Sr. Teresita says, *“May the Lord keep you and your family in the bosom of His love. And May Mama Mary guide and protect all the families in the world and all of HLI’s supporters.”*

May everything we do glorify the Lord!

DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

P.S.—This month, **when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission**, we would like to send you an audio CD of the talk ***Three Kinds of Love***, by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

In this talk, designed for young and mature people alike, Archbishop Sheen discusses the word “love,” which is not as simple as many think. There is only one word meaning “love” in English, but there are THREE in Greek: Eros, Philia, and Agape.

Archbishop Sheen expands on these three kinds of love and their different meanings. Eros – affectionate love, Philia – love for others made in the image and likeness of God, and Agape – sacrificial, divine love, the love of God for man. We only get glimpses of perfect love here on earth. Archbishop Sheen remarks that, “All we ever get are fractions, sparks falling from the great hearth of love, which is God.”

Please send your donation of \$53 or more to HLI today, and we’ll rush this gift out to you!



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is our gift to you this
month in appreciation
for your donation of
\$53 or more!