



Pro-Life Training Transforms Priests in Belarus

With your help, the diocese of Vitebsk begins the long journey toward the Culture of Life.

Five years ago, two men had a conversation that transformed the diocese of Vitebsk in Belarus.

The newly appointed Bishop, Aleh Butkevich, was praying for guidance, and you helped answer his prayer. Thanks to you, Dr. Vladislav Volokhovich of HLI Belarus has been building a pro-life network for ten years. He connected the bishop with Fr. Giordano, HLI's Rome director. Fr. Giordano showed him that what his diocese most needed was the Gospel of Life.

Belarus is a dying country. Decades of communist rule left it with a culture that is closed to life. Most people are unaware of God's design for faithful and fruitful marriages. Sadly, even

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You changed hearts through this pro-life retreat for priests in Belarus.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Mission Report, you will find stories from two radically different places: Bokombe, Tanzania and Vitebsk, Belarus

Bokombe is rich with children and brimming with love for life. But the culture of death is waiting to attack.

In Vitebsk, children are few and many people have forgotten the meaning of marriage and family.

With time and care, your missionaries can heal these bone-deep wounds. But the painstaking process of rebuilding Vitebsk reminds me how important it is to protect vibrant places like Bokombe.

Without you, none of this work would be possible. Thank you for your generous support!

You are in my prayers always,

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President



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In Belarus, most people are unaware of God’s design for faithful and fruitful marriages. Even priests accept repeated abortion as normal and healthy.

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Every year there are too few births to sustain the country’s population, and the birth rate is still dropping. If the culture does not change soon, Belarus will disappear.

BUILDING THE CULTURE OF LIFE FROM SCRATCH

As Fr. Giordano told Bishop Butkevich, the situation is urgent. But it’s not too late to turn things around.

Many Belarusians have forgotten the meaning of marriage and the dignity of human life. They need passionate pro-life priests to remind them. So, the first order of business is to re-train the clergy.

Your pro-life training programs for priests and seminarians are the perfect solution to problems like this one. Through them, you help priests master Church teaching on life and family and practice teaching it in real-world situations.

Fr. Giordano helped Bishop Butkevich protect the future of his

diocese by installing a pro-life curriculum for his seminarians. Then they moved on to the priests.

YOUR MESSAGE OPENED THEIR EYES

With your help, Fr. Giordano and HLI President Fr. Boquet have given retreats for priests in the diocese of Vitebsk. They even brought Cardinal Burke, a strong pro-life voice in Church leadership, to speak. At first, there was some resistance. ‘What’s wrong with the culture in Belarus?’ they asked. ‘Since when are abortion and contraception so bad? And what does any of this have to do with the Church?’

Thanks to your unfailing support, your missionaries can be persistent. They explained that all human life issues are religious issues because God values every life. They showed the priests of Vitebsk how to weave pro-life teaching and scripture together in their homilies. They helped them adopt marriage preparation



You helped these Belarusian priests restore their faith in the Gospel of Life! Thanks for helping Bishop Butkevich turn his diocese around. Front row left to right: Dr. Vladislav Volokhovich, Fr. Giordano, Cardinal Burke, Bishop Butkevich, two priests of Vitebsk.

programs that fully teach the dignity of marriage and its essential openness to life.

By the end of each retreat, the tone is completely different. The priests are inspired by what they learned and excited to preach it in their parishes.

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING LONG-TERM CHANGE!

Thanks to your consistent support and the steadfast leadership of Bishop Butkevich, Vitebsk is slowly transforming.

The priests you've trained are enthusiastically preaching the pro-life message at home. Through them, Catholics who were raised in an anti-life culture are learning to be open to life in their marriages.

Thank you for bringing pro-life training to the priests and seminarians of Belarus! Five years into



Fr. Giordano (left) and Cardinal Burke (right) help Bishop Butkevich plan how he will transform Vitebsk into a pro-life diocese.

the program, the fruits of your sacrifice are starting to show. But shifting the culture of a nation is a marathon, not a sprint. Now it's time to help Bishop Butkevich plan the next five years of pro-life transformation.

We need your continued support to strengthen the Church in the diocese of Vitebsk. With your help, we can transform Belarus into a nation that values every human life!

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can give any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to Human Life International without having to pay income taxes on the distribution.



Learn more at plannedgiving.hli.org/ira-charitable-rollover

Youth Conference Inspires 5 Religious Vocations

While Population Control Groups Attack this Parish, HLI is Building their Faith.

What an incredible mission!

Elmina Kalunga of HLI Tanzania gave a three-day youth conference at the Catholic parish in Bokombe village. Missionaries don't often make it to this remote part of Tanzania, and the people there were eager to learn.

Elmina started by exposing the threats to human life and family in Tanzania. She showed the young people pictures of a child growing in the womb and videos of pregnancy "terminations." This helped them to understand the dignity of human life at every stage, and the violence of abortion.

Then she showed them how they can defend human life, marriage, family, and faith through prayer and action.

THE MISSION LIT A SPARK OF FAITH IN BOKOMBE

The response was incredible. The youth of Bokombe are on fire with the Gospel of Life! They embraced Elmina's message about the virtues of chastity and faithfulness. **Five young women were so inspired that**

they decided to pursue religious vocations.

Those joining the Cannosa Sisters:

Suzanne Michael
Lucia Petro
Christina January

Those joining Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Juliana Fabian
Briget Peter

We wish we could show you their smiling faces, but sadly the photos from this mission were on Elmina's phone which was stolen on her return journey.

THIS PARISH IS A TARGET FOR THE CULTURE OF DEATH

74 people attended this conference, including the parish priest, Fr. Mabula. He is doing everything he can to stop the culture of death from getting ahold of his parish.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE TO 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 23,578 other pro-lifers who receive Fr. Boquet's column every week.

Subscribe at HLI.org



While it is a joy for Fr. Mabula to think of all those fruitful marriages, this blessing comes with a challenge. The high birth rate makes his parish a prime target for the culture of death.

Bokombe is blessed with a high birthrate; around 7 children per woman. While it is a joy for any priest to think of all those fruitful marriages, this blessing comes with a challenge. The high birth rate makes Fr. Mabula's parish a prime target for the culture of death.

Population control groups are invading the area with anti-life and anti-family propaganda. They coercively promote contraception, sterilization, and abortion as a "solution" to poverty.

That's why Fr. Mabula is also asking for help to bring natural family planning to Bokombe. When spouses understand the dignity of marriage and its proper ends, it is much harder to trick them into using contraception. They know that their marriage must

always be open to life. And when they have a legitimate reason to space children, they don't need abortionists to "help" them. They can work within God's design for their fertility.

YOU CAN KEEP BOKOMBE PRO-LIFE!

Fr. Mabula needs your help to keep his parish free from the culture of death. With a gift to HLI, you can continue the pro-life mission to Bokombe parish by sending pro-life books and leaflets and sponsoring annual training events.

Thanks so much to all our donors for making this mission possible! The youth of Bokombe parish are excited to live the Gospel of Life because of you.

Bringing the Gospel of Life to a Miami Abortion Mill

Adriana Thurdekoos of HLI Miami prays at Eve Medical every week. This time, she had a chance to save a life.

"Mama, that's my friend going into the abortion mill."

Adriana looked up in surprise and saw the girl her daughter was pointing to. It was her classmate Trini, looking miserable as her mother Marta led her up the steps.

Adriana waved. Marta looked embarrassed but came over to say hello.

Then Trini spoke up: **"Please tell my mother I don't want to abort my baby."**

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You helped Adriana of HLI Miami (right) save a child's life while she was praying in front of the abortion mill.

ADRIANA STOOD UP FOR TRINI AND HER CHILD

This is not the first Adriana got a chance to help a girl like Trini. **HLI Miami gets calls every day from mothers who need help. No one is ever turned away.**

Adriana brought Trini and her mother back to her office at HLI Miami. She taught them about human dignity, and post-abortion trauma, showing them that abortion is not the answer. She took them to get an ultrasound and prayed with them in the chapel.

Marta wavered. Adriana's teaching had pierced her deeply. But Trini was only 14, and so many people were saying that a baby would "ruin" her life.

A week later, Marta caved in under the pressure brought Trini back to the abortion mill. But this time was different.

When she looked at the people praying outside, she saw what they saw— A precious child. A frightened girl. And a corporate monster that feeds off pain.

Marta turned around and took her daughter and grandchild home, healthy and whole.

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS FOR MAKING THIS PRO-LIFE CONVERSION POSSIBLE!

It was generous HLI donors who gave this story a happy ending. They make the Miami office accessible to families like Trini's. They sponsored Adriana to become a counselor. And they provide the resources



Adriana of HLI Miami gets calls every day from mothers who need help. Thanks to you, no one is turned away.

she uses to help frightened families choose life.

Trini and Marta are using this time to heal their relationship with each other and with God. **Because they chose life, God can use this child to set things right in their lives.**

Trini considered adoption, but after a lot of thought, she and her mother decided to keep the baby. She is now in her third trimester. She is so thankful to Adriana for standing up for her and stopping an abortion that she never wanted.

Marta wonders how she ever thought that abortion was the best thing for her daughter. She is grateful to God for the gift of her grandchild's life, and to HLI for helping her find the Truth before it was too late.

Please make your best gift today to build the Culture of Life around the world!

\$50: Help heal the diocese of Vitebsk in Belarus by sponsoring a priest or seminarian for one day of pro-life training.

\$250: Send a package of pro-life teaching materials to a community like Bukombe, Tanzania.

\$418: Fund HLI Miami for a day so mothers like Trini have a place to go for help.

Thank you so much for making this sacrifice to spread the Gospel of Life! Please pray for our mission. I will be praying for you. — Father Shenan J. Boquet