



HLI MISSION REPORT

Pro-Life Missionaries to the World®

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By Raymond de Souza
and Joseph Meaney

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★ **HLI Organizes Meeting of 27 Brazilian Pro-Life Leaders**

★ **Many Young Men Pledge to Join Seminarians for Life**

★ **The President of the Latin American Catholic Bishops' Conference collaborates with HLI**

★ **700 Abortions a Day in Ethiopia's Capital City!**

★ **Ethiopia's Seminarians and Nuns are Eager to Receive HLI Materials**

★ **Condoms Sink Ethiopia Deeper into the AIDS Crisis**



Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

This month we are excited to report on advances for the culture of life in both the South American country of Brazil and, across the ocean in Africa, the country of Ethiopia! Earlier this spring, Raymond de Souza filled an exhausting but fruitful week in Brazil with a non-stop marathon of interviews, meetings with Church officials and laity, and public addresses, reaching and equipping thousands of people with the Gospel of Life! Also in this issue, Joseph Meaney reports on the desperate situation of Ethiopia, a country in grave need of HLI's help but blessed with pro-life leaders who were formed through HLI's Seminarians for Life program and have boldly begun the work of defending the unborn.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO BRAZIL—Reported by Raymond de Souza, March 2010.

During my missionary trip to Brazil, I participated in two major events: (1) the bi-annual meeting of pro-life leaders in Brasilia, organized by the HLI affiliate in Brazil, *Pro-Vida Familia*; and (2) the march and fourth demonstration, organized in downtown São Paulo by the *Brazil sem Aborto* (Brazil without abortion) movement. As these events took place in two separate weekends, I filled the days in between with public talks, addresses to seminarians, interviews with radio and television stations, and contacts with pro-life laity, clergy and bishops.



THE MEETING OF PRO-LIFE LEADERS

Among the many meetings held during those days was one attended by **representatives of 27 pro-life groups**. This meeting was organized by our indefatigable and faithful contact in Brazil, Mr. Humberto Vieira. Two major projects emerged from the discussions: a manifesto repudiating the government program for “human rights,” which has been widely promoted in Brazil; and a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the issue of Abortion, which, if approved, will produce some valuable information to help unmask pro-death politicians.



Unlike the previous meeting in 2008, which emphasized formation and education in pro-life values, this meeting was almost entirely dedicated to planning concrete actions we could take to **defeat current moves by the Brazilian government to implement the Culture of Death**. Three short talks were given, one by Monsignor Michel Schooyans, representing the *Voie du Roman Pays* of Belgium; another by Rev. Fr. Luis Carlos Lodi of the *Pro-Vida* de Anápolis; and the third by me.

The main point I have been emphasizing of late in all my talks and interviews is the de-Christianization of Western Culture and its impact on the Culture of Life. ***An authentic Catholic Counter-Revolution is called for*** to respond to the crisis.¹

The exchange of news that occurred at the meeting will undoubtedly strengthen the pro-life network in Brazil — especially now that the government’s so-called “human rights” program has declared war on the family, bearing its claws and fangs to enact legislation favoring abortion on demand, homosexual “marriage,” legalization of prostitution as a profession, elimination of religious symbols from public places, restriction on the right to citizens’ privacy, etc.

Brazilian pro-life groups have pledged to ***advertize HLI programs far and wide*** in their country and elsewhere, in order to maximize HLI’s impact in the Portuguese-speaking world.

Representatives of diocesan pro-life groups in two major dioceses of Brazil invited me to address rallies which they intend to organize on the occasion of my next trip. In the Belem diocese alone, they literally promised to gather 1,500 people to hear the HLI message!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SEMINARY

In Brasilia, I addressed some 60 seminarians of Our Lady of Fatima Seminary on the same topic of de-Christianization. Judging by their response, the overview presented in this talk seems to provide a great deal of understanding and encouragement, especially in what concerns the **three aspects of the Catholic Counter-Revolution: Prayer, Study and Action**.



HLI Missionary Raymond de Souza, speaking with pro-life leaders of Brasilia, Brazil.

¹ A 45-minute talk, fully illustrated, aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the de-Christianization process, is available on DVD. A trailer can be viewed on this webpage: <http://vimeo.com/channels/sgci>.

I had already addressed these seminarians in 2008, and on that occasion I met a young seminarian – today an ordained deacon *en route* to priestly ordination in December of this year – who invited me to be the keynote speaker at a National Conference of Seminarians for Life that he and his co-workers are planning to organize later this year. They want to invite young men from as many Brazilian seminaries as possible to attend this conference in Brasilia, in order to extend the network of Seminarians for Life. Nearly all of them gave their email addresses to keep in touch with HLI.

SÃO JOSÉ DOS CAMPOS DIOCESE

On Tuesday, I travelled to the diocese of São José dos Campos, which is an important diocese in the state of São Paulo and is well-known for its conservative stance on various issues. As a guest of the diocese, I was lodged at the house of Fr. Rinaldo de Rezende during the three days I spent in the area.

I visited *Bishop Moacir Silva, who was very friendly and open to working with HLI to promote the Gospel of Life* in his Diocese. He received an HLI folder with plenty of information and also agreed to celebrate Masses for the intentions of HLI friends and donors in the States.

I also had the opportunity to speak to the Holy Spirit parish. This talk was video-taped by the Diocesan Commission for the Defense of Life, and they plan to **duplicate it by the hundreds to distribute all over the diocese.**

As national elections for the country's presidency and Congress will be held in October of this year, members of the Diocesan Commission in Defense of Life plan to organize a major educational pro-life rally in August or September, in which I will be the keynote speaker. It will be held in a pavilion that has a capacity for 10,000 people!



Raymond meets with Bishop Moacir Silva of the diocese of São José dos Campos, Brazil.

ADDRESS TO SEMINARIANS AT THE DEHONIAN COLLEGE

On Wednesday, I was taken to the Dehonian Catholic College in São José dos Campos. Fr. Rinaldo de Rezende is a lecturer there, and he kindly arranged for me to address the seminarians—nearly 100 of them. Another priest, a friend of Fr. Rinaldo, offered his class as well, so **I was able to address all the seminarians and lay folks who study theology at the college.**

TAUBATE DIOCESE

At a local radio station (*Unitau* Radio) in the neighboring diocese of Taubaté, I underwent a 45-minute recorded interview. Together with me was an old pro-life friend, Councilor Hermes Rodrigues Nery, who is the President of the local council of the town of Sapucaí. Sapucaí made history in Brazil when it became the first officially pro-life town in the country after **a unanimous vote at the local council to defend the right to life from conception to natural death!**

ARCHBISHOP RAIMUNDO DAMASCENO OF APARECIDA

On Thursday, I visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Aparecida, patroness of Brazil, to pray for the pro-life cause and HLI. Providentially — due to the inquisitive disposition of my driver — an impromptu meeting with Archbishop Raimundo Damasceno, President of the Latin American Catholic Bishops' Conference, was quickly organized to take place shortly thereafter.

The Archbishop of Aparecida kindly received me and the members of the Diocesan Commission for the Defense of Life at his office. His Excellency was very much in favor of the projected pro-life rally. Desiring to cooperate with HLI's projected cyber TV program, he put me in contact with the communications manager of the archdiocese.

CANÇÃO NOVA TELEVISION

I was **interviewed for over one hour at the Canção Nova television station** by Professor Felipe Aquino, a very orthodox writer and speaker and author of several books on Catholic apologetics. *Canção Nova* is an **international Catholic channel, the largest in the Portuguese-speaking world**, broadcasting from both Brazil and Portugal via satellite and internet. Professor Aquino had already interviewed me in 2008 and has made his program available to me whenever I visit Brazil.

The interview was broadcast live, and shortly thereafter, I started receiving emails from different people interested in the work of HLI. Worthy of note was an email from another Catholic television station, *Século XXI* (21st Century), offering me an interview when I return to Brazil.

THE SEMINARY OF ITAPECERICA DA SERRA

I was driven to São Paulo to address the 100-plus seminarians at the national seminary of *Itapecerica da Serra* on Friday. The same topic of “De-Christianization and the Catholic Counter Revolution” evoked a great interest among priests and seminarians. A whole new group of young men **pledged to join Seminarians for Life**, alongside the others who had already committed themselves last year when I visited the seminary.

THE “MARCH FOR LIFE” IN SÃO PAULO

On Saturday morning, the sun shone brightly in São Paulo. It was a hot summer day that matched the enthusiasm of the some 5,000 people, who took to the streets of the largest city in South America. They were marching towards the *Praça da Sé*, the heart of the metropolis, where various presenters were speaking in front of the great São Paulo Cathedral. Plenty of music animated the event, as is wont to happen whenever Brazilians get together. Bishops, priests, congressmen, teachers, pastors, scientists, doctors, people from virtually all walks of life spoke at the event.

Pro-life bloggers asked for interviews, and a group of young pro-life activists literally begged for a meeting.

After a very animated exchange of information, the young activists pledged to work with HLI in any project we may organize in Brazil. They showed a very clear understanding of the crisis in the Brazilian Church, notably the systematic silence on contraception, chastity, and faith education in many politically-correct parishes.

I also met a group of teachers who invited me to address a series of public talks in São Paulo on the occasion of my future visit to the country. I do not quite know how to meet so many requests, but this is the ideal kind of problem for HLI to solve – too many requests and offers of assistance to work for the Gospel of Life.

When I boarded the airplane back to the States, I was absolutely exhausted after a non-stop marathon of talks, interviews and contacts. Nine out of 11 hours *en route*, I simply slept.



Raymond de Souza addresses 5,000 people at the São Paulo March for Life.

The Culture of Life is very much alive in Brazil – no pun intended – and **HLI affiliates there have a great role to play to defend it**. I feel privileged indeed to be part of this fight, as the program director for Portuguese-speaking nations for HLI.

Be on the lookout for an upcoming projected series of programs on HLI’s website (www.hli.org), which will undoubtedly assist the pro-life work in a more consistent and dynamic way, linking together the efforts of HLI’s 100-plus affiliates the world over. May Our Lady of Guadalupe always guide us in our struggle for the Gospel of Life. 卍

MISSIONARY TRIP TO ETHIOPIA—Reported by Joseph Meaney, May 2010.

Africans frequently think of Ethiopia as an ancient biblical land whose Christianity goes back to the *Acts of the Apostles*. Many, also, are proud of having successfully resisted colonization, except for an Italian interlude from 1936-1941. Americans, on the other hand, tend to recall the heartbreaking famine images on their television screens from 1984-85. Less well-known was the “Red Terror” caused by the Derg military regime after they overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974 and created a Soviet-backed Communist state until 1991. Their collectivization of agriculture and other Marxist policies, including spending 46% of Ethiopia’s revenues on the military, was what helped transform a severe drought into that terrible famine in the 1980s. Such **extreme suffering and impoverishment created a vulnerability** in Ethiopia that has been seized upon by abortion and contraception-promoting workers from the Culture of Death.



700 ABORTIONS A DAY IN THE CAPITAL CITY!

Human Life International (HLI) is desperately needed in Ethiopia. They are literally besieged by the abortion-promoting forces. The legislature legalized abortion in 2005, and since then, Marie Stopes International opened a floodgate of preborn baby killing, as they aggressively expanded their activities in Ethiopia. We were told that each of the ten Marie Stopes centers in the capital city of Addis Ababa alone do an average of 70 abortions a day! **How diabolical**, I thought, when Ethiopians told us that young men harass women walking by the Marie



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Stopes center located next to the Catholic cathedral with **offers of cheaper abortions** done in the private offices of doctors... God have mercy on them. The huge number of children being aborted is impossible to know in this greed-driven unregulated industry.

Faced with this immense crisis, HLI is so grateful for Fr. Aloysius Mugisha, a missionary with the Apostles of Christ. This new congregation was founded in Uganda and is sending out hundreds of priests in Africa and around the world. Fr. Aloysius studied in Kenya, where he was introduced to the HLI Seminarians for Life group that Fr. Rafael Wanjohi started. **It is beautiful to see the concrete results of our “graduates” from the Seminarians for Life** program spreading the Gospel of Life wherever their priestly ministry takes them.

When Fr. Aloysius was sent to Ethiopia by his religious superiors last year, he saw how desperately they need pro-life missionaries and educational activities. He started the “Precious is Life Apostolate” and invited HLI to come for a speaking tour. Emil Hagamu, our HLI regional coordinator for English-speaking Africa, and I were very glad to respond to this invitation.



HLI Missionary Joseph Meaney (right) with Fr. Aloysius Mugisha, a missionary with the Apostles of Christ.

CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER ROLLS OUT RED CARPET FOR HLI

Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa gave us a particularly kind reception at his residence. I learned some interesting Ethiopian history from him. For instance, in the 16th century, the Ethiopian Orthodox Emperor appealed to the Pope for help against Muslim invaders. With the help of the Portuguese, the attack was driven back.

Today, **Ethiopia is calling for aid again** as innocent lives are at risk. The Ethiopian bishops have published two pastoral letters on the right to life: the first in 1999, entitled “Human Life is Sacred;” and the second, “Abortion is Destruction of Life,” which was published when the new Ethiopian abortion law was being debated. **The Archbishop gave us his blessing and encouragement to carry the message of respect for human life** throughout Ethiopia.

Fr. Aloysius organized an **HLI pro-life day with the Catholic seminarians** at the Capuchin Franciscan Institute of Philosophy and Theology in Addis Ababa. **All the Ethiopian dioceses and most religious congregations send their students to this central institution**, which currently educates 110 seminarians. The training session was a success, and the Father Rector invited us to come back any time. We added the seminarians to our English-language HLI Seminarians for Life newsletter mailing list. (Ethiopians have classes in English after finishing elementary school.)

We planned our trip to avoid the rainy season, but Mother Nature had other ideas. Emil and I had plenty of

THE PRO-LIFE WISDOM of *Fr. Paul Marx* THE APOSTLE OF LIFE

“Legality too easily becomes confused with morality, especially in our sex-permeated culture; and morality, for that matter, too easily becomes a private affair that one may not promote for fear of being thought ‘judgmental.’ Many citizens in their apathy have succumbed to the relentless barrage of pro-abortion propaganda.”



Fr. Paul Marx

— *The Death Peddlers*, page iii.

time to pray or catch up on sleep while waiting in tremendous traffic jams occasioned by cars or vans getting stuck in the mud and blocking intersections. For some reason the rains came later this year, causing havoc in already poor driving conditions.

I do have to give Ethiopia high marks, however, for strictly enforcing the rules concerning how many people can be stuffed into mini-vans. We thus avoided being crammed like sardines on the over three-hour ride south to the city of Hawassa. Along the way I saw men in the fields behind oxen and wooden plows. It felt like time-travel! Actually, the traditional Ethiopian calendar, which is still in use, is a little over 8 years behind the standard Gregorian calendar. Donkeys seem to be the main form of transportation in the countryside. Many outside observers have remarked that, with modern equipment/farming practices, Ethiopia could easily multiply their agricultural yield several times. I did see evidence that agri-businesses producing flowers for export are building huge greenhouses.

In Hawassa, **we spoke to a great group of Catholic university students. Many were shocked to learn that abortion had been legalized in their country!** They also did not know about all the population control groups that are targeting them. One thing they were all aware of was the condom. The promotion of the latex solution to the AIDS epidemic is everywhere in Ethiopia. I saw plenty of billboards advertizing the “Sensation” brand of condoms. Fr. Aloysius says that many child-vendors, who traditionally sell candies or trinkets, now walk around bus stations and other public places hawking cheap condoms.



Joseph Meaney (right) with Emil Hagamu (left) and Archbishop Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa.

CONDOMS ARE SINKING ETHIOPIA DEEPER INTO THE AIDS CRISIS

Predictably, the “safe sex” approach to fighting AIDS is proving a dismal failure. Ethiopia will soon pass the million person mark of HIV/AIDS sufferers. This makes it the 12th worst country in the world for the number of HIV/AIDS cases. **Abstinence and fidelity are not even given lip-service in Ethiopia.** Marie Stopes and DKT instead sponsor “**condom cafés**” where the friendly staff wear t-shirts, aprons and caps that promote condom use. They give free samples to their young clients.

As usual, the Catholic Church picks up the pieces after the culture of death spreads its destruction. It was incredibly moving to see the center for AIDS orphans run by Mother Teresa of Calcutta’s Missionaries of Charity. They have worked in Ethiopia since 1973, and **over 400**

children receive their loving care. Most of these kids are HIV positive, themselves. **Their parents probably bought the lie that condoms would protect them against AIDS.** Now, not only they, but their innocent children as well, are paying the price for this deception.

Father Paul Marx used to say that we should thank the Lord for living in such terrible times, as it affords us so many opportunities to do good! HLI is committed to helping Ethiopia in every way we can. It is wonderful that the **semi-narians and professors there are eager to begin receiving materials and to start pro-life activities.** Similarly, the university student groups will be a focus of our outreach, so that we can raise up young pro-life leaders. We met several medical doctors who want to start resistance to abortion among their ranks. **The nun in charge of coordinating religious congregations and Catholic schools agreed to institute chastity and pro-life programs, with our input, in their schools and clinics.**

Many Ethiopians have a strong devotion to St. Michael, so I found it easy to **distribute thousands of St. Michael the Archangel prayer cards** in English. We shall be printing them in the national language of Amharic as well. Ethiopia clearly has a tremendous spiritual battle on their hands to fight abortion.

One of our final stops before leaving was the papal nunciature. Archbishop Souraphiel sent us there to discuss the best ways to access the African Union, whose headquarters is in Addis Ababa. As many HLI supporters know, the infamous Maputo Protocol treaty came out of the African Union, although it was **crafted by international abortion promoters to change pro-life laws** in Africa. We hope to work with Catholics inside the African Union and to get pro-lifers to monitor the major meetings they hold, so that the pro-death crowd cannot insert their agenda into the documents with impunity as happened with the Maputo Protocol.

Ethiopia is a lovely country which **desperately needs our pro-life help**. Fr. Aloysius Mugisha has begun the work. He became a priest and missionary with a heart for defending God's precious preborn children, thanks to the HLI Seminarians for Life program our benefactors support. Please continue to make it possible for HLI to inspire and form pro-life missionaries! ൬

Dear friends, it is thanks to your contributions that missionaries like Fr. Aloysius can come to the defense of those threatened unborn in the capital city of Ethiopia. As you have read, *thousands* of seminarians, students, clergy and politicians have been *directly* blessed by your generous aid! Truly you are essential to the success of our mission!

God bless you always!



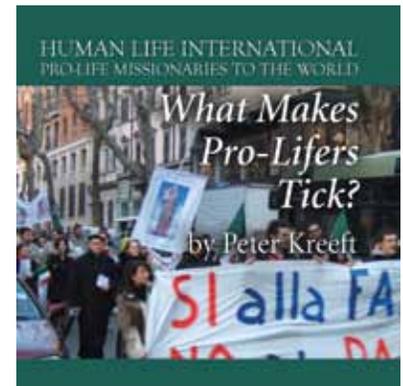
Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer
President

P.S.—This month, in appreciation for your contribution to HLI of \$49 or more, I would like to send you a talk by Peter Kreeft entitled, ***What Makes Pro-Lifers Tick?***

Why do pro-lifers fight for life? What motivates them? In this talk, Peter Kreeft lays out the **“pro-life motivational map”** through a discussion of 15 reasons why pro-life activists defend life. The understanding of a moral obligation, concern for civilization, love of women, children, the family and LIFE are all some of these motives he describes.

Dr. Kreeft explains the importance of pro-lifers knowing what motivates them for their own good and for the good of others, so they will not become despondent in the face of opposition and so they can clearly explain the pro-life message. While arguments are not the same as motivations, they are connected to each other.

Strengthen your faith as a soldier in the battle for life! **Please send HLI a contribution of \$49 or more today, and I will send you this talk by Dr. Kreeft!**



The audio CD, “What Makes Pro-Lifers Tick?” is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!