



HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL'S

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Pro-Life Missionaries to the World

Special Report No. 266

ISSN 0899-420x

February 2007

*Celebrating 35 Years: HLI was established in 1972 by Fr. Paul Marx, OSB as the "Human Life Center" in Collegetown, MN; in 1981 it was officially founded as Human Life International.*

By Magaly Llaguno and George Wirnkar

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Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

As pro-life activists, we often need reminding that prayer must have the foremost place in our missionary work. This month, Magaly Llaguno shows both the importance and the power of prayer in her report on the first international prayer for life conference, held this past October in Fatima, Portugal. Also this month, George Wirnkar reports on the devastating event that took place this past December in the country of Togo, Africa, where international population controllers literally came in and imposed anti-life laws on this pro-life culture.

**FATIMA: FIRST INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR LIFE CONFERENCE—Reported by Magaly Llaguno, October 4-8, 2006.**

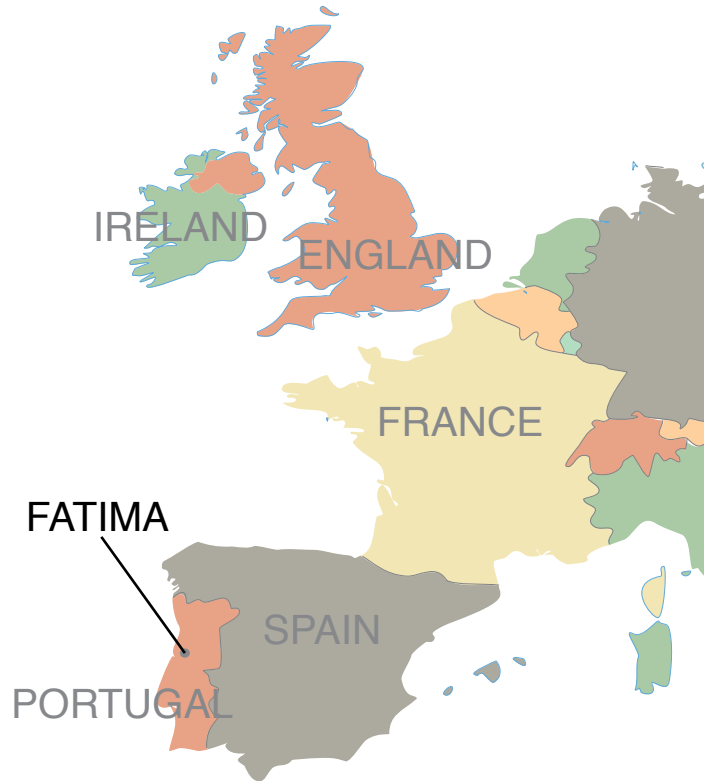
The first international prayer for life conference took place in Fatima, Portugal, October 4-8, 2006. It was organized by the World Apostolate of Fatima, Human Life International and its Austria affiliate, Helpers of God's Precious Infants, and the Pro-life European Doctors organization. The main organizer was Dietmar Fischer, founder and president of HLI Austria. The event had the support of the Pontifical Council for the Family, represented by its secretary, Bishop



Karl Romer. Among the speakers were Bishop Romer, Sister Virginia Beretta (the sister of St. Gianna Beretta Molla), Americo Lopez Ortiz (president of the World-wide Fatima Apostolate), and Msgr. Philip Reilly, founder of Helpers of God's Previous Infants. The Helpers pray in front of abortion killing centers in the U.S. and also in other countries. They also counsel women who go to those killing centers with the intention of aborting. **Through their counseling, they have been able to save many unborn babies and their moms from abortion.**

The conference was held prior to the October 8<sup>th</sup> world-wide day of prayer for life, which was called for by the World Apostolate of Fatima, and had as its primary objective to respond to Pope John Paul II's statement in "The Gospel of Life" that "a great prayer for life is urgent, which will embrace the whole world."

In June 2006, *Vida Humana Internacional* (VHI) heeded the call of Pope John Paul II. Mrs. July de Mouriño (past president of VHI's affiliate in Argentina) established *R.I.O. por la Vida* (*Red Internacional de Oración por la Vida* – International Prayer for Life Network). The many simultaneous anti-life attacks on Hispanic countries made it clear that **only with the powerful help of Almighty God can we prevent the ongoing extension of the culture of death.** When we see the great resources of the international anti-life movement in Hispanic countries (which include U.S. organizations and foundations) and the influence that the anti-life movement has at the highest levels of some government, **it looks as though some powerful demon is working to engulf the pro-life/family laws and principles of all those countries.** And that kind of a demon can only be cast out with a great deal of prayer.



When I first read about the prayer for life conference that was scheduled in Fatima, I felt called by God to attend. I wanted to tell other pro-lifers about Mrs. Mouriño and the founding of the international prayer for life network by VHI, which already has its own website in Spanish ([www.rioporlavidanet](http://www.rioporlavidanet)) and over 50 groups in many countries. On the first day of the conference, I realized that the Holy Spirit had also been moving other pro-lifers to establish prayer for life networks. In Portugal, one has existed since 1997. It was founded by Dr. Thereza Amela, who explained in her talk how the network is organized. The movement even has a "prayer kit" that is sent to every parish, which includes educational materials and pro-life prayers. I am convinced that because of that network's prayers, the referendum that was expected to legalize abortion in that country in 1998 lost by one vote. **I believe that the intervention of Our Lady of Fatima was crucial in that pro-life victory!**



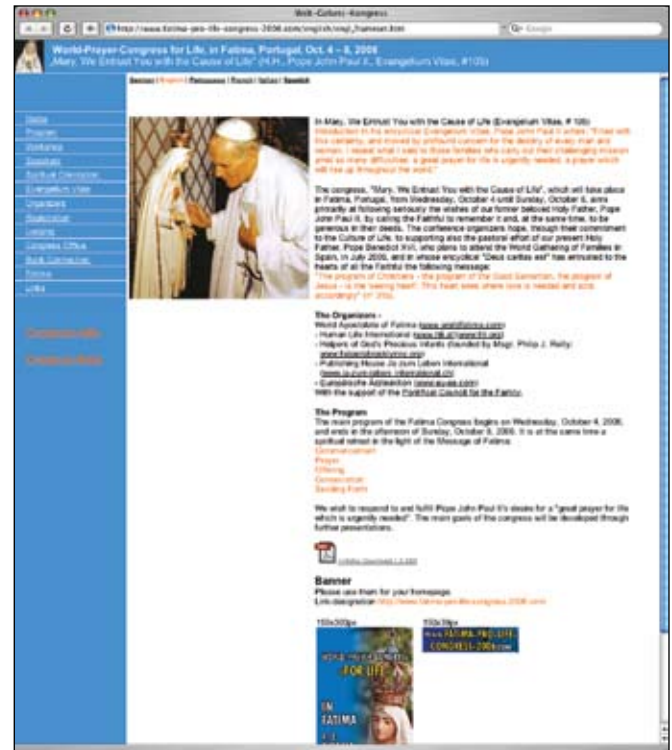
Vida Humana Internacional's *International Prayer for Life Network* has its own website in Spanish at [www.rioporlavidanet](http://www.rioporlavidanet).

**Lech Kowalewski** of HLI Poland (Central and Eastern Europe) gave an excellent presentation on the huge prayer network that has been established in that country and their countless other magnificent spiritual efforts in defense of life. ***A law that would have allowed abortions in Poland was overturned!*** And I believe it was in no small way due to the many prayers “storming” Heaven. After Lech’s talk, another speaker suggested that the second pro-life prayer conference could be held in 2007 in Cracow, Poland, the site of the Divine Mercy Shrine. I couldn’t agree more!

I was asked by one of the conference organizers to give a short talk on the power of prayer, during which I mentioned the work of VHI and its affiliates. ***I spoke about how VHI is reaching hundreds of thousands of Hispanic people through its radio programs, its website, its television series, and its educational materials.*** I explained that VHI’s greatest treasures are its affiliates in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain, who are doing an outstanding job of defending life and family, even though they have very limited resources. I also prepared a four-page report on the situation in Latin America, which was distributed among attendees. I ended my talk with a personal testimony on the power of prayer from my six-year battle with cancer. (My complete testimony is online at VHI’s bilingual website: [www.vidahumana.org/english/family/magaly-testimony.html](http://www.vidahumana.org/english/family/magaly-testimony.html).) HLI affiliates from Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, and Spain all participated in the conference. Maria de las Nieves Freira, HLI’s affiliate in Uruguay, did simultaneous translation into



*Bishops, priests, and lay pro-life leaders met for the first international prayer for life conference in Fatima, Portugal.*



*The website for the Fatima prayer for life conference, which includes some of the talks that were given, can be visited at [www.fatima-pro-life-congress-2006.com/english/engl\\_frameset.htm](http://www.fatima-pro-life-congress-2006.com/english/engl_frameset.htm).*

Spanish from English, Italian, Portuguese, and German so that Hispanics participating in the conference could understand those excellent talks.

The wholehearted support of our Catholic Church for the conference and its objectives was made present through the beautiful Masses, homilies, and a talk by Bishop Karl Romer (Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family), which encouraged and inspired those of us who attended. Among the talks were: “The Reparative Power of Suffering,” “Bl. Mother Theresa’s Concrete Response to Jesus’ Thirst,” and “St. Gianna Beretta Molla – Family Mother, Medical Doctor, Saint.” The website for the conference, which includes some of the talks that were given, is [www.fatima-pro-life-congress-2006.com/english/engl\\_frameset.htm](http://www.fatima-pro-life-congress-2006.com/english/engl_frameset.htm).

Every night we prayed the Holy Rosary (in several languages) at the Chapel of the Apparitions, which was followed by a candlelight procession. It was obvious from the religious fervor of the crowd (from many different nations), that the very real presence of Jesus and his mother, Our Lady of Fatima, was felt by all in that holy place. ***Thousands were at the plaza nightly!***





Left to right: Magaly Llaguno, Nieves Prado de Freira (Uruguay affiliate), a pro-life leader from Brazil, and Sister Virginia Beretta, the sister of St. Gianna Beretta Molla.

After the Mass (which was celebrated by His Excellency Serafim Ferreira e Silva, Bishop of Leiria-Fatima, for the conference attendees and also for thousands of people congregated in the plaza), we consecrated ourselves to Our Lady of Fatima, using the prayer that our beloved John Paul II gave us in his magnificent encyclical “The Gospel of Life.”

Fatima was the perfect place for this first pro-life prayer conference, which was entitled “Mary: To You We Entrust the Cause of Life.” A call went out from the conference, asking for prayers for the pro-life movement, the triumph of the culture of life, and the conversion of sinners. That is precisely the message of Fatima! **We should all pray not only for the victims of abortion and for those who defend life, but also for all who are involved in promoting the culture of death around the world.**

In one of his inspiring talks, Monsignor Reilly (founder of Helpers of God’s Precious Infants) told us that we will never win pro-abortionists over to our side except with kindness and love and through the power of prayer, because only God can change hearts. How very true that is!

Let us pray to God that this international prayer for life conference in Fatima will light the fire of God’s love in the hearts of countless people of all religions, so that they will unite in prayer.

May all of us who profess the Catholic faith entrust the cause of life to Mary, Mother of the Living, as John Paul II asked us to do in his encyclical “The Gospel of Life.” 卍

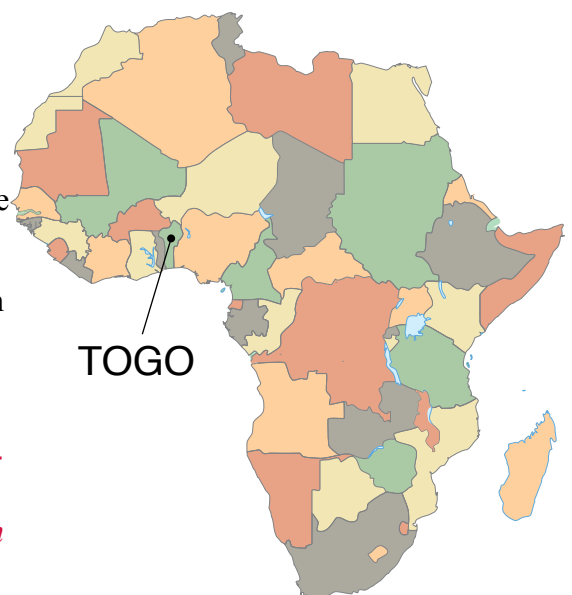
**TOGO’S NEW ABORTION LAW**—Reported by George Wirnkar, HLI Regional Director for Francophone Africa, January 7-14, 2007.

Following legislative changes in Togo’s “reproductive health” laws, by which abortion became legal under certain conditions and public advertisement of contraception is now allowed, it became necessary for me to travel to Togo.

**WHAT REALLY HAPPENED**

In the last week of December 2006, the parliament in Togo repealed certain aspects of a colonial-era law that forbade the popularization of contraception and also criminalized abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy. The colonial masters knew the social wrath they could incur on their already contested presence if they adopted any other position that would have been diametrically opposed to the traditional African view.

However, new amendments to the law now authorize abortion in cases of rape/incest, danger to the mother’s life, and in instances where there are reasonable chances of fetal deformation. This law is the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa. The nation was taken completely by surprise. **No one knew any such law was in the offing.** Parliament actually convened in December for what is traditionally a budgetary session. **They literally pulled this law out from their hats and took everyone by surprise!**



There is a general atmosphere of consternation about these changes to the fundamental law of Togo. From opinions that I've sampled in and around Lome, Aneho, and Togoville, there is no doubt in people's minds that the law was the making of organizations foreign to Togo, who are trying to impose a Western agenda. While civil society did not react in any particular way, a strong reaction from the Bishops is expected after the Bishops' Conference meeting, which is scheduled for the end of February 2007.

## WHY IS TOGO DIFFERENT?


For more than 33 years, the late President Gnassingbe Eyadema ruled Togo with an iron fist. When he died in 2005, his son Faure was imposed on the nation by the army, and it took an international outcry for a masquerade of elections to be organized. However, this simply gave him a legal basis for what he already had received by force from the army. It is therefore true to say today that Togo has been ruled by the Eyadema's Rallie du Peuple Togolesse (RPT) party from 1967 when Eyadema seized power to this day. If anything was predictable about the way he would run the state, it was that he would continue the reign of his dictator father, whom he proudly esteems for "building" Togo to what it is today.

Today in Togo, everything is seen strictly through the lenses of the party line. Priests—and not to mention politicians—who have dared to hold and make known a contrary opinion, have been promptly assassinated or forced into exile for fear of their lives. In fact, *people are so afraid of going against the grain of the ruling party in Togo that they will not even stand up and be counted on issues like the new abortion law*, which had nothing to do with contesting the powers of the president or challenging a decision made by one of his inner circle of men.


Institutions of sovereignty in Togo exist in name only. Parliament is made up of persons generally hand-picked, with sometimes embarrassingly low levels of education—no doubt most of them nod off during sessions but vote at the end of it all. They don't have to think. *The party line is the only way to vote anyway.* Organizations that promote the culture of death know there is no easier way to successfully carry out legislative change than to bring it to a parliament where members do not have the requisite educational background and are not expected to have the moral probity to take their own stance on issues irrespective of what the general party trend is. It must be said, however, that **this change in law is the result of pressure from many United Nations organizations, as well as population control organizations.**

Togo is basically a failed state, and one good thing about such political setups of that nature is that the populace see parliamentary decisions largely as the ranting of a bunch of ruling party faithful earning their fat salaries. Parliament is not largely seen as an assembly of credible representatives making laws to govern the land.

Finally, Togo is so cash strapped that if such a change in law could get into the hearts of some multilateral funding agencies, it would be considered a small price to pay. Someone even mentioned that although they would take the money, their people will not take any such law seriously



## The Pro-life Wisdom of Fr. Marx



To me it was as plain as the day in 1972 that the Church's greatest enemy was the well financed, anti life, anti family, anti Church, and anti God IPPF, the collaborating UN, the Pathfinder Fund, USAID, and the many financing foundations and governments. These organized anti lifers were spreading their poison everywhere, above all into the only Catholic continent on earth. Pitifully, the Church seemingly could never summon the resources, financial and otherwise, or the leadership to meet these powerful enemies head on and early on. (From *Faithful for Life*, pages 76 and 77.)

*Fr. Paul Marx*

anyway. Togo has been questioned repeatedly on how much of her debt cancellation has been used to “deconstruct male patriarchy,” “make women more aware of their rights,” and “work towards changing laws and policies that work against the high mortality associated with unplanned pregnancies, etc.” **These are totally foreign concepts to the Togolese!**

## THE REGIONAL STRATEGY

It would be naïve to see the recent changes made to the abortion law in Togo as an isolated legislative act. It is in fact a strategy that certain organizations, particularly International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Population Services International (PSI), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), are trying to spread throughout Africa with the support of USAID and big foundations that fund them. There was an unsuccessful attempt to include abortion in the MAPUTO Protocol by these organizations. This is now a more subtle way of getting it in—one country at a time, beginning with the weakest link.



George Wirnkar with Bishop Benedict Alowonou of the Kpalimè Diocese.

***There is no doubt that preparations on the ground in Benin, The Republic of Congo, and Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) make them look like future targets.*** In the past four months, Benin has seen a rapid expansion of well laid out family planning clinics called “Profam” across the major cities. This is backed by PSI, which is principally responsible for importing and selling condoms and injectable contraceptives all across sub-Saharan Africa. They are funded by PSI and USAID. This initiative has even franchised out to certain clinics in these cities to whom they provide funding, contraceptives, and “technical assistance.” There could hardly be any better logistical preparation than this for the day when they hope abortion might become legal.

## WHERE WERE THE CHRISTIANS?

Togo’s population is 29% Catholic and 20% Muslim. But once again, the weight of Christian numbers is not felt in these momentous issues in Togo’s history. Standing up and being counted in Togo continues to be a real problem. People fear a bit too much for their personal safety there.

## SEMINARIANS AND PRIESTS ARE HLI’S FOCUS ONCE AGAIN

Members of our Seminarians for Life group in Togo are carefully following the changes that the

recent law has brought about. They have been praying about it and discussing it during their meetings. The Seminarians in our John Paul II group in Lome, Togo, already include 10 deacons and, God willing, could have that many again added within six months. **These are the kind of people that will begin to make the kind of changes in teaching, preaching, and living that we need in order to begin turning things around.** They have requested *The Silent Scream* video for distribution at Easter time. They will also pray the St. Michael the Archangel prayer as a group and encourage other members of the community to do so, particularly during this





*Priests of Togo watch the Silent Scream with rapt attention.*

period leading up to the February 11 referendum in Portugal.

I also had a meeting with the priests of Togo in Togoville. This was a very important moment of my visit. I was accompanied by Bishop Alowonou, who graciously introduced me and also explained the work that HLI does around the world. The meeting was meant to last one hour, but it ended up lasting two hours and 15 minutes at the unanimous insistence of the priests present. I counted about 250 priests. After we watched *The Silent Scream*, a discussion followed with the great interest one would expect from priests in the situation where Togo is right now. Priests asked for more copies of the film, and the chastity education material I took with me was consumed very

rapidly. I promised to have more with me when I return. **In our meeting with these priests, we have sown the seeds from which God will provide fruit in due time.** I found the interest of the priests very reassuring, especially in their exchanges and insights. Priests spoke about the responsibility of Church members: **let the Church look at herself and see if she did not inadvertently contribute to this law by taking a back seat in Togolese socio-political life.**

#### **WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW—WITH HLI'S PRAYERS!**

We need first and foremost to continue to **support our seminarians**; then, we need to **encourage our priests**; and finally, we need to **encourage grass roots action with local pro-life groups**. We also intend to encourage the Bishops to be more vocal. They have better protection than the average Togolese, and they have a voice that carries more weight by far than any other single religious group. We have to nudge them along gradually.

Also critical to the effort is the distribution of more materials, such as chastity leaflets, prayer cards, films, etc. These find their way into people's homes and lives. **They are read, and consciences are formed.**

In the region, we will write to the Bishops Conferences, warning them of the impending legislative change and providing advice on what needs to be done. We must also send copies of these letters to the Papal Nuncios. Then we can establish a priority list of countries and visit them. These visits will be for the specific purpose of warning the Church there about a repeat of the Togo experience in their land and using this opportunity to give them the benefit of HLI's expertise and experience. ☩

***There are some very urgent needs for our Togo and Benin affiliates. To learn more about these projects, contact HLI's Bill Williams at 540-622-5285.***

Dear friends, the imposition of abortion in Togo was a surprise, **but it repeats the pattern of virtually every other country that legalizes it**: the people were never consulted or asked if they wanted abortion. Instead, they had to accept it as a fact from the will of an elite minority who have other interests than the good of the people. The political and social situation was ripe for the strategic maneuvering of the international organiza-

tions that promote abortion with American dollars.

However, even though this legislative battle was lost, we have an unprecedented opportunity to respond in time to the other French-speaking African countries and let them know that we will not sit back while African babies are threatened and killed. Your prayers and your supports are critical in helping us fight this battle, and on behalf of Africa, I thank all of HLI's benefactors for making this fight possible.

May God bless you!



Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer  
President

**P.S.—** In last month's *Special Report* I offered you my talk entitled "**The Triumph of Our Lady's Pro-life Heart**," which was recorded at the Florida Respect Life conference. This month I'd like to send you another recorded talk from that conference: **THE INTERNATIONAL ABORTION ISSUE**, by Dr. Brian Clowes.

This talk is chock-full of amazing facts, stories, and insights that give an excellent overview of the world-wide abortion situation.

**I would like to send it to you on audio CD or cassette in gratitude for your gift to HLI of \$39 or more!**

Among the many topics discussed in this talk are the following:

- ✓ The international population control groups are not only promoters of baby killing world-wide, but are also extremely **racist** in their targeting of minority groups. Brian points out, for example, that there are 5 times as many abortion mills in minority areas of cities than in non-minority areas. Then he goes on to explain the history behind why minority groups are targeted!
- ✓ **Europeans are killing themselves out of existence** by maintaining a birth rate of only 1.2 children per family (2.1 are needed for replacement). Why is this the case? For starters, 36 of the 39 European countries have abortion on demand, and these abortions are almost always paid for by the State!
- ✓ The lowest fertility rates in the world are found in Macau, China, and Hong Kong, where the total fertility rate is an incredible 0.7 children per family. That means that only 2 children are born for every 3 families!
- ✓ Although the Middle East is more pro-life than the West, even the Muslim population is flattening out, as its total fertility rate has dropped from 6.4 children per family in the 1960s to the present 3 children per family!
- ✓ Africa maintains one of the higher total fertility rates at 3 children per family, **and that is why most population control dollars goes to Africa in an attempt to hold down its population!**

This talk by Brian Clowes is an astonishing eye-opener. And **I want to send it out to you today in appreciation for your gift to HLI this month of \$39 or more.** Please send us your gift today, and don't forget to indicate on the reply form whether you would like to receive this talk in CD or cassette format!

