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By Joseph Meaney
and Dr. Brian Clowes

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- * Ireland's Total Fertility Rate Plunges to 1.7
- * HLI Takes Pro-life Message to 11 Irish Cities
- * "3-Child Policy" threatens Rwanda
- * The Pressure of Cultural and Population Suicide
- * HLI Family Entrusted to Our Lady of Kibebo
- * The Ever-Expanding Mission Field of Africa
- * The Population Problem



Dear HLI Friends and Supporters,

In this month's issue of **SR**, Brian Clowes reports on Ireland, where he, his wife Kathy, and I traveled through 900 miles and 11 cities to strengthen the pro-life resistance to the culture of death. But first, Joseph Meaney reports from Rwanda and Burundi, where he and George Wirnkar, our Cameroonian director for our Francophone African outreach, spoke to seminarians, met with bishops, and laid the groundwork for expanding HLI's missionary work to more African nations.

MISSIONARY TRIP TO RWANDA/BURUNDI—Reported by Joseph Meaney, January 28-February 4, 2008

Rwanda is a lovely, even charming place. Those were perhaps the words I least expected to write as I prepared for this trip to central Africa. Most people associate Rwanda with the horrific 1994 genocide that left 800,000 victims dead, which is 10% of the total population. What I found in Rwanda were very friendly people, living in the land of a thousand hills (*mille collines*), which is blessed with abundant rain, fertile soil, and an "eternal spring" climate that averages 76 degrees (24 Celsius) year-round. It certainly was pleasant to arrive there from frozen Northern Virginia in late January! Most of all, however, **I was deeply moved by the way our pro-life mission was embraced by the Rwandan leaders and people we met.**

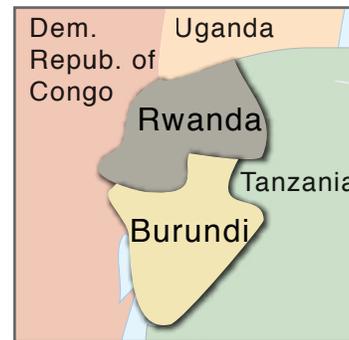
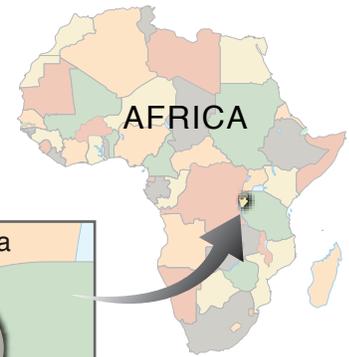


One of the most exceptional aspects of Rwanda is the rapid growth of the Catholic Church. Evangelization came late through the *Pères Blancs* (White Fathers) missionaries in 1900. Within 17 years, the first Rwandan priest was ordained. They keep a public record of ordinations, so it was easy to see that 886 Rwandans have been ordained to the priesthood so far and **33 deacons are scheduled to be ordained in 2008**. A graph of conversions showed exponential growth from zero in 1900 to over 600,000 persons in 1960. Today the vast majority of Rwandans are Catholic.

POPULATION CONTROL PROPOSED IN PARADISE

HLI's presence is especially needed because Rwanda is a small country where population control propaganda has a long history. During the autocratic misrule of various leaders following independence in 1962, **the failures in achieving economic development were blamed on "overpopulation."** These arguments also played a role in exacerbating the ethnic rivalries between the majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis. It is really incredible that a country that lost 10% of its population through mass murder as recently as 1994 should then be subjected to population control measures. Unfortunately, legislation for a "3-child policy" came up for debate in the national legislature as recently as last year.

The Catholic Church must take up the challenge to prevent the tragedy of the conquest of their country by the culture of death. As part of their response, the Rwandan bishops wrote a joint letter to the government when lawmakers were considering ratifying the terrible Maputo Protocol of the African Union. The result was positive in so far as the legislators made pro-life reservations to article 14 of the protocol on "Health and Reproductive Rights," which calls for the legalization of abortion and all forms of birth control. Nevertheless, **the proponents of killing preborn children and contracepting/sterilizing the country are actively working**, which is why HLI's offer to help has received such a warm welcome from Church officials and organizations.



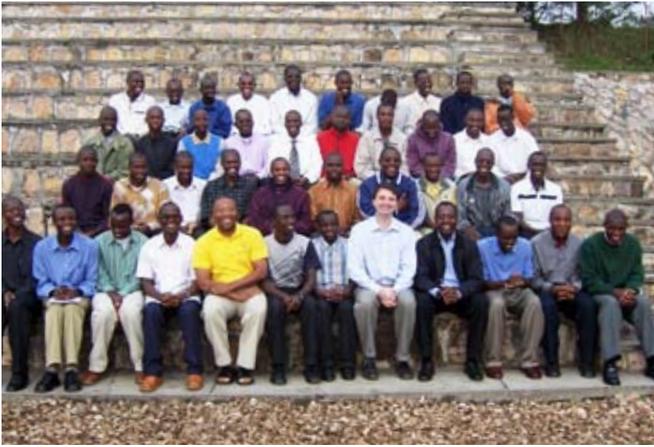
George Wirnkar, our Cameroonian director for Francophone African outreach, and I met with Bishop Kizito Bahujimihigo of Kibungo, who is charged with defending the family by the national bishop's conference. He is all too aware of the flood of foreign money and pressure being applied to Rwanda to follow the industrialized nations of the world down the path of cultural and population suicide. We also learned of a beautiful example of the Church standing up for its flock. At a meeting with the minister of health, the government presented the bishops with a prepared text that called for condom use and immoral family planning and asked for their endorsement. They steadfastly refused and pointed out that the meeting invitation asked for their input on campaigns to fight AIDS etc., and they wished to discuss pro-chastity measures but would not rubber-stamp immoral or anti-life propaganda. The official was actually shamed into admitting that he also personally opposed these immoral campaigns, but he was doing the bidding of international donors. It reminded me of a strikingly similar event in Mali as related to us by the Archbishop of Bamako.



George Wirnkar, Bishop Kizito Bahujimihigo, and Joseph Meaney in Kigali, Rwanda.

SPEAKING IN RWANDA'S SEMINARIES

We had a tight speaking schedule at the two major seminaries in Rwanda. Our first stop was at Kabgayi, where **164 seminarians** study. The



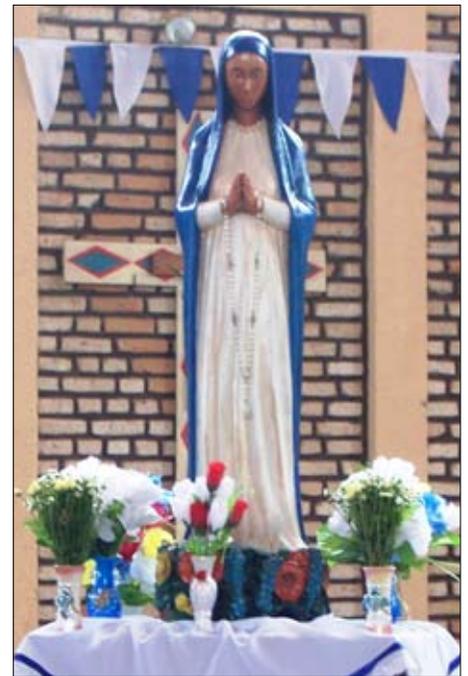
Seminarians for Life group in Kabgayi, Rwanda.

group there is excellent, and we had a lively discussion about the pro-life apostolate of priests and the Church. The very next day we journeyed to Nyakibanda and its **186 seminarians**. I was struck by the beauty of the chapel and other brick buildings constructed in the Flemish neo-gothic style. The Seminarians for Life International group there gave us the happy news that they are translating the pro-life papal encyclicals *Humanae Vitae* and *Evangelium Vitae* into Kinyarwanda—the national indigenous language. They also requested that HLI create an Internet site where pro-life seminarians can exchange ideas and information. We plan to implement this excellent idea soon.

OUR LADY OF KIBEHO

George and I could not leave Rwanda without making a pilgrimage to **the Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho**. This place of apparitions of the Virgin Mary was recognized as authentic by the Church in 2001. Just before going, I read the *Wanderer* article on the November 28, 2007, Mass celebrated at Kibeho by Ivan Cardinal Dias, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and attended by 50,000 persons. ***Some of the attendees walked there from over 100 miles away!*** This made me reconsider complaining about the bone-jarring 28 kilometers of bad roads on our pilgrimage. The shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows of Kibeho is a peaceful, rural place. The apparitions took place from 1981 to 1989, and one of the three visionary girls was killed in 1994. **Our Lady of Kibeho warned that the world was heading toward an abyss and showed one of the girls visions that were later tragically realized in the genocide.** We prayed for all the members of the HLI family in the shrine chapel and asked for strength as we continued on south to Burundi.

Despite many similarities to Rwanda in ethnic composition, climate, and geography, Burundi is in a radically worse situation. Taking bribes is not tolerated in Rwanda, while it is a way of life for police



The Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho, Rwanda.

officers and others in Burundi. I counted 205 soldiers spread out in small groups along the road to the capital-Bujumbura. While most goods are in short supply, AK-47 assault rifles and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) signs are plentiful. **At the border, we were greeted by a billboard depicting a truck inside a condom**—a not so subtle message to drivers.

The papal nuncio to Burundi met with us and confirmed our impression that **the country is being over-run by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the UN**. He also said that the

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bishops are very interested in getting help to spread the respect life and pro-family message. Natural Family Planning is something they want to teach widely. He informed us that Bishop Joachim Ntahondereye of Muyinga, who is in charge of the family office, was visiting the capital and would be glad to see us. Bishop Ntahondereye made the exciting suggestion that we arrange to return and do a multi-day seminar for all the bishops of Burundi, vicar generals, and seminary rectors.

Our other Episcopal contact in Burundi was with His Excellency Bishop Jean Ntagwarara of Bubanza. He and George became good friends after his December 2006 visit. We had a great discussion about defending their national pro-life culture and left a large number of books, videos, and other pro-life materials for seminarians and others, as we had done in Rwanda. On the way back, we had to share the road with herds of cattle and men transporting large stalks of bananas on bicycles. More ominous was the whispered warning we received that rebel troops lurked in the woods nearby.



Bishop Joachim Ntahondereye of Muyinga and George Wirnkar in Bujumbura, Burundi.

MORE PRO-LIFE GROUPS JOIN WITH HLI

George Wirnkar flew straight back to Cameroon from Burundi, but I returned to Kigali, Rwanda, with our driver Felix on the one-lane “international highway.” The reward for backtracking was a meeting with Dr. Therese Nyirabukeye. She is a remarkable Catholic leader who graduated from the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Rome and then helped found the Francophone section of the same institution in Benin. Now she works with the *Fédération Africaine de l’Action Familiale*. **This African Federation for**

the Family is active in 26 nations. They do excellent work, and we are looking forward to joining their efforts. I also met with the leaders of the *Jeunes Témoins du Christ*. This youth group spreads the Gospel and has contacts with a dynamic pro-life missionary priest from France, Fr. Daniel-Ange. They evangelize with the chastity message among the young people, especially around St. Valentine’s Day.

On the 22-hour trip back to wintry Virginia, I reflected on how, despite its short duration, our pro-life mission to Rwanda and Burundi accomplished a great deal. We spoke to our seminarians for life and the key bishops who are leading the Church’s proclamation of the culture of life. Most excitingly, we laid the basis for expanding our mission field to several new African nations. ✠

MISSIONARY TRIP TO IRELAND—Reported by Dr. Brian Clowes, August 31-September 9, 2007

England Says “The Curse of Cromwell Be Upon You” — Again!

One of the most distinct characteristics of the Culture of Death is that it cannot tolerate purity or holiness—*anywhere*. It does not matter how much it corrupts or destroys. If there is a bastion of Faith and virtue anywhere, the Culture of Death is compelled to attack it. The Devil

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

I heard a renowned Jewish psychiatrist emphasize that, while no one ever fully faces reality—that would be too uncomfortable—we are psychologically healthy to the extent that we confront the realities of our lives. As T.S. Eliot observed, “Mankind cannot tolerate much reality.” So in both the natural and supernatural dimensions of human life, it is ever the facing of truth that makes us free and brings us peace of mind.



Fr. Paul Marx

— *Faithful for Life*, page 21.

knows well that **as long as a nation inspires others to attain a greater degree of holiness, it greatly hinders his progress on earth.**

Satan has certainly done a hatchet job on Ireland, once known as the “Land of Saints and Scholars.” At one time, the Emerald evangelized the entire world with its priests and theologians, but now, due to the homosexual priest scandal, it has barely enough priests to care for its own parishes. In November 1995, after an intensive campaign by foreign anti-life organizations, the Irish people voted for divorce by about **one-half of one percent** of the total turnout. This was good enough for the Devil, **and now Irish divorce levels are skyrocketing, with continued agitation by anti-lifers to remove what few restrictions remain.** And, as always, pro-abortionists have used fabricated sob stories and the “hard cases” to sway the sympathetic hearts of the Irish and have agitated for more and more exceptions.

In 1992, an unmarried and pregnant teenager threatened to commit suicide if she was not given an abortion, and three years later the Irish people gave women the “right to travel” to the United Kingdom to get abortions and the “right to information” about abortion. The Irish Family Planning Association—an affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation—immediately did all it could **to ensure that Irish women could kill their preborn children as easily as possible,** and they went so far as to advertise their services on stickers they plastered in women’s restrooms.

Since 1995, English abortionists have killed more than 75,000 Irish babies, exceeding Cromwell’s wildest dreams. The Irish used to say to their enemies, *malacht Cromail ort*, or “The curse of Cromwell be upon you.”

It seems that Cromwell is back with a vengeance in the form of English abortionists who are killing more Irish than the “Lord Protector” ever dreamed of—and also in the guise of Irish politicians who obviously could not care less about the lives of the poor and helpless.

As always, the Culture of Death hides in the background as it does its dirty work, and the great majority of people are completely unaware of its activities. This was my second trip to Ireland this year, the first being in January to Tralee in County Kerry. I interviewed two pro-life Ukrainian medical doctors, Vadym Lazaryev and Vladymyr Ischenko, who had exposed the newborn and late abortion organ-trafficking network in Eastern Europe and who had almost been murdered because of their exposé.

I also talked with Kathy Sinnott, an Irish Member of the European Parliament, who revealed that Ireland hopes to be involved in biotechnology in a big way and that **the morality of such activities is completely irrelevant to the Irish government:**

We have developed pharmaceuticals as our leading export in Ireland. Our government brings in pharmaceuticals [corporations] and tells them that they can do what they like. They like their companies to feel comfortable here, and if they want to do [fetal] tissue research, our government is not going to ask too many questions. In 2001, the head of the research board for the government, Bruce Barrington, said that we really have to get over our opposition to things like embryo research and cloning. In other words, we have to get over our ethical problems and get on with the real business of making money and attracting pharmaceutical companies and frontline research.

God has blessed the Irish for centuries, but it appears as if that blessing might be diminishing, because the Irish are joining the rest of dying Europe in their refusal to reproduce.



In order for a developed nation to merely maintain a steady population, the total fertility rate, or TFR, must be 2.1 children per woman. In the early 1970s, the Irish TFR was a healthy 3.8. **In just three short decades, it has plunged to a disastrous 1.7, and it is projected to fall much lower.** According to the United Nations, the Irish population will continue to rise slowly, but this is due almost entirely to massive immigration.

HLI'S 2007 MISSION TO IRELAND

During his homily at Limerick near the beginning of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II paraphrased Matthew 16:26 when he said, **"Ireland must choose ... What would it profit Ireland to go the easy way of the world and suffer the loss of her own soul?"**

Father Tom, my wife Kathy, and I traveled to Northern Ireland on the last day of August for a whirlwind ten-day tour of the island, which repeated the Holy Father's urgent theme "Ireland Must Choose." Patrick and Therese McCrystal, who live in a beautiful farmhouse less than half a mile from Belfast International Airport, picked us up for a day of recovering and strategizing. We enjoyed playing with their kids, Francis, Sarah, Esther, and Mary (13 months) who, like most toddlers, would rather wear her food than eat it.

After a day of rest, we began an intensive tour of Ireland, **visiting 11 cities and driving nearly 900 miles in six days**, which in Ireland is saying something. We visited most of the major population centers, beginning with Belfast, Newry, Omagh, Letterkenny, and Derry, then moving South to Knock, Galway, Thurles, Limerick, Killarney, Cork, and Dublin. **During this time, we imparted the pro-life activist message to several hundred people**, including a dozen priests, a score of religious sisters—and one transvestite!

Our two-hour presentations focused on the necessity of prayer, the basics of pro-life activism, and the need to get involved before Ireland sinks even deeper into the mire.

Aidan Gallagher, head of HLI-Ireland, began each of our presentations with a short summary of the current situation. He stressed that **the tiny Irish population of just four million was fighting to protect itself from the corrosive secularist influence of the rest of Europe with 100 times as many people.** He spoke of the direct UK attempts to force Ireland into line to commemorate the 40th anniversary of abortion on demand, which has killed seven million English babies alone. Aidan also outlined several attacks on the decency and innocence of children, especially through explicit sex education, contraception, and the provision of the abortifacient morning-after pill to girls down to 11 years of age. He concluded with a summary of HLI-Ireland's many activities and its cooperation with other Irish pro-life groups that are doing so much good to stave off the Culture of Death, and finally asked everyone to get involved in one way or another.



Father Tom giving his 'Ireland Must Choose' talk to the audience at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Newry.



Patrick McCrystal—former HLI-Ireland Director—with this wife Therese and their children, Sarah, Francis, Esther, and Mary.

Father Tom and I then rounded out the presentation by emphasizing prayer and the demographic situation, thus

giving both the eternal and temporal perspectives of the fight. The main point we tried hard to get across was that the Devil never sleeps, and that he is especially energetic when attacking a nation that has a tradition of holiness.

We told the Irish that most American pro-lifers have at least some Irish blood flowing in their veins and that if Ireland went down to defeat, it would be a devastating blow to our morale.

During our whirlwind tour of Ireland, we also had a chance to visit Dr. Rita O'Connor's Majella Life and Education Centre in Limerick, and I had a chance to catch up on the Eastern European baby organ-harvesting situation with Dr. Vadym Lazaryev in Cork.

Father Tom, Kathy, and I even had our photos taken next to signs that announced that we were entering the town of Tipperary. It isn't such a long way after all. We frequently saw tiny villages with enchanting and fascinating names such as "Blackskull" and "Watergrasshill." I also saw many advertisements for the Guinness Beer Corporation and its fine products. The company sponsors many sports events, including hurling contests in Ireland. It looks like the Irish can make a sport out of anything.

THE GRAND FINALE

We wrapped up our grand tour of Ireland on September 8 at the beautiful Royal Dublin Society (RDS), a vast complex centered around a full-sized horse racing track. The theme for this conference was the same as for the tour: "Ireland Must Choose."

We had a truly great lineup for the several hundred people who attended, and almost every Irish pro-life group was on hand, selling their materials at tables in the conference rooms.

Once again, Aidan Gallagher opened the program and emphasized what Pope John Paul II said nearly 30 years earlier: *that the Irish must rise up or the snakes will certainly be back in force.* Father Tom gave a presentation on the demographic situation and the threat posed by the international "family planners," and he was followed by talks from two women who had had abortions.

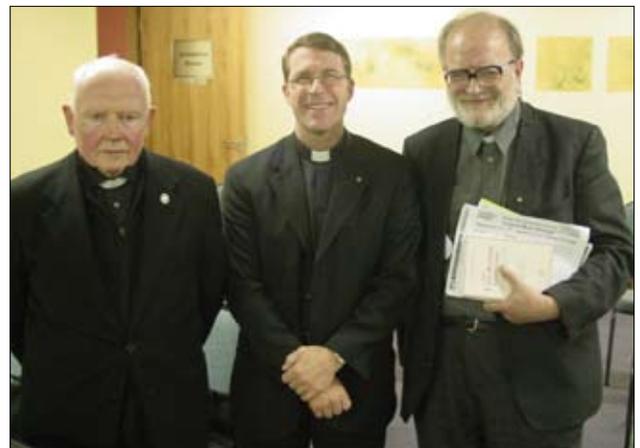
Father Harvey, the founder of Courage, talked about how to help people with same-sex attraction remain chaste. (That day was the 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination!) Perhaps the most popular talk was by Dr. Tony Levittino, a former abortionist, on the duty to speak up for the preborn.

Patrick McCrystal, a pharmacist and former Director of HLI-Ireland, spoke on the abortifacient nature of some so-called "contraceptives," and Fathers Gabriel Harty and Killian Byrne followed with powerful presentations on the power of prayer with a focus on the Rosary.

We wrapped up the "Ireland Must Choose" tour with Mass and a consecration of all of Ireland's pro-life organizations and workers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. ✠



The Majella Life and Education Centre in Limerick, Ireland.



Father James Murrow of Humanae Vitae House in Scotland, Father Tom, and Father Michael Kelly after the talks in Knock.

Dear Friends, we must pray for the Irish as they have prayed for us, not only in Ireland, but all over the world. Not many people have as strong a national identity as the Irish, and this identity has always been oriented around Faith and family.

But this will not last if the anti-lifers have their way. They are following the same predictable and devastatingly effective strategy in Ireland that they have in more than one hundred countries all around the world: First permissive sex education and divorce, then contraception, then abortion exceptions and abortifacients for girls as young as possible, then abortion-on-demand.

As we emphasized repeatedly at every stop on our tour of Ireland, ***abortion is a thousand times harder to get rid of than it is to stop it from gaining a foothold in the first place.*** Irish pro-lifers have a great advantage in that they are organized, and they have been warned.

Pray that they can muster the strength and determination to hold off the Culture of Death until sanity returns to the world.

God bless you always!



Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer
President

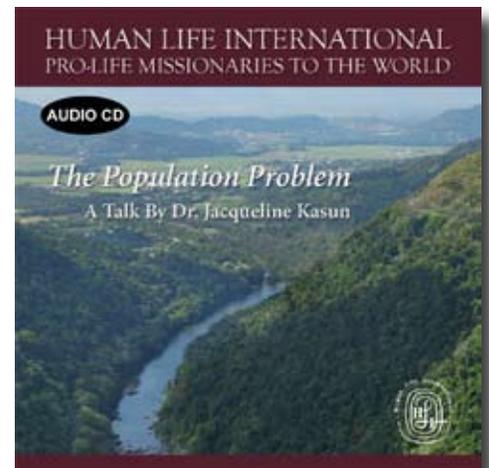
P.S.—This month, I'd like to send you a very informative CD talk on the dangers of the population control movement in appreciation for your gift to HLI of \$49 or more. This talk, entitled **THE POPULATION PROBLEM**, was given by Dr. Jacqueline Kasun, a professor of economics and an author and researcher for over 45 years.

Popular opinion is that science supports evidence of a crisis of overpopulation and environmental degradation, which supposedly threatens the very existence of people around the world. As Dr. Kasun reveals in this talk, ***nothing could be further from the truth!*** This CD talk will arm you with the ammunition you need to refute the overpopulation myth and fight the population control movement. You will learn important facts like:

- ▶ Everyone in the world could move to the state of Texas and be able to live in the amount of space a person gets in the average American household.
- ▶ Only 1% of the earth's land surface is occupied by people.
- ▶ Fertility in Europe and the U.S. is below replacement level.
- ▶ World Bank projections of global population peaking at 10 billion would mean that people may take up an entire 2% of the land surface of the earth and use 1/5 of it for crop production!

Knowledge is so important in the fight for truth. That is why I'd like to send you this CD talk—so you can know the truth and reveal it to others before the extreme population control and environmental movements advance further in their quest to degrade the value of the human person. As Dr. Kasun said, "People are not pollution."

Please send your gift to HLI of \$49 or more, and let me rush this CD talk out to you!



The Population Problem, by Dr. Jacqueline Kasun is our gift to you this month in appreciation for your financial support of \$49 or more!