



LOVEMUSTACT

Partnerships for Sustainable Education

*"Love Must Act as light must shine and fire must burn."
-Fr. James Otis Sargent Huntington, OHC*

Coming Home



We recently moved to be closer to family. My children and, most particularly, my granddaughter, live in Lexington where I was bishop until 11 years ago. Suffice it to say I'm not moving again until it's time to go to the nursing home. But that's another story.

One of the fun challenges has been furnishing my study. I had most everything I needed already. Except a desk. So, I began to look for one.

I had what I wanted already in mind. I hoped to find something like the desk in my diocesan office. It was a cherry writing desk with leather inserts. I tried ordering something online. That was a disaster. I returned it.

Then I began looking in second-hand stores. Finally, I found something, which though not exactly what I wanted, was close enough. It was dark brown, no leather. That can be compensated for with a blotter. It was in a writing style, however. I bought it and had it delivered. To tell you the truth, I was perfectly happy with it. One doesn't always get exactly what one wants, after all. I stopped looking for the "perfect" desk.

Then one day Ginger and I went to a second-hand store just to see what they had that was interesting and that might go nicely in our new home. I saw it in the window as soon as we parked. It was a cherry desk. When I got closer, I could see it was a writing desk. And when I got inside, I saw it had leather inlays. Perfect.

But I already had bought a desk. Being a pretty practical person, I decided not to buy it. But I continued to think about it. One of my mother's rules to keep me from insisting on impulsive purchases as a child was to insist I wait and see if I

still wanted something the next morning. Usually, I'd forget about whatever it was I thought was essential to life the day before. I continued to think about the desk, though. Indeed, I thought about it for several days.

Finally, I decided to do something extravagant and buy the "perfect" desk. After all, Ginger wanted a desk, too, and she could have the first one I bought. I called the store and the desk had not been bought by anyone else. With relief, I purchased it right then and there. I got a friend to pick it up and bring it to our place.

When it arrived, I started transferring stuff from the first desk to the perfect one. When I started putting things in the center drawer, I noticed that there was a key to the desk's lock taped to the bottom of the drawer with a tag on it. I looked at the tag. It read, "Bishop's Desk."

The "perfect" desk was not only like my old desk, it was my old desk—the very same one. It's like it had come home.

But what really happened is that I had come home. Partly I'd come home to Lexington, the longest place I ever lived. Partly I'd come home to Lexington because the granddaughter is here. But partly I'd come home to doing what I love. The desk is a reminder. I loved being Bishop of Lexington, but even more than that, I found something important about myself while I was. I found out that God's treasure is the poor, and God has graciously shared that treasure with us.

It was around that desk that the idea for Reading Camp, a program to address illiteracy by helping children significantly behind in reading ability get caught up, was first shared. It was from that desk that I could go outside and attend "Church Under the Bridge," to which the homeless were invited. It was at that desk that I heard about how one of our smallest churches had taken over a food pantry ministry after a much larger church gave it up. It was at that desk that one of the most committed priests I have ever known told me about plans to build an outreach center to facilitate outside groups coming to help with home repairs at one of the poorest communities in our diocese. I got a phone call at that desk inviting me to come to one small church's community meal, something they had started to provide hospitality to people who ran out of food stamps at the end of the month. That desk had everything to do with introducing me to God's treasure, not so much because of what happened at it but because of its call to send me out from it.

The desk is now in my office again, and it is the location for more of what it was before. Supporting educational work is, as Nelson Mandela said, the most effective tool to change the world. I spend my time at that desk now working toward supporting Holy Cross School in Makhanda, South Africa, Love Must Act's first project. It was around that desk that Love Must Act's partnership with St. John Eye Hospital for the Ophthalmic Nurse Specialty Training Program was conceived and took shape. And it is that desk that continues to send me out to engage—to South Africa, to Gaza, and to invite Americans to partner with us. The desk reminds me what's important.

It wasn't the desk coming home to me, it turns out. It was me coming home to it.

Agape,

H. Stacy

Bishop Stacy Sauls
Founder and President

Bishop Sauls' weekly reflection appears on our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

Country Fair!



As was formally customary--like so many other things, pre-COVID--Holy Cross School usually kicked off the year with an annual Country Fair.

Well, once more, in a step towards normalcy, Holy Cross School was able to have Country Fair 2022 to kick off the school year!

All had fun, food, prizes, and family time! Please enjoy a few snapshots of the day!



It's All About the Relationships

We are always on the lookout for ways to build relationships between the children of Holy Cross and partners in the United States. Two of our young adult volunteers, Anna Walsh and Ryan Lehmann, came up with a simple idea—pen pals. As a result, the relationship between the children of Holy Cross and Trinity Church, Rochester, has grown. This past Christmas Season, Trinity Rochester raised over \$5,000 in cash and in-kind! This money has gone towards school necessities and is deeply appreciated. We would like to personally thank every pen pal, donor, and parishioner at Trinity. And a special thank you to all of the financial contributors:



- Paul and Linda Pompili
- Wade Family
- Pam Fitzmorris
- Cathy and David Smith and Michael and Katelyn Quartuccio
- Gary and Joan Petroske
- Gayle and Brooks Schneider
- Dorothy and Bob Romanet
- Lynn and Joe Ringholtz
- Michelle and Pasquale Tomasetti
- Julie and Matt Walsh
- Dick and Barbara Deming

- Michael Cone
- Dottie and Frank Vassalo
- \$3,000 Grant = 7th-grade classroom

"Come and See" *Jn. 1:39*

As John tells the story, a group of John the Baptist's disciples were standing by and saw Jesus. After John's build-up, they were more than a little curious. Jesus asked them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (translated as Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.'"

Love Must Act invites you to come and see where Jesus has been known to stay.

The first opportunity is to see what Love Must Act is accomplishing in partnership with St. John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. We depart on April 1, 2022, and return on April 12, having spent Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week in Jerusalem. We'll see all the pilgrimage sites but pay particular attention to the work of St. John among what its founder, Blessed Gerard, called "our Lords the sick and the poor" in the eleventh century. A brochure can [be found here](#). Please let us know if you'd like to receive a hard copy.



But hurry, there are only a few spots left! Act now!

Tornado Relief



December was a hard month for our home state of Kentucky. Tornadoes decimated multiple areas across the Bluegrass. We made an initial call for contributions, and you answered. Every little bit helps and makes a difference, and we are proud to be providing some financial assistance to those in need.

Disaster relief is not our primary mission, but we must do what we can. We are still working with Christ Episcopal Church in Bowling Green to get financial relief to those in need in western Kentucky. Christ Church is, in turn, working with St. John's in Murray, the Episcopal church nearest to the Mayfield destruction.

The job is not done yet, however. If you still feel called to do so, you can still contribute. There are two options. Checks may be made payable to Christ Church and sent to:

Christ Episcopal Church Disaster Fund
Attn: The Rev. Steve Pankey
1215 State Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Alternatively, gifts may be made to the same fund through our or Christ Church Bowling Green's online portal found below. We pledge that 100% of donations made will be forwarded to Christ Church to help with the horrific need of our neighbors.

Thank you. We know how much you care.

With love,

Bishop Stacy Sauls

**Love Must
Act**

**Christ Episcopal Church, Bowling
Green**





Top: Christ Episcopal Church Parishioner Karen Adams
Bottom: Christ Episcopal Church Parishioners Fred Siewers, Belinda Palmer, Helen Siewers

Help Love Last



Like most nonprofits, our donations are stronger at the end of the year than mid-year. We hope you might consider a gift of thanksgiving to keep the work going. Gifts may be made [here](#) or by mail to:

3044 Bardstown Road, Ste. 242
Louisville, KY 40205-3020

Thank you.

Act Now

