



The Action Letter

“Love Must Act as light must shine forth and fire must burn.”

- Fr. James Otis Sargent Huntington, OHC

Edition 1. Volume 2.

LMA at a Glance

- **Giving**
 - During 2016, we had 29 individual donors who gave a total of \$49,050 (not bad for an organization that was one-month old!)
 - **100% of board and staff members gave**



- Facebook Response (12/1/16-1/16/17): 10,420 people reached, 13,659 total impressions

- We've Been Back to Los Angeles—Bishop Sauls and Andrew Joyce were back for a week in L.A. They had productive meetings with the Global Partnerships Committee, local supporters, and key individuals including diocesan employees, clergy and lay people.

One Month In!

The Month of January has been a busy and productive one for Love Must Act. Inside this issue of *The Action Letter* you'll find more information on our most recent achievements, on-goings, our trip to South Africa and our model school, Holy Cross, in Grahamstown.

Check Out our Website

We're online at www.LoveMustAct.org. You'll find lots more information there.

Holy Cross School:

Grahamstown, is Love Must Act's flagship model of educational and pedagogical excellence and academic achievement. Recently, our Director of Operations and our CEO spent some time in South Africa and at Holy Cross; below and to the right are some things which you should know about Holy Cross and the Educational Situation in South Africa.

The Holy Cross Student Body:

Plenty of Challenges to Getting an Education

- 88% receive government child grants
- 88% live below the poverty line
- 18% have at least one deceased parent



Providing the Support Students Need to Stay in School

- All students receive ENT, and HIV testing and services at no cost
- Access to occupational therapist and child psychiatrist at no cost
- Social services, parenting classes, crisis intervention, and pastoral care at no cost

The Impact of Love Must Act: The Measurable Results

- **In the first three years**
 - Decrease absentee rate from 10% to 2%
 - Improve student teacher ratio by 20%
 - Improve textbook availability by 30%
 - Equalize percentage of boys and girls in student population
 - Increase other marginalized groups to at least 30% of student population
 - Employ 10 persons for construction and maintenance
 - Employ 18 persons as teachers and administrators
- **In the next five years**
 - Improve literacy and numeracy rates by 30%
 - Improve standardized examination scores by 25%
 - Increase matriculation rate by 20% compared to regional average



Please [Click here](#) to hear and see a joyful representation of Love in action.



A Reflection by Bishop Sauls

Do To Others

I'm beginning to notice that I'm opening myself to readings of Scripture I hadn't noticed before. Like last week's Gospel reading. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John and immediately they left their nets and followed. I have been so struck by the immediately part, I guess because of its incongruity with my own experience, that I've been overlooking the very real possibility that immediately doesn't necessarily preclude a great deal of time Jesus had spent with the four future disciples before he got around to calling them. The notation about immediately may have other purposes than the indication of blind faith.

Similarly, I've found myself thinking a lot these days about something else Jesus taught: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Lk. 6:31) I learned the Golden Rule from a negative perspective as being about not treating others in ways you yourself would not want to be treated by them. Now I'm starting to look at it from a positive point of view—not about how I would not want to be treated but about how I do want to be treated.

In fact, it sounds a lot more like Jesus to me. Sometimes he stated things negatively, but he was much more interested in stating things aspirationally, not so much prohibiting our worst as inspiring our best.

So "Do to others as you would have them do to you" has come to sound much more like calling out my best in response to others. How would I want someone to respond to me, my quirks, my needs, my circumstances? That, then, is how Jesus would want me to respond to them.

I hope that will always inform the work of Love Must Act,

The Holy Cross Model: The Facts

ABSENTEEISM

Holy Cross: 2%

National: 10%

STUDENT TEACHER RATIO

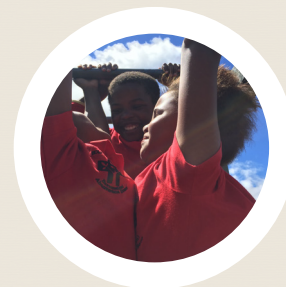
Holy Cross: 14:1

National: 32:1

STUDENTS WITHOUT TEXTBOOKS

Holy Cross: 0%

National: 30 %



to see ourselves in another's context and respond to them in a way we would want them to respond to us in the same context. If my children could not get an education that would allow them to lift themselves from the poverty they had inherited, well then, I would hope someone might come along and walk with me to find a solution. That is exactly what we propose to do, to do to others as we would want to be done to us because the truth is children living in poverty are not someone else's children at all. They are ours. Nothing's going to get much better until we see it that way.

It's more ambitious thing than not being complicit in the poverty of others. It is a call to be proactive in the way out of poverty for others.

Agape,
+Stacy



Your Support is a Blessing and a Necessity
We're all about partnerships. What we need is partners who will
share their gifts to keep children like these singing.

To make a tax-deductible contribution in your name, as a
valentines gift, or in memory of someone,
please follow the link below to our website...

www.LoveMustAct.org

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LOVEMUSTACT
Partnerships for Sustainable Education

Love Must Act operates under the auspices of Hands in Healing, a California not-for-profit corporation
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