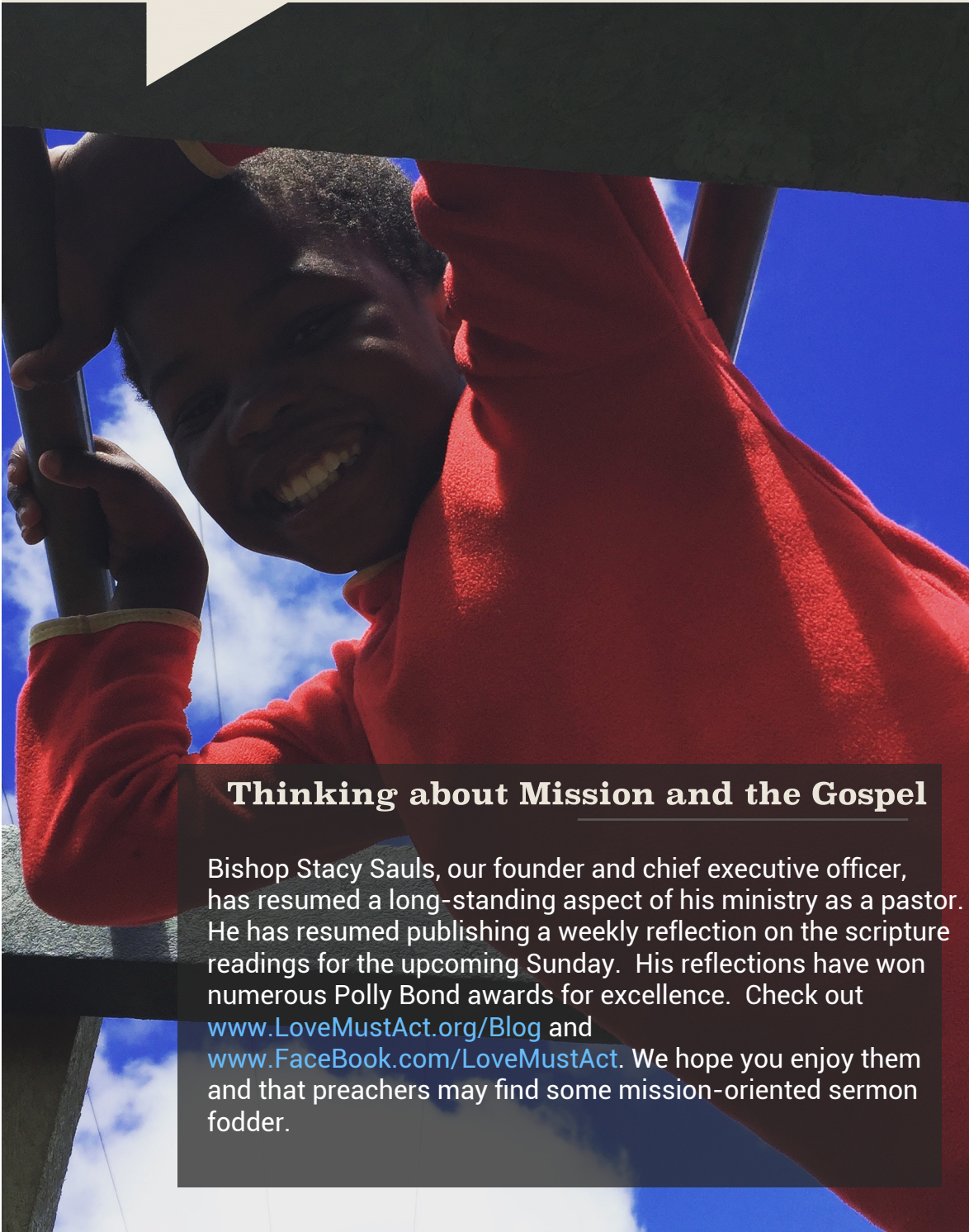




The **A**ction Letter

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

- Fr. James Otis Sargent Huntington, OHC



Thinking about Mission and the Gospel

Bishop Stacy Sauls, our founder and chief executive officer, has resumed a long-standing aspect of his ministry as a pastor. He has resumed publishing a weekly reflection on the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. His reflections have won numerous Polly Bond awards for excellence. Check out www.LoveMustAct.org/Blog and www.FaceBook.com/LoveMustAct. We hope you enjoy them and that preachers may find some mission-oriented sermon fodder.

Edition 1. Volume 3.

Love Must Act at a Glance

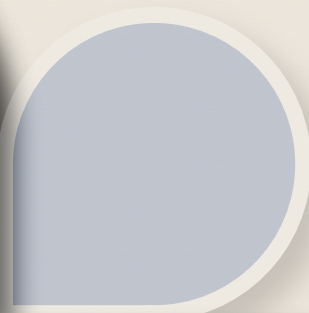
- Giving
 - We have recently secured a \$10,000 grant for our stabilization work at Holy Cross School from St. Luke's Episcopal Church Foundation in Salisbury, North Carolina. Thank you, St. Luke's!



What's Going on with the Holy Cross School: Bishop Sauls' May/June Visit



It's been a busy quarter at Love Must Act. Bishop Sauls traveled to South Africa for meetings with friends, supporters, and potential partners. He also spent a lot of time with the stakeholders, faculty, and administration of the Holy Cross School in Grahamstown. He presented some thoughts on a possible plan to school stakeholders (the Holy Cross



brothers, board members, faculty and staff, parents, and a representative of the Anglican Board of Education) immediately upon arrival. He found a well-functioning school with strong support from parents and within the larger community. The Holy Cross model succeeds because it innovates. Here's where it is on the cutting edge:

1. It is unabashedly "pro-poor,"
2. It recognizes that the student is not the only focus but the point of entry into a family;

the family is the focus.

3. It employs bi-lingual instruction (isiXhosa and English) to foster appreciation of indigenous culture and cross-cultural success simultaneously.
4. It is supported by the Anglican Church.

In addition to classes, Holy Cross students and their families receive pastoral, psychological, medical, parenting coaching, and occupational services.

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



Love Must Act Partnership Plan

We create partnerships to:

- 1 Stabilize
- 2 Enlarge
- 3 Expand
- 4 Sustain
- 5 Repeat



The Holy Cross approach succeeds where few government schools do for many reasons. One is a smaller class size (15 as opposed to 50). Another is an unambiguous commitment of teachers, administrators, and staff who are unencumbered by the South African teachers' unions. This results in a better attendance record for both teachers and, in turn, students.

Still, Holy Cross faces challenges, not the least of which are financial. Bishop Sauls spent a lot of time with the Holy Cross brothers in Grahamstown, the school administration, and the accountant pouring over budgets, financial reports, and accounts. The school anticipates a \$100,000 deficit for 2017. The current model needs help to be sustainable.

Bishop Sauls returned home on June 7 just in time to present a report on the school and its prospects on June 8 to the annual Chapter meeting of the Order of the Holy Cross at the Order's mother house in West Park, New York. He proposed a five stage approach: (1) stabilize through more rigorous management and fundraising, both locally and in the United States, as well as the inclusion of full-fee paying students within acceptable class size limitations, (2) enlarge the facility, (3) expand to a full primary school (through grade 7), (4) sustain through an annual giving and endowment campaign, and most importantly (5) repeat—take the Holy Cross model and introduce it in other locations where pro-poor education is most needed.

The Order had a full discussion over the next two days and voted to pursue a formal partnership with Love Must Act to implement the five stages of the plan. Conversations are currently underway to define details.

Love Must Act's Ongoing Engagement

- Endowment Management
- Network of Holy Cross Schools
 - Economics of Scale
 - Transformative Educational Approach
 - Service Focus is Family
 - Cultural Appreciation
 - Culture of Giving
 - Anglican



Welcome to the “Location”

The “Location” or “township” was the home to black South Africans in Grahamstown during the apartheid years. Today, it is still where many of the Holy Cross children come from. The streets are plagued with drugs, violence, and crime. The Anglican Church, St. Philip’s, once housed a school and is a possible site for a future project.



St. Philip’s, Grahamstown

It’s Never Too Early to Start Planning Ahead

One of the most encouraging aspects of Bishop Sauls’ visit was a meeting with the Anglican Bishop of Grahamstown, the Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Ntlali and his staff, who were anxious to discuss potential future projects. Bishop Ebenezer has a compelling dream of an “entrepreneur” school, which in his words, would not only produce “job seekers but job creators.” He and his team, which consisted of diocesan staff and both clergy and lay leaders from throughout the diocese, had

carefully put together an excellent plan for how such a school might operate and be adequately funded. It is an impressive piece of work indeed.

Future meetings will provide time for further exploration of the plan and how the Diocese of Grahamstown, already a Love Must Act partner, and Love Must Act might make another strategic pro-poor intervention.

Bishop Ebenezer is also fully supportive of the Holy Cross project and gave his blessing to that work.



Bishop Stacy and Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali



A Reflection by Bishop Sauls

Pro-Poor

Pro-Poor is a phrase I've never heard anywhere except South Africa. I find it creeping into my own vocabulary more and more. Somehow, it gets to the essence of the Gospel in my mind.

One thing it means to me as a Christian is a reminder of Jesus' relentless preference for people who were poor. Many of them were literally so. It was to the poor that he brought good news, after all (Lk. 4:18). He told lots of powerful (and pointed) stories about them (Lk. 16:19-31). His central preaching was about them (Lk. 6:20).

Some of them may have been more spiritually poor than literally so (Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, and a group of women from Herod's court who supported his ministry financially) come to mind. Even then, though, I wonder if his concern for the rich was mainly to introduce them to the poor, not for the benefit of the poor alone, but for the benefit of both. Still, when Jesus started talking about the poor, most of the time he meant it literally.

Being pro-poor doesn't mean being pro-poverty, of course. A lot of what passes for charity, after all, inadvertently supports the structures and systems that keep people down, to be sure. I doubt this would have pleased the Lord.

Still, there's something important about being pro-poor when it comes to being anti-poverty. I think it's a matter of outlook, of perspective, and mainly, of priority. It's really important to address poverty from the starting place of being pro-poor. The poor, after all, are people. Poverty oppresses them, but every act of justice, it seems to be, must be grounded in love. And

The Holy Cross Model: The Facts

ABSENTEEISM

Holy Cross: 2%

National: 10%

STUDENT TEACHER RATIO

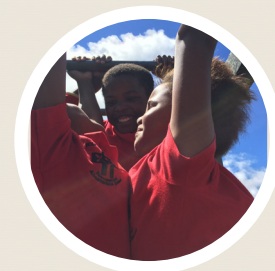
Holy Cross: 14:1

National: 32:1

STUDENTS WITHOUT TEXTBOOKS

Holy Cross: 0%

National: 30 %



love can only be directed to people. Love must find its object, the beloved, a human being. That's where the compassion comes from, which means the willingness to suffer with someone, especially voluntarily, when one doesn't have to. It emphatically does not mean to "feel badly" for someone.

Yes, poverty has to be addressed, but poverty is an issue, a thing. Its eradication is important but that in itself cannot be the object of love. It can, though, be an expression of love, love for people who are poor. The salvation is in the love, not in the issue, no matter how important the issue is. That's why it all begins in being pro-poor.

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 wedding gift, or in memoriam of someone,
please follow the link below to our website...

www.LoveMustAct.org

LOVE MUST ACT
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Love Must Act operates under the auspices of Hands in Healing, a California not-for-profit corporation
with 501(c)(3) status. Gifts are tax deductible.