

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

### O Little Town of Mayhem



My six-year-old granddaughter, Sophie, learned to tell the Christmas story this year, but with a bit of a twist. She got the part about the manger and the part about Bethlehem, but they came out conflated. So, according to Sophie, Jesus was born in Mayhem. Out of the mouths of babes.

Sophie's words have never been more true than they are now as horrific terror was unleashed in Israel and as bombs rain down in Gaza. The Massacre of the Innocents has never been made more evident.

But it is not a new

phenomenon. It is perhaps as old as humanity itself. My own suspicion is that it has been present among us since that point near the very beginning when differences in wealth and power unleashed the very worst part of ourselves on each other. We become ever more vicious in our ingenuity. The more vicious we become, the more we concoct justifications for ourselves, the more righteous in our violence to one another we profess to be.

That first Christmas certainly had its mayhem. Herod, when his power was threatened, unleashed an unthinkable massacre of children aimed at removing one child's peculiar threat to himself. It is such a vivid example and profound forewarning of what we are now facing. Violence never emanates from righteousness or justice. It comes from fear. It comes from

greed. It comes from cowardice. Herod was not a brave man. He was a frightened one.

So, what is the answer? You might expect a religious answer from someone like me, a bishop in the church, but I'm pretty sure religion in and of itself is not the answer. Religion, which means *rules*, is just a fancy manifestation of power to be exercised by those who have it against those who do not. Holy war, after all, is still war. Nor, I think, is the answer spirituality. Spirituality strikes me as just religion stripped of accountability to anyone else. Converting people to a particular religion, even my own, gets us nowhere. Neither does burying any hope of effectiveness for positive change in the mists of purported mystery.

Love Must Act is devoted to the principle that the only hope for us is in love and that love requires relationship with others and that relationship with others demands action. It requires entering the mayhem, not hiding from it, and not ignoring it. Love isn't in something you believe in your head. It isn't in something you feel in your heart. It is in making someone else's needs more important than your own. When you do, you find out they have been exactly the same the whole time. Love requires relationships, and relationships sometimes involve going into the mayhem, the one where Jesus was born. It turns out the most effective way to love ourselves comes in the loving of others. It doesn't matter what religion you name it.

Agape,

Bishop Stacy Sauls Founder and President

Bishop Sauls' reflections appear on our website and our Facebook page.

### A Report on Our Work in Gaza from the St. John Eye Hospital Group



St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group مستشفى سان جون للعيون

Hostilities in Gaza and Israel have continued for three months. Considerable damage has been inflicted upon critical infrastructure and essential services, affecting the ability of the victims of this war to maintain their dignity and basic living standards. Following a 6-day humanitarian ceasefire, hostilities have resumed both in the north and south of the Gaza Strip.

Our Jerusalem team is in communication with the WHO both in

Palestine and Egypt to ensure that the St. John Eye Hospital Group plays an integral role in the humanitarian response plan being formulated and to be implemented once the war is over or there is an extended ceasefire. The CEO and other members of the Senior Leadership Team are also in contact with our Gaza Hospital Manager to explore the most appropriate model of eye care to be employed once there is an extended ceasefire.

The impact of the war on the movement of people and goods in the West Bank continues, especially in the northern districts. Our clinical activities in Jerusalem continue at 65-70%, and 100% in Kufor Aqab Clinic. As for Hebron, clinical activities are at an almost 100% level. Outreach services, as well as the child vision screening project, are progressing very well. Clinical activities at Anabta Centre fluctuate between 30-50%.

Source: Israel-Gaza Hostilities - Weekly Bulletin - St John Eye Hospital

**Love Must Act** 

2024 2ND ANNUAL STEM CAMP



All of our 2023 STEM Camp Facilitators

2023 was the inaugural Holy Cross School STEM Camp



(Science/Technology/Engineering/Maths), organized, funded, and facilitated by 15 young adult partners from New York. Ms. Anna Walsh (left) was the spearhead and lead facilitator.

This year, we have another 14 young adults (10 returning for their second trip), a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and a returning representative of the Spencerport Public School District in Rochester, NY, joining us in Makhanda at Holy Cross School for another beautiful week of learning.

During the week, our volunteers, both undergraduate and graduate students from Universities across New York, lead our Gr.4- Gr. 7 students through intensive and new STEM technology curriculum, even robotics! I've included glimpses from last year's camp below for you, as well as a peek into this year's schedule.

We will also offer comprehensive medical check-ups for all our students and hold a pediatrics mobile mission for the broader community at a partner township school!





Emma Draper of SUNY Poly going over instructions in SCIENCE! class in relation to their DNA Gum Drop activity!

Matthew O'neil of RIT introducing the coding process for micro-robotics to HCS Students



Daniella Kata (far Left) and Rachel Williams (2nd from right) with their structural engineering students and their completed bridges!

## **2024 STEM INTERMEDIATE SCHEDULE**

Time	Grade	Monday 1/15	Tuesday 1/16	Wednesday 1/1		8 Friday	1/19			
Session 1 7:50 - 8:40	4	Physical Education	Physical Education*	Physical Education	Physical Educati					
	5	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE				
	6	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	S			
	7	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics				
Session 2 8:50 - 9:40	4	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engine	eer			
	5	Physical Education	Physical Education*	Physical Education	Physical Educati					
	6	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics				
	7	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	S			
9:50 - 10:20	4	BREAK								
	5									
	6									
	7	1								
Session 3 10:30-11:20	4	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics				
	5	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engine	eer			
	6	Physical Education	Physical Education*	Physical Education	Physical Educati					
	7	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE				
Session 4 11:30 - 12:20	4	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	s			
	5	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics	Robotics				
	6	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE	1			
	7	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engine	eer			
	4	The state of the s								
12:30 - 12:50	5	BREAK								
	6									
	7	1								
Session 5 1:00 - 1:50	4	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE!	SCIENCE	I۸			
	5	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures	Structures^			
	6	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer	Jr. Engineer		Jr. Engineer^			
	7	Physical Education	Physical Education* Physical Education		Physical Education					
Science! St		ootics Jr. Engineer +0	Notebooks will classroom the day and	will be left in the last ey visit at the end of placed into the room	ay 5 will have a few two each student to Tue	vill be split into sessions on sday for health ses with Elaina.				

Thursday afternoon - Robotics will have facilitator's workshop and Elaina will be offsite.

Medical Staff Schedule									
Time	Monday 1/15	Tuesday 1/16	Wednesday 1/17	Thursday 1/18	Friday 1/19				
Session 1	Primary Phase Well Checks	Health Class: Grade 4 Girls	Intermediate Phase	Primary Phase Well Checks	Intermediate Phase Well Checks				
7:50 - 8:40		Health Class: Grade 4 Boys	Well Checks						
Session 2	Primary Phase Well Checks	Health Class: Grade 5 Girls	Intermediate	Primary Phase Well Checks	Intermediate Phase Well Checks				
8:50 - 9:40		Health Class: Grade 5 Boys	<b>Phase</b> Well Checks						
9:50 - 10:20	BREAK	Primary Phase Well Checks	BREAK	Primary Phase Well Checks	BREAK				
Session 3	Primary Phase Well Checks	Health Class: Grade 6 Girls	Intermediate Phase Well Checks	Primary Phase Well Checks	Intermediate Phase Well Checks				
10:30-11:20		Health Class: Grade 6 Boys							
Session 4 11:30 - 12:20	Primary Phase Well Checks	Join Intermediate STEM Camp Stations	Intermediate Phase Well Checks	Primary Phase Well Checks	Intermediate Phase Well Checks				
12:30 - 12:50	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK				
Session 5	<b>Primary Phase</b> Well Checks or Free Period	Health Class: Grade 7 Girls	Intermediate Phase	Primary or Intermediate Phase Well Checks or Free Period	Intermediate Phase Well Checks or Free Period				
1:00 - 1:50		Health Class: Grade 7 Boys	Well Checks or Free Period						
After School		-	-	Off-site Clinic 3-6pm	Robotics Teacher' Workshop				

## **Holy Cross School and Love Must Act:**

### A Year in Preview

#### Q1

January-STEM Camp at Holy Cross School January-Love Must Act Board Meeting January- Holy Cross School Trust Meeting January- Calendar Sent to Friends and Supporters

January- Calendar Sent to Friends and Supporters
January- Annual Report for 2023 to be Published
February-Country Fair Day at Holy Cross School

March- New Website Published

March- Love Must Act Small Group Formation Presentation: hosted via WebEx

#### 02

April- The CEO and VP of Love Must Act visit institutional program partners in the US.

May- Holy Cross School Africa Day Celebration

June- Order of the Holy Cross Chapter Meeting in South Africa and Visit to Holy Cross School June-Love Must Act Small Group Formation Presentation: hosted via WebEx

### Holy Cross School Principal, Nicci Hayes, USA Partnership Tour June/July

Details to follow on specific dates and locations

#### Q3

July-Holy Cross School Intermediate Phase Play

August-Reading Camp: an industry-leading literacy program for 3rd/4th graders of Holy Cross School.

September- Holy Cross Day and Heritage Day at Holy Cross School

September- Love Must Act Small Group Formation Presentation: hosted via WebEx

#### Q4

October-Come and See Holy Cross Trip (in conjunction with Foundation Phase Play)

October- CEO and VP of Love Must Act to visit program partners in the US.

November-Holy Cross School Sports Day

December-LMA Small Group Formation Presentation, Christmas Pageant

December- Love Must Act Advent Devotional Series

We hope this year's preview is helpful regarding the goings-on of both Love Must Act and Holy Cross School during 2024. If you find something interesting that you would like more information on, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at admin@LoveMustAct.org



Be on the lookout for a complimentary 2024 Calendar in the mail featuring images from Holy Cross School as a way of saying thank you for all of your support!

## **Help Love Last**



We hope you might consider a gift of thanksgiving to keep the work going. Gifts may be made <a href="here">here</a> or by mail to:

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

Thank you.

**Act Now** 





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