



LOVEMUSTACT

Partnerships for Sustainable Education

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

The Greatest Gift of All: The Presence of Those We Love



Debbie L. made her 42nd appearance at the Sauls family Thanksgiving this year. Not in person, of course. Ginger and I, now "at risk" because of co-morbidities (don't get me started on that word!), kept the feast by ourselves this year, the first time since 1977 when I was in law school and she was visiting me in Charlottesville. We were, though, anything but alone.

Debbie L. was a resident in the group home where Ginger was the head counselor when we first got married. I'm sure we celebrated Thanksgiving with her that year, but we regrettably soon lost touch. Still, Debbie has always been at

our table. She always has been through the Black & Decker mini-food processor she gave us for a wedding gift in 1979. It never fails to be pulled out, even if unused the rest of the year, to chop the onion and celery for the Thanksgiving dressing. And Debbie never ceases to be remembered with fondness and love. She is present in her gift.

And just to show us how far the presence of gifts can go, she has become important to our son Matthew. Matthew is a professional chef, so I'm sure his knife skills would outshine Black & Decker's. But when Matthew is with us, if onion or celery need to be chopped, Matthew the chef takes out Debbie L.'s Black & Decker food processor and goes to work. The gift is being carried forward.

And it wasn't just the two of us and Debbie L. at Thanksgiving. My Aunt Ada was there. The family recipe for turkey and dressing, the latter being what Debbie is indispensable for, are preserved from a collection of recipes called

“Family of Friends,” which my aunt compiled and gave to us when we were newlyweds. We think of her warmly, too, and never cease to be amused by her editorial commentary, that in dressing a cup of celery is too much and 1 teaspoon of sage is optional (I use closer to half a bottle), and that the turkey rub recipe seems too strong to use more than half (I double it). And it's probably best she doesn't know I bolster the gravy recipe with suggestions from the *New York Times*. It's almost like she's with us every year. She's there in her gift to us, a gift that is warm and loving and makes us smile. I've passed the recipes on to a dear friend of mine. He seems to enjoy having Aunt Ada present at his Thanksgiving table, too, even if he's never met her.

And my cousin Jeanne is there (Matthew calls her Aunt Jeanne). She gave us a pottery bacon cooker that very cleverly lets the grease drip away from the bacon into the bottom of the pottery, thus making an equally tasty and much healthier product. We call it the Jeanne-O-Matic at our house. She's with us every Thanksgiving, as she was this year, to cook the bacon that goes in with the Brussels sprouts. And she doesn't even like Brussels sprouts! Our other son Andrew and his family have taken to borrowing the Jeanne-O-Matic sometimes. So Jeanne makes herself known by her gift every year, too, and at more than one table.

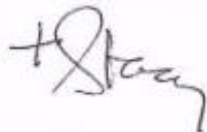
My mother was with us, too. Sadly, not in person. She's been gone a long time now, but we use her Royal Doulton china. I think she'd be pleased. It's like her gift to us makes her wonderfully present from beyond. It makes us smile.

Gifts are the signs that we are present to each other. They make us present beyond what we know or could expect. They make us present beyond what others know. And still, there we are. The stuff of life has to do with giving, it seems to me.

Many of you have given generously to Love Must Act. I think of each of you much more than you know. When children in Africa are learning English skills, there you are. When teachers have their salaries paid, you're there. There are ophthalmic nursing students and their patients in Gaza for whom you're present in the light that would otherwise not be accessible to them.

We are present to each other in gifts. It's a sacramental reality. We are known to each other spiritually in the material ways we give to each other, our ongoing symbolic presence to each other. Thank you for your presence in my life. Thank you for sharing yourself with so many.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Sauls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Stacy Sauls
Founder and President

Giving Tuesday: Being Present to Others Now and Always

We hope you'll see this season of the year, even in the midst of all we're facing, as a time to give of yourself. To be quite honest, the pandemic has made this year more than a little challenging. Your help is essential and is always gratefully received.

Gifts may be made to the work of Love Must Act online [here](#), or by check to:

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

Gifts of stock can be arranged by contacting Bishop Stacy at ssauls@LoveMustAct.org.

Holy Cross School: Moving Forward Despite the Pandemic

Holy Cross School opened back up for in-person classes in June. We've been going strong ever since with no Covid cases so far. Some class quarantines have been required when family members of our students tested positive, but so far there have been no infections at the school itself. We also have a rigorous cleaning protocol, with spot cleaning all day, a thorough cleaning at night, and a professional cleaning on the weekends. Our students wear masks, are socially distanced in class, and adhere to guidelines to keep each class from being exposed to the others. It's a pod approach.



Back in July we made an important decision. 2021 was planned to be our year to expand by adding Grade 6. We wondered if we should postpone that due to the pandemic, but it seemed a disservice to our parents and students. We decided to move forward and have been planning accordingly ever since. We've raised the funds for the teacher. We're searching for furniture now. We will not let the virus throw us off.

And we've been hiring. Principal Kary McConnachie has just confirmed the hiring of three new teachers, one in the primary phase and two for the intermediate phase. We'll be able to announce names and tell you the names as soon as the contacts are finalized.

We're excited and hope you are, too.



Come and See: Thinking Ahead to 2022

We're anxious to share our work with you in person, so we're planning two trips in 2022.

The first one will be over Palm Sunday to Israel/Palestine. We won't be able to go to Gaza, where Love Must Act works, but we will be able to share the next best thing, the work of our partner, the St. John Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem and the West Bank as well as other sights in the Holy Land. The dates are April 1-12, 2022. Stay tuned for more details soon.

We'll also be taking a group to explore South Africa in general and the relation between education and justice in particular. Dates have not been set yet, but we'll let you know soon.



We Have a New Address

Both Andrew Joyce and Bishop Stacy work from home, so our address has

been a bit of moving target. Now we have a permanent address thanks to the UPS store. It is:

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

Holy Cross School: A Place of Hope



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

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

[Act Now](#)

