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Letter from the Dean Inviting Members of the Diocese to the
Screening of Traces of the Trade

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Dear members of the Diocese of Pennsylvania,

The Philadelphia Cathedral and the Antiracism Commission of the Diocese of Pennsylvania invite you to participate in a very special community event beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24th.

In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, and to mark the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, we will be looking to the past and to the future and asking:

How do we create beloved community? Because some believe we are in a post-racial society, and some believe there is still unfinished business: what conversations do we need to have with each other? What action do we need to take in order to address the black/white divide—whether it's the disparities in life outcomes, or the disconnection and distrust that can plague us? Where are the challenges? Where are the seeds of hope? How can our faith and our values lead the way? Come to one or both parts of this two-part event.

PART 1 (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

A screening and discussion of the shortened, 50-minute version of the documentary film.

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North

Filmmaker Katrina Browne, an Episcopalian and a Philadelphia native, discovered that her Rhode Island ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins embark on a journey to retrace the Triangle Trade, from Rhode Island, to Ghana, to Cuba. They uncover the hidden history of the North's role in slavery and inspire us to take a fresh and heart-felt look at how to create repair and reconcile. Browne will be present to lead the discussion.

PART 2 (3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

A screening, discussion and ritual on how we can move forward as people of faith.

Repairing the Breach: The Episcopal Church and Slavery Atonement

This short video, also by Browne, and narrated by the Rev. Canon Edward Rodman, explores the collective effort to pass resolutions at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in 2006—resolutions to address the history and legacy of the Church's role in slavery. While national in focus, this piece will have special resonance for us in Philadelphia, as it includes an early history of St. Peter's and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, and features several church leaders from our Diocese, as well as a powerful interview with The Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold, the 25th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

The screening of the 25-minute video will be followed by discussion led by the Rev. Thomas Eoyang, The Very Rev. Dr. Renee McKenzie-Hayward, Arthur Sudler and other members of the Antiracism Commission and the History Task Force on how we might take steps to implement Diocesan Resolution R14 from 2006, which is modeled on the national slavery atonement resolutions.

We hope the spirit will have moved us so that we can conclude a special afternoon with a commissioning ritual that will send us forth into the world to create that beloved community.

Note: While the lens of this 3:30–5:00 p.m. portion will be Episcopalian, it will also be relevant to all people of

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Name * Daniel Tomko

Email * danielt@philadelphiacathedral.org

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