

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

October 28, 2013

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

As Haiti prepares to mark the fourth anniversary of the devastating earthquake in 2011, I will call the whole of The Episcopal Church to pray and give in solidarity with our largest diocese. I ask your support and encouragement for a special offering on Sunday 12 January 2014, to aid the Diocese of Haiti in rebuilding Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince.

The Executive Council has been a faithful partner in the ongoing response, beginning with a resolution in February 2010, reiterated in October 2013. They have called on all congregations, dioceses, provinces, and partners to prioritize the Holy Trinity project and to keep the people in Haiti and the recovery effort in our continuing prayers.

Many Episcopalians, particularly in the United States part of our Church, have wondered aloud about the priority of building a cathedral when a number of Haitians are still hungry, unhoused, and without funds to send their children to school. Yet the people of Haiti are asking for this Cathedral. It is *their* priority. For all Haitians, not only Episcopalians, Holy Trinity has a place in their hearts, daily lives, and worship that celebrates the God-given dignity of every human being. The rebuilt cathedral will again be a center that celebrates the gifts of God in this particular cultural context, through the arts, music, and liturgy, and offers hope to new generations. Three surviving murals will find their new home in a Cathedral chapel. The new Cathedral will anchor a vibrant corner in the heart of downtown Port-au-Prince, and announce God's active presence in the heart of a hurting world.

Kerns Group Architects has created a compelling vision of this new space, which can be seen through an Episcopal News Service article and "photos" here

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2013/10/15/architects-unveil-plan-for-haitian-cathedral/>

The fourth anniversary of the earthquake falls on the first Sunday following Epiphany, when we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. That event is the subject of one of the three surviving Cathedral murals, and its depiction might appropriately grace your Sunday bulletin and/or appear on your website. This link <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/salvaged-historic-murals> will lead you to a photograph of the mural.

The funds gathered through this offering may be sent to the Development Office at 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 with checks made out to The Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society, annotated for Holy Trinity Cathedral. Our Development Office will acknowledge all gifts in a timely fashion. I am grateful for your support of this special effort and hope that it will move us significantly closer to the day when we may commence rebuilding this sacred icon for Haiti and the world. I remain

Your servant in Christ,



The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE

