



March 8, 2022

St. Thomas of Villanova  
800 E. Lancaster Ave Villanova, PA 19085

Dear St. Thomas of Villanova,

Re: 4/3/22: "Hidden in Plain Sight: The History of Slavery and Main Line Faith Communities."

I hope that everyone at St. Thomas of Villanova is safe and well.

My name is Colin McCrossan and I am a graduate student at Villanova University in the Department of History and the inaugural scholar-in-residence for the CommUNITY Breakfast Collaborative (CBC). The CBC is a local educational organization which strives to realize Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of the "Beloved Community" through civic engagement: dialogue, education and networking, prayer and action. My research is about the history of slavery in the Philadelphia suburbs and at Villanova I work for the Rooted Project, a three-year initiative re-examining Villanova's past and its connections to slavery, segregation, racism, and gender discrimination.

I am writing to invite everyone at St. Thomas of Villanova to an upcoming CBC event I'm facilitating entitled "Hidden in Plain Sight: The History of Slavery and Main Line Faith Communities." This free event will be held virtually on zoom on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, from 3-4:30 PM.

This is an interfaith educational event where participants will learn about the history of slavery in the Main Line area and how this history is connected to faith organizations in both direct and indirect ways. St. Thomas of Villanova, like Villanova University, is directly connected to slavery because the church and school sit on land that was once owned by the white Morgan family who enslaved three Black people whose names were Chloe, Jack, and George.

During the event, I will present about the history of slavery and Main Line faith organizations then the event will take the form of conversations in zoom break out rooms. During these conversations, participants will talk about slavery with fellow participants, share their organizational histories with other attendees, and discuss the meanings of this history together.

If members of St. Thomas of Villanova are interested in participating in this event, please register at the Eventbrite link at the CBC website by going to <http://communitybreakfast.weebly.com/> or clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, email me at [cmccross@villanova.edu](mailto:cmccross@villanova.edu).

We hope to see members of St. Thomas of Villanova at the event!

Thank You,  
Sincerely,  
Colin McCrossan