

January 1, 2026

Dear Friend of Father Tolton,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting development that I pray will bear fruit for the canonization of Venerable Augustus Tolton {1854-1897} and also for the healing needed in our communities:

Perhaps you have heard of or even seen St. Luke Productions' live stage production on the life of Tolton. The stage play has now been produced into a movie, "*Tolton: From Slave to Priest*" which I recently viewed and found it both entertaining and inspiring. It's filled with music, spiritual depth, drama and even humor. I have served as an advisor with the making of the film as well as the original stage production since the very beginning and can attest to its faithfulness to the life, spirit and message of Father Tolton.

Here is a link to the movie website, toltonmovie.com where you can watch the trailer and see lots of behind-the-scenes content. I would be grateful if you would take a look at the site and sign up on the website, encourage others you know to do the same who might be interested in this pioneer priest's historical import for the Church and wider community. It is our hope that Tolton will be released to the general public this coming spring if awareness grows dramatically. If you would like to view a private advance copy of the film, let me know and I'll be happy to arrange it with the people at St. Luke's.

In any case, I'd love to hear from you and to have you join the movement to promote the Tolton movie. I trust you will find it a worthy artistic and spiritual effort.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Bishop Joseph N Perry
Postulator Cause of Augustus Tolton