

Dear Brother Knights,

The purpose of this correspondence is to calm fears that KofC members who attend St. Charles Borromeo Parish will be required to switch membership to the planned establishment of a Borromeo Parish based Council. First, I wish to be transparent in my efforts to convey to everyone the course of events that have led to such a situation. Secondly, I wish to outline my sentiments about the process in which our State and Supreme leadership took in circumventing my input in the aforementioned new Council discussion.

A few months ago, Regional Membership Chairman (St. Louis North) SK Marvin J Doerhoff and Regional Membership Chairman (St. Louis South) Richard "Dick" Kobylski made an appointment to meet with Father Dotson, the newly appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Charles Borromeo without my knowledge or invitation to attend. Please be advised that prior to Father's Borromeo assignment, he was a newly ordained priest at St. Patrick Parish in Wentzville. As a First Degree Knight, Father enjoyed his close relationship with the parish based Council there and relished the ability to make a phone call to one guy who would gather the team to do whatever the priests there wanted or needed done to foster the needs of the parish.

The Regional Membership Chairman's job is to establish new parish based Councils and Marvin and Dick saw this as a golden opportunity to reach out to Father Dotson. Supreme loves the idea of getting cash strapped Home Association Councils back to the parishes. But we are not a cash strapped Home Association Council and we have dutifully served Borromeo, St. Peter, and St. Cletus! So, while on the one hand, Marvin and Dick's effort seems appropriate, the timing and approach was premature in my opinion. Father is a young parish administrator who is dealing with the challenges of running his first parish. Let alone, unaware that a third of our 851 members belongs to St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Further, Father unknowingly relies heavily upon KofC members to work the Fish Fry's, count money, maintain the physical plant, help run the Athletic Association, are involved on most Committees, volunteer tutor at the school, do PSR and help run the Parish Picnic. All that was needed was for Father to ask whether our men were Knights or ask that a Borromeo Round Table be re-established to meet his needs. Instead, our Regional team were biting at the bits to start a Council and ran with the idea that Father desired a Council for the 500 or so Hispanic families signed up in the parish and did not correct Father who stated to me that that St. Charles Council 823 was an "INDEPENDENT council unassigned" to any one parish. Father fed into the interest of our Regional Membership Chairman's goal to open up the new Borromeo Council to anyone-- "Anglo" (white non-Hispanic) men and Hispanic men.

So where to we go from here? What is the course of action at this time? Clearly, the best approach is to wait and see how much of a commitment our Hispanic brothers and community is willing to invest in the Council operation and how many of our own 823 members wish to transfer their membership to Borromeo. Clearly, time will tell. Please contact me if you wish to share your feelings. My email is peter.p.abegg@gmail.com

Father McGiveney.....Pray For Us!
Live Jesus in our Hearts.....Forever!

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