

Holy Rosary Church  
911 East Missouri Ave.  
Kansas City, Mo.

July 2, 1940

His excellency Edwin V. O'Hara The Bishop's Residence Kansas City, Missouri

Your Excellency's letter of June 28 fixing tentative boundary lines for the parishes in our Diocese has aroused a question in our minds. Is the setting of such boundaries meant to abolish the national character of Holy Rosary Church for which nature the Church was originally intended? At the present time, we assist spiritually the majority of Italian-speaking people throughout the city. Our Church gains some support from these because they consider themselves members of this Parish. In the event that boundaries are permanently fixed, we are still bound to answer sick calls from the Italian speaking people throughout the city because they express themselves more clearly and unhesitantly in their own tongue. In this case, the duty of caring for the spiritual welfare of these people remains ours, and the benefit of their support to the Parish is nil.

Your Excellency knows well from the representation of Italo- Americans in the Don Bosco Committees and the Holy Name Society of Holy Rosary Church that those who support and aid the Parish most would be members of other parishes if the present national boundary privilege is abolished.

In our Parish, too, we have semi-religious societies having members throughout the city and whose by-laws emphasize the obligation of their members to be buried from Holy Rosary Church. If the Parish is given definite boundaries, conflict will arise between this Parish and the parish to which the individual member belongs.

Our position is clear. Upon the national boundary privileges of this Parish, our whole support lies. Without it, our Parish would diminish in number both immediately and in the future. Within the boundary lines specified, 730 families are listed as members of Holy Rosary Parish, and of these the majority remain solely because of the social attachment of the older Italian speaking folk. At the passing of this older generation, providing the City Council doesn't improve living conditions in this section of the city, the present generation of parishioners will move to other parts of the city.

We suggest that perhaps the national standing of the Parish may remain in-tact at least until our older generation of Italian speaking parishioners dies away. For thier spiritual needs, the understanding of one who speaks their own tongue is essential. If boundaries must be set, some exceptions to the rule should be made. For instance: Italian speaking members of families living outside Holy Rosary Parish may belong to this Parish, while other members of the same families may belong to the parish in whose boundaries they live.

We hope that our problems will be solved at Your excellency's hands, and that our suggestions be somewhat helpful.

We implore your pastoral blessing upon us and the flock intrusted to our care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Parish Priests