

MEMORANDUM

November 21, 2001

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: St. Andrew's Cathedral request

This is probably one of the odder requests you'll get this year. Dean Joe Robinson of St. Andrew's approached me Monday evening to ask about the possibility of using part of the Mansion grounds.

Here's what is involved: At 6:00pm on Sunday, December 23, the cathedral is planning to do "Los Posados," a procession that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The procession would go along the sidewalks on both sides of Capitol Street in front of the cathedral. The path for the procession would be lit by luminaries. Joe's request is, would it be possible for the procession to pass through the Mansion grounds? His idea is to enter through the West Street gate, stop in front of the Mansion to sing a Christmas carol, then proceed out through the Congress Street gate.

The procession would include priests, acolytes, vergers and probably 50-100 people from the cathedral. St. Andrew's also has a growing community of Hispanics who would be involved.

I don't know if you want to set any type of precedent for religious organizations using the grounds. My suggestion would be to encourage the procession to stop along Capitol Street at the front of the Mansion. If you are able to participate in this, that would be great.

FYI: Yamily (pronounced "jamily") Bass-Choate is a Hispanic priest at St. Andrew's (she participated in the prayer service at the Capitol after 9/11). She is growing the Hispanic congregation at St. Andrew's – offering a Sunday service in Spanish, and teaching English as a second language. Yamily is a staunch Democrat, and has mentioned to me that the Democratic Party needs to be advertising in the Spanish language newspaper. Apparently, the Republican Party has been doing this. According to Yamily, "everybody is going to think we're Republicans, and we're not!" She's a big fan of yours and just wants to make sure you get exposure in the growing Hispanic community.