

019 FATHER MCGIRR

Michael... The Lord is just. Is He not?

020 FATHER RICHARDT

The Lord is Justice itself, Father.

021 FATHER MCGIRR

Indeed. When you find Gus...tell him that.

SORROWFUL MUSIC.

6 EXT. ST. PETER'S, BACK GARDEN - MINUTES LATER

AMB: A GENTLE BREEZE BLOWS THROUGH THE TREES.

SFX: FATHER RICHARDT CROSSES THE YARD.

022 FATHER RICHARDT

Father McGirr figured you might be out here.

BEAT.

023 FATHER RICHARDT (CONT'D)

Unless my timing's off, we should currently be in a classroom discussing theology.

BEAT.

**Side 3
START >>>**

024 GUS

The night that my Dad escaped to join the Union army, he told me how important freedom is. Freedom to live, to learn, to work, to pray... He really believed that. So much so that he died fighting to make it a reality for me.

025 FATHER RICHARDT

I wish I could have known him.

026 GUS

It never surprised me that so much of the country tried to prevent what he died for. But the Church... The Church is the one place I never expected to not be free.

BEAT.

027 FATHER RICHARDT

That isn't true, Gus.

028 GUS

(suddenly heated)

You want to talk theology? Good. Let's talk about the Catechism for a moment. What, Father, does it say is man's purpose?

029 FATHER RICHARDT

To serve and love God, and to offer all creation back to him.

030 GUS

Very good. And how does it define justice?

031 FATHER RICHARDT

Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give one's due to God and neighbor.

032 GUS

Excellent. And who is my neighbor?

033 FATHER RICHARDT

All are.

034 GUS

I see. Then here's the snag: if I'm preventing my neighbor from giving what he owes to God, aren't I refusing to give my neighbor what I owe him?

035 FATHER RICHARDT

I do not like your tone, Gus.

036 GUS

Aren't I refusing him justice??

037 FATHER RICHARDT

Yes, you are.

038 GUS

I am not a free man, Father! I'm not free to serve God as a priest because the Church is keeping justice from me - because I'm a negro! I want to worship the Lord at the altar! I want to help free all my brothers and sisters from whatever enslaves them! I want to serve, Father. That's all. But they won't allow it.

(MORE)

GUS (CONT'D)

Please tell me, what am I- what is anyone supposed to do with rejected zeal? How am I supposed to follow my vocation when the Church won't -

039 FATHER RICHARDT

That's enough, Augustus! That's enough.

BEAT.

040 FATHER RICHARDT (CONT'D)

Several times now you've said the Church is refusing, the Church is hindering, the Church, the Church... You need to hear these words: When you say the Church, you're talking about Christ. The Church is Christ. And He has not rejected you.

041 **GUS**

But we are His body. And that body has rejected me.

<<< END

042 FATHER RICHARDT

Only a few of its broken members.

043 GUS

People who obey prejudice and hatred.

044 FATHER RICHARDT

People who are enslaved by shame and fear.

BEAT.

045 GUS

What do you mean?

046 FATHER RICHARDT

Shame for their sins toward your people. Shame for what they maybe still believe. Fear of looking it in the face. Fear of retribution for it. That's what enslaves them, Gus. And still, they belong to the body of Christ. But don't forget - don't you ever forget - that body is also Father McGirr, Sister Herlinde...