

FATHER MCGIRR (CONT'D)
And I do think you're correct: The
circumstances being what they are,
remaining there will do you no
good. We'll have to arrange
something else. In the meantime,
you'd best return here to Quincy.

DRAMATIC MUSIC.

11 INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

AMB: OUTSIDE, WIND RUSHES PAST & TRACKS
RATTLE. SFX: THE CONDUCTOR WALKS DOWN THE
AISLE.

085 CONDUCTOR
Next stop Quincy, folks! Twenty
miles to Quincy!

Side 1
START >>>

086 MARTHA
Nearly home!

087 GUS
Mhmm.

088 MARTHA
I'm glad for it.

089 GUS
Mhmm.

090 MARTHA
"Mhmm. Mhmm." That all you can
manage?

091 GUS
Mhmm.

092 MARTHA
Oh, stop with that. What's got you
all serious?

093 GUS
I'm thinkin' about how much hatred
I've got for slavery.

BEAT.

094 GUS (CONT'D)
Is that not what you expected me to
say?

095 **MARTHA**

No, it's not. And I don't know what coulda got you so gloomy about what's over and done.

096 GUS

But it's not, mama.

097 **MARTHA**

Oh, what are you talkin' about?

098 GUS

People walk into saloons every night. They drink until they can't talk, they gamble away their wages, they ignore their marriage vows... White folks can't own us anymore, sure, but they can make freedom a burden. And us negroes... Warts and all, the Catholic Church is what we need. But we keep walkin' away from it into whatever denomination excites us the most. Even our priests have troubles almost too big to handle. Poor Father Dolan... Mama, do you hear what I'm sayin'?

099 **MARTHA**

Yes, I do.

100 GUS

We might not be slaves to each other right now, but we're all a slave to something. All of us.

BEAT.

101 **MARTHA**

You are a free man, Augustus Tolton. By the mercy of God you are free in body and spirit. Don't you ever forget the mercy of God.

102 GUS

I know, mama.

103 **MARTHA**

No sir, I wanna hear you say it: by God's mercy I am free.

104 GUS

By God's mercy I am free.

105 MARTHA
In Christ I am free!

<<< END

106 GUS
In Christ I am free. And more than
ever I wanna be a priest. I wanna
be a steward of the Eucharist.
Where else can we find freedom?

107 MARTHA
Nowhere.

108 GUS
And that's what I want: I want us
to be free. Truly free in Christ.
All of us.

HOPEFUL MUSIC.

12 INT. RECTORY - DAY

SFX: GUS SWEEPS THE FLOOR.

109 GUS
(sung)
"Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.
Our fathers, chained in prisons
dark, were still in - "

SFX: THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN.

110 FATHER MCGIRR
The post arrived!

111 GUS
(a laugh)
It comes every day, Father.

112 FATHER MCGIRR
Ah, but does it always contain
letters to one Augustus Tolton from
the St. Joseph's Society in
Baltimore?

113 GUS
They finally wrote back??

114 FATHER MCGIRR
Well are you just gonna stand
there, or are you gonna open it?

SFX: GUS DROPS THE BROOM, WALKS OVER, & TAKES
THE LETTER.