

10

INT. CATHEDRAL, ROME - DAY

TRIUMPHANT MUSIC.

111 CARDINAL PAROCCHI

Receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's Cross. Peace be with you, Father Augustus Tolton.

112 GUS

And with your spirit.

**For CARDINAL SIMEONI:  
read for Cardinal Parocchi**

TRIUMPHANT MUSIC CONTINUES.

11

INT. PONTIFICAL URBAN UNIVERSITY, OFFICE - DAY

**START >>>**

113 CARDINAL PAROCCHI

You've graduated with absolute distinction, Augustus. Your ordination was well-earned. We couldn't be more pleased.

114 GUS

Thank you, Cardinal Parocchi. I've never been happier.

115 CARDINAL PAROCCHI

Now as for your first assignment, I know you've had your heart set on missionary priesthood.

116 GUS

Africa is my hope, Your Eminence.

117 CARDINAL PAROCCHI

Your superiors and I have talked at length. And we've decided that you're most needed back in America.

BEAT.

118 GUS

The States, Eminence?

119 CARDINAL PAROCCHI

Would it be that distasteful to you?

120 GUS

Sir...I owe a great deal to many people back home. But I have no desire to serve as a priest where I wasn't wanted as one.

121 **CARDINAL PAROCCHI**

I understand. But I assure you that much prayer has gone into this decision.

122 GUS

Could I, perhaps, make my case before my superiors?

123 **CARDINAL PAROCCHIORE**

It isn't Africa, I grant you. But it's absolutely missionary work. If America is to thrive, she must heal. And if she is to heal, she must have black priests. Father Tolton, will you be the first?

**<<< END**

BEAT.

124 GUS

Yessir. If you ask me to, then yes. I will.

DRAMATIC MUSIC.

12

**EXT. CHICAGO TRAIN STATION - EVENING**

SFX: A RAILROAD BELL RINGS. A SLOWING CHUGGA-CHUGGA AS A TRAIN PULLS INTO A STATION. STEAM ESCAPES AS IT COMES TO A FULL STOP. THE RAILROAD BELL STOPS. THE DOORS OPEN. FOOTSTEPS AS PASSENGERS STEP OFF THE TRAIN & WALK EVERY WHICH WAY. WALLA: INDISCERNIBLE CHATTER FROM PASSENGERS.

125 BISHOP FOLEY

Father Tolton! Father Tolton, over here!

SFX: GUS STEPS FORWARD.

126 GUS

Bishop Foley?

127 BISHOP FOLEY

That's me. Welcome to Chicago!