

056 MOTHER GALITZIN
We're happy to have you here,
Father Verhaegen.

THE LAST SISTERS ARE JUST TAKING THEIR SEATS

057 MOTHER GALITZIN (CONT'D)
Please, tell us about the
Potawatomis.
(reservedly)
We're all eager to hear their
story.

058 PHILIPPINE
(enthusiastically)
Indeed we are.

059 FATHER VERHAEGEN
Thank you, Mother Duchesne.

EVERYONE IS SEATED NOW

START >>>

060 FATHER VERHAEGEN (CONT'D)
Unfortunately it's a very sad
story, Sisters. The Potawatomis
call their long journey to Kansas
the "Trail of Death."

SOFT "OOOHS" FROM THE SISTERS

061 FATHER VERHAEGEN (CONT'D)
Over nine hundred Potawatomi men,
women, and children were forcibly
removed from their lands in Indiana
and, surrounded by one hundred U.S.
Militia, had to walk over six
hundred miles to their destination
in Kansas. Along the way, over
forty people died, most of them
children.

MORE SAD SIGHS FROM THE SISTERS

062 FATHER VERHAEGEN (CONT'D)
Accompanying the Potawatomis was
their pastor, Father Benjamin
Petit, who saw to their spiritual
needs during the journey, saying
daily Mass, hearing confessions,
baptizing babies, bandaging wounds,
and giving last rites to those who
were dying.

063 PHILIPPINE
He truly was a hero.

064 FATHER VERHAEGEN
Indeed he was, Mother Duchesne. But after their arrival in Kansas he was recalled to Indiana by his bishop, and although he was accompanied on horseback by a Potawatomi friend, he died on the way back due to the rigors of the trip.

065 MOTHER GALITZIN
Dear Lord, have mercy!

066 FATHER VERHAEGEN
The Potawatomis contacted the Society, begging for priests who can give them the sacraments and nuns to teach their children.

067 MOTHER GALITZIN
Oh, Father, if only some of our sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart could go there to set up a school. However, at this point in time we can't -

068 FATHER VERHAEGEN
-But Mother Galitzin, Mother Duchesne has told me how much she wants to go. It's been her life-long dream.

069 PHILIPPINE
Yes, it has.

070 MOTHER GALITZIN
Mother Duchesne is seventy-one and she hasn't been in good health for some time. I'm afraid the journey would prove too -

071 PHILIPPINE
-Please, Mother. I can do it.

072 FATHER VERHAEGEN
I understand your concerns, Mother Galitzin, but I believe Mother Duchesne must come with us to Sugar Creek.

073 MOTHER GALITZIN
Must? She's too frail, Father, she
couldn't possibly -

074 FATHER VERHAEGEN
-God has been training her through
years of self-less service. Right
now Mother Duchesne may not be able
to do much work, but she will
assure success to the mission by
praying for us. Her very presence
will draw all manner of heavenly
favors on the work.

075 MOTHER GALITZIN
But -

076 FATHER VERHAEGEN
I need several of your sisters -
and Mother Duchesne - to accompany
me to Sugar Creek.

077 MOTHER GALITZIN
Father, I -

078 FATHER VERHAEGEN
-Even if Mother Duchesne can only
use one leg, she's coming. Even if
I have to carry her all the way on
my back, she's coming with us.

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TRANSITION MUSIC

10 INT. WAGON TRAIN HEADING TO SUGAR CREEK - DAY

THE RUMBLING OF BUCKBOARD WAGONS OVER DUSTY
ROADS. FATHER VERHAEGEN RIDES UP TO
PHILIPPINE'S WAGON, HIS HORSE WHINNYING

079 FATHER VERHAEGEN
(calling)
How are you doing, Mother Duchesne?

080 PHILIPPINE
I don't think I've ever felt so
happy in my life! All my old energy
has returned. Thanks to you.

081 FATHER VERHAEGEN
You're praying, aren't you?

082 PHILIPPINE
I am indeed, Father!