

1 HOOK

Episode SFX come in underneath Narrator.

001 NARRATOR

Mexico, 1927. Religious freedom is under siege, and the Cristero War is tearing the nation apart. While men take up arms to defend their faith, one boy seeks a different kind of glory. Can this child stand firm against the power of a repressive government? His journey will lead him from a quiet ranch to the ultimate sacrifice for the King of Kings. This is the story of José Sánchez del Río.

2 INTRODUCTION

002 NARRATOR

The Saints: Adventures of Faith and Courage. José Sanchez del Rio. Episode One: A Boy With Faith. Listen to all the episodes and discover new shows at The Merry Beggars dot com.

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003 NARRATOR

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THE MERRY BEGGARS SOUNDMARK

004 NARRATOR

The Merry Beggars presents...

5 EXT. RANCH - MORNING

ROOSTER CROWING. WIND OVER OPEN LAND. WOODEN POSTS THUDDING INTO DRY EARTH. ROPE STRAINING. A BULL SNORTS NEARBY, RESTLESS, SCRAPING THE GROUND. MACARIO (17) AND MIGUEL (15) REPAIR A BROKEN FENCE.

005 MIGUEL

(grunting)

¡Listo! If this post doesn't hold, nothing will.

Side 1

START >>>

CLANG OF HAMMER ON METAL.

006 **MACARIO**

You always say that, Miguel. Then it's *me* who has to fix it when the bull decides to test it again.

BULL SNORTS LOUDER, STOMPS. A FENCE RATTLES.

007 MIGUEL

Shhh! That bull hears everything.

008 **MACARIO**

That bull fears me.

BULL SNORTS, AS IF UNIMPRESSED.

009 MIGUEL

Oh, yeah! He fears you *so much* that he has destroyed the fence three times this month.

010 **MACARIO**

That bull is wild. Some things can't be contained, no matter how strong you build the fence.

JOSELITO (14) STRAINS WITH A SMALLER POST. WOOD SCRAPES. HE EXHALES SHARPLY.

011 JOSELITO

I've... got this one...

POST THUDS DOWN. PAUSE. THEN SCRAPING AS HE TRIES TO LIFT IT AGAIN.

012 **MACARIO**

Easy there, José. That post is twice your size.

013 JOSELITO

(grunting)

I can... Do it...

014 **MACARIO**

Hey, let go, *Joselito*. You're going to pop a vein. Miguel, help him before the post crushes him.

015 JOSELITO

I said I can do it-!

THE POST SLIPS AND HITS THE GROUND.

016 MIGUEL
Post one... Joselito cero.

017 JOSELITO
You two are -

JOSELITO GRUNTS AS HE LIFTS THE POST AGAIN.

018 JOSELITO
(strained)
- hilarious!

019 MIGUEL
Look! The boy has spirit.

020 MACARIO
Spirit, yes. Technique... well,
we'll work on that.

021 MIGUEL
Go on, Joselito. Leave the heavy
lifting to the men. Go find your
brass bugle and blow us a tune.

022 MACARIO
Ay, no! That bugle sounds like a
dying goat!

023 JOSELITO
I've been practicing!

024 MIGUEL
The bull probably broke the fence
just to escape the sound.

025 JOSELITO
Very funny.

026 MACARIO
We're just teasing!

027 MIGUEL
Maybe one day you'll be taller than
me and Macario. Then you can tease
your older brothers.

028 JOSELITO
I don't need to be tall.

029 MIGUEL
Then what do you need?

030 JOSELITO
(straining)
I need to finish this.

HE FINALLY SETS THE POST. IT THUDS INTO PLACE.

031 MIGUEL
(smiling)
Stubborn as a mule.

032 **MACARIO**
A real Sánchez del Río.

SUDDEN CRACK OF DISTANT GUNFIRE - THREE SHOTS,
SILENCE FALLS OVER THE RANCH.

033 JOSELITO
Was that-?

034 MIGUEL
Gunshots. In the hills.
Northwest...

035 **MACARIO**
The Cristeros. They are organizing
up there.

WIND PICKS UP SLIGHTLY, CREATING TENSION.

036 MIGUEL
Finally, they're pushing back. They
won't just bow their heads while
the government closes our churches
and arrests our priests.

037 **MACARIO**
I'm tired of mending fences while
the *federales* tear down the Cross.
I want to be up in the hills with
them... I want to use my arms for
something more than digging holes.

<<< END

038 MIGUEL
That's our duty as men. To stand
up. To defend what's ours... our
family, our church.

039 JOSELITO
(quietly)
What if defending doesn't always
mean fighting?

040 **MACARIO**
What else would it mean?