

100 LIVIA
(whispering)
No. But I locked the door. I'll see
if I can get them to go away.
(calling out)
Who's there?

101 DAMASCUS (O.S.)
(loud whisper)
Mamma? It's me!

102 LIVIA
Damascus!

SFX: LIVIA UNLOCKS AND OPENS THE WOODEN DOOR.

103 DAMASCUS
Mamma! Tarcisius!

104 TARCISIUS
Damascus!

105 LIVIA
Oh, Damascus, my son! Come here.
But - how are you home?!

SFX: THEY HUG.

106 DAMASCUS
From the generosity of this
Centurion. Quadratus, please come
in.

SFX: QUADRATUS ENTERS, WOODEN DOOR SHUTS.

START >>>

107 **QUADRATUS**
Hello. I was told Bishop Stephen is
here.

108 STEPHEN
Quadratus! Good to see you.

SFX: THEY CLASP HANDS.

109 LIVIA
A centurion who knows the bishop?

110 DAMASCUS
A bishop inside our home?

111 STEPHEN
Quadratus is a secret member of the
church guarding the prison.

112 DAMASCUS

The prisons have become overcrowded with Christians. Quadratus used his influence to get me released.

113 LIVIA

Then we are most grateful to you. Here, please join us. We were just about to eat.

114 CATO

To celebrate Tarcisius's first Eucharist!

115 DAMASCUS

Your first Eucharist - here? I could hardly believe it when Quadratus said the bishop would be here, but this... Mamma, did you really agree to this?

116 TARCISIUS

It was her idea, Damascus!

117 DAMASCUS

(laughing)

Then it's a miracle! God has answered my prayers.

118 LIVIA

And He has answered mine, to bring you home.

119 **QUADRATUS**

It seems there are many answered prayers today. I have come to bring news to the Bishop.

120 LIVIA

Oh! Excuse my manners. Tarcisius, here, set another place at the table for the Centurion.

121 CATO

I'll help, too!

122 **QUADRATUS**

Thank you, but I'm afraid I can't stay. You all should hear this, however. Bishop, I've found other Christians working at the prison. There are enough of us now to deliver the Holy Eucharist to the captives.

123 STEPHEN

Praise God! What wonderful news.

124 **QUADRATUS**

But Christians are still being killed daily. We must arrange a very discreet hand-off so we don't raise suspicion.

◀◀◀ END

125 DAMASCUS

Too many people have seen my face at the prison. I can't continue carrying the Blessed Sacrament to Quadratus. We need to find someone new.

126 STEPHEN

Whoever it is, must know the streets well, and slip in and out without being noticed. Someone the Emperor's men would never suspect.

127 CATO

I'll do it! I know the streets better than anyone!

128 LIVIA

Cato! You cannot volunteer for such a thing. Please excuse him, Bishop. He doesn't know what he's talking about.

129 CATO

Sure I do! I can be a courier, just like Damascus and Tarcisius. And no one will notice me. Nobody ever pays attention to orphans.

130 STEPHEN

That's a very generous offer, young Cato, but we cannot accept. You only became an acolyte today.

131 TARCISIUS

(quietly)

But I didn't.

132 DAMASCUS

Tarcisius...

133 TARCISIUS

I can do it, Damascus. You know I can. I know the streets as well as Cato. And I know Jesus.

(MORE)