

10 INT. VATICAN HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A DOOR OPENS.

082 MOTHER PASCALINA
His Holiness, Pope Pius the
Twelfth, will see you now. This
way.

FOOTSTEPS TOWARD THE DOOR.

START >>

083 POPE PIUS XII
Gentlemen, come in, come in.

084 CARDINAL SPELLMAN
Your Holiness.

085 FULTON
Holy Father, it is an honor.

THEY BOTH BEND AND KISS HIS RINGS.

086 POPE PIUS XII
My, my. Such loyal shepherds here
in my midst. Cardinal Archbishop
Spellman, your charitable works are
so great, I've heard you are called
the "Santa Claus of the American
Church." And you, Bishop Sheen, I
hear that millions watch you every
week on television. I'm told that
you are even more popular than
Milton Berle, whoever Milton Berle
is...

MOTHER PASCALINA LETS OUT A LIGHT LAUGH.

087 FULTON
(humble, laughing)
I-wow, thank you, Holy Father.

SPELLMAN CLEARS HIS THROAT.

088 CARDINAL SPELLMAN
Holy Father, we will not waste your
time here today. So I will get
right to the matter at hand. The
bishop has broken his word and will
not pay his debt to me.

089 POPE PIUS XII
I see.

090 FULTON

Holiness, Mother Pascalina, with all due respect to his Eminence, there is no debt to repay.

091 POPE PIUS XII

I understand this debt is a disagreement with regards to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

092 CARDINAL SPELLMAN

It is a disagreement concerning authority, Your Holiness.

A PAUSE.

093 CARDINAL SPELLMAN (CONT'D)

Recently, Bishop Sheen distributed a massive government shipment of milk, food, clothing and medicine, without consultation with the Archdiocese of New York.

094 POPE PIUS XII

And these goods require some level of reimbursement?

095 CARDINAL SPELLMAN

They do, Holy Father. I have paid a sizable sum for the supplies, and I must be reimbursed.

A BEAT.

096 CARDINAL SPELLMAN (CONT'D)

But more importantly, this concerns unity. No priest, however gifted, can operate independently of the Church around him. Order must prevail, even in charity. Bishop Sheen serves under my authority.

097 POPE PIUS XII

I see.

A PAUSE.

098 POPE PIUS XII (CONT'D)

Bishop Sheen, we would hear your account next.

◀◀ END

SHEEN EXHALES CAREFULLY.