

Scene 6

The Dining Hall

The next evening, all the nuns are prepared for supper.

#4a – Meet The Nuns**MARY PATRICK**

Christmas Day. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling real joyful. And triumphant.

(Mary Robert enters.)

Oh Mary Robert. Don't you just love Christmas.

MARY ROBERT

(Shy but overcome with emotion)

I—

MARY PATRICK

(A burst of enthusiasm)

CHRIST IS BORN!

MARY LAZARUS

(Walking by)

Thanks for the update.

(The nuns sit.)

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sisters. Before we begin our humble Christmas feast, prepared for us by Sister Mary Celeste and Sister Mary Irene, let us bow our heads and give thanks to the Prince of Peace.

(All nuns bow their heads. Deloris enters in nun's habit.)

DELORIS

Hey everybody!

(The nuns look at Deloris)

I am starving.

(The nuns look to Mother Superior. Mother Superior looks up.)

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sisters—allow me to introduce you to our newest member, Sister Mary...Clarence. Named for St. Clarincie of Vienne.

DELORIS

That's right.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

The patron saint of prisoners everywhere. Sister Mary Clarence is visiting us from—

MARY PATRICK

Rhodesia?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Uhh—no.

MARY LAZARUS

Detroit?

MOTHER SUPERIOR

No. Good guess. It's a more progressive order.

DELORIS

What's your name, little sister?

MARY ROBERT

Sister Mary Robert.

DELORIS

Wow, you're young!

MARY ROBERT

I'm a postulant.

DELORIS

Well, I used to get low on cash myself sometimes, but I never turned to that. But no judgment here. Like I always say— let he who is without sin get stoned first.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Mary Clarence, will you join us please? At the table?

(She indicates an empty seat by the least welcoming nun, Mary Lazarus. Deloris walks over blessing all the nuns along the way.)

DELORIS

(To a few nuns)

Bless you.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

This way.

DELORIS

(To a few more nuns)

Bless you.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Right there.

DELORIS

(To Mary Patrick)

Bless you.

MOTHER SUPERIOR

Sit down.

MARY LAZARUS

(To Deloris)

I'm Sister Mary Lazarus. This is Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours. She's in her own little world.

MARY MARTIN-OF-TOURS

(Out of it)

Did the smoke change color? Do we have a new pope?

MARY LAZARUS

(To Mary Martin-of-Tours)

Focus. We're at Christmas dinner with the African nun.

(Mary Theresa enters singing "Sanctus." She sighs as she sits at the table.)

DELORIS

(Pointing to the oldest, Sister Mary Theresa)

Who's that?

MARY LAZARUS

Mary Theresa.

DELORIS

Wow she's old.

MARY LAZARUS

Rumor has it, when they found the shroud of Turin they called her in to verify the likeness.

MARY THERESA

I'm in the room, I can hear you.

MARY PATRICK

Sister Mary Clarence, my name is Mary Patrick—I just want to say welcome to Queen of Angels. And I was wondering if you would lead us in prayer?