

#10 – Entr'acte

**ACT TWO**

**Scene 1**

*A confessional*

*Mother Superior stands in the confessional.*

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

*(To God)*

Heavenly Father, you are throwing quite a few curve balls my way. Please help me to understand what is your will. A sign. Give me a sign.

*(She sits. Deloris enters the other side of the confessional and sits. She opens the confessional window)*

Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It's been two days since my last confession.

**DELORIS**

Mother Superior?

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

My God she's everywhere.

**DELORIS**

Look I know you don't trust me. But this could be bigger than Broadway! Bigger than Vegas!

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

This is a house of worship.

**DELORIS**

I know. But that's the problem. See, people like going to theaters, and they like going to casinos, but they don't like coming to church. Why? Because it's a drag.

*(Does hand gesture)*

Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors,

*(Shows open empty palms)*

There ain't no people.

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

As of tomorrow, Sister Mary Lazarus resumes her leadership of the choir. This is non-negotiable.

*(Mother Superior slams the window shut. Deloris slams her window shut. Monsignor O'Hara enters through the confessional curtain and sees Deloris.)*

*(Monsignor O'Hara gestures for Deloris to stay. He opens the confessional window. Mother Superior opens her window.)*

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

You are ruining the church.

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

I'm doing the best I can.

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

*(Embarrassed)*

Bless me Father for I have sinned.

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

Yes yes I'm sure you have and that's fine. But Mother Superior, people are hearing the music and coming in off the streets. They are throwing money into the collection. This is a success!!

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

It is?

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

And that is not all! The bachelors, dealing in antiques, love the service. They are donating the money they were going to purchase the church with to keep our services going! Here is the check!

*(He gets up and runs to the other side of the confessional. Deloris sits in the Monsignor's chair.)*

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

Father? Father?

*(He opens the curtain on Mother Superior's side of the confessional. She screams)*

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

The check! And look! In the memo, they've written a special message.

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

*(Reading the check)*

"Mary, you are fierce!"

*(Looking forward)*

How did they know my name was Mary?

*(She looks to Monsignor O'Hara)*

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

How much longer will Sister Mary Clarence be with us?

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

I have spoken with Officer Souther about transferring her to our Reading diocese.

**MONSIGNOR O'HARA**

Oh, no. I do hope she can stay. I adore this music, Reverend Mother. Sister Mary Clarence is a Godsend. You are a visionary.

*(Mother Superior doesn't move. Monsignor O'Hara takes the check from her hands and exits)*

**DELORIS**

You are a visionary. I'm a godsend.

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

I can hear you smiling.

**DELORIS**

God has sent me here for a reason, take the hint.

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**

*(A beat, then evenly)*

One hymn per service.

**DELORIS**

But that doesn't include encores!

*(They slam their windows shut. The set splits as we transition to ...)*

**Scene 2***The church**We are in the service.***#11 – Sunday Morning Fever****NUNS***(From offstage, they sing)*

SANCTUS, SANCTUS,  
SANCTUS.

*(The Monsignor enters and speaks over the nuns' singing)***MONSIGNOR O'HARA***(Works the mic like a pro. He speaks in Barry White whisper)*

People, your vibrations are beautiful. I gotta tell ya, this is a really big tabernacle and you are filling it with a lot of love right now. Our sisters have worked up a nutty little number here which we think is really really special, but first—our restoration fund, let's check the tote board—TIMPANI—

*(Two altar boys bring in a large thermometer tote board. They reveal a larger amount.)***MONSIGNOR****NUNS**

It's all about the love and the giving, you	AH—
people are marvelous, give yourselves a round	
of applause. In the name of the father, the son	AH—
and you-know-who I give you Sister Mary	
Clarence and our own Queen of Angels'	
singers. Lay it on us, sisters.	

**DELORIS / NUNS**

SPREAD THE NEWS  
IT'S TIME TO ROCK THE PEWS  
WE'VE GOT THE SUNDAY MORNING FEVER  
IT'S A SOUND  
THAT TURNS YOUR SOUL AROUND  
UNTIL IT MAKES YOU A BELIEVER.  
EV'RY PRIEST,  
EV'RY DEACON,  
EVERYONE WHO FEELS THE BEAT STARTS FREAKIN'!