

(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

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.

NUNS**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'!