

Give Blood

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A sign on the snow-covered lawn reads "BLOOD DRIVE TONIGHT - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM".

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A large R.V. is parked outside the school. A banner across it reads "Most Precious Blood Catholic Charities".

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

A YOUNG WOMAN sits upright on a gurney while a PHLEBOTOMIST monitors her blood pressure.

Next to her is an ELDERLY MAN on a gurney. The man smiles at the woman.

SIGN UP AREA

A FEMALE WORKER sits behind a long table, a clip board in front of her.

Next to her stands FATHER MCCORMICK - graying, with a reserved air. He observes with a tight-lipped grin.

A BUSINESSMAN in a suit rushes up to the table.

FEMALE WORKER

Hi, welcome! Thanks for coming.
Have you ever donated blood before?

BUSINESSMAN

Hello, yes...

The businessman reaches into his suit pocket.

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

Here's my donor card.

The female worker takes the card and scribbles on the sheet. She hands the businessman a form and a pen.

FEMALE WORKER

Awesome. Please fill this out and we'll get you set up soon, okay?

The businessman bends over the table to write. Father McCormick approaches.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Thanks for coming, son.

The businessman continues to fill out the form, head down.

BUSINESSMAN
Sure thing.

The businessman turns to look...

BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)
Oh, hey, Father.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Didn't expect a priest, I take it?

BUSINESSMAN
Guess not. But... I try to donate at least once a year. And usually these are during the day and I can't make it.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Yes, well, the school is of course occupied during the day.

Father McCormick's CELL PHONE RINGS.

BUSINESSMAN
Even priests have 'em nowadays, huh?

FATHER MCCORMICK
Excuse me.

Father McCormick steps into a quiet corner. He answers.

FATHER MCCORMICK (CONT'D)
Yes... mm hmm... Well, that's unfortunate... tell Johnstown they'll just have to manage it... No, we can't... we can't do that... Right... I'll be in soon.

INT. R.V. - NIGHT

CONNIE, a blonde waif in a lab coat, snaps her cell phone shut.

CONNIE
He said they'll just have to
manage.

JERRY, a simpleton, sits with his lab coat draped across his knees, intently sketching something on a pad. He looks up.

JERRY
Huh? How they s'pose to manage
that?

CONNIE
Wait until Sheehan hears about
this. He'll freak.

Jerry holds the sketch up for Connie.

JERRY
Well?

Connie smiles. She walks over to Jerry, then puts a hand on his back.

CONNIE
Fantastic. As always.

They kiss.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Father McCormick crosses in front of the businessman.

BUSINESSMAN
Oh, uh, Father?

Father McCormick stops and turns.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Yes, son?

BUSINESSMAN
I wanted to make a check out to
your organization, but I've never
heard of it - Most Precious Blood
Catholic Charities, is it?

FATHER MCCORMICK
Yes, we're a non-501C subsidiary of
Catholic Charities. And that's very
kind of you. Will you excuse me?

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A motorcycle ROARS up to the R.V. A leather-jacketed person disembarks.

INT. R.V. - NIGHT

SHEEHAN removes his helmet. He is a bulldog of a man. He shakes his long hair wildly.

SHEEHAN
McCormick still inside?

CONNIE
He's on his way in. We have trouble
in Johnstown.

SHEEHAN
Trouble? What trouble?

CONNIE
The principal there is checking -
Connie sees Father McCormick in the doorway.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Time for your shift, Sheehan.

Sheehan turns to face McCormick.

SHEEHAN
What about Johnstown?

Father McCormick looks at Connie and sighs.

FATHER MCCORMICK
I see Connie told you.

SHEEHAN
Sure as shit she told me.

Father McCormick pushes past. Sheehan grabs his shoulder and spins him around.

SHEEHAN (CONT'D)
What are they gonna do?

FATHER MCCORMICK
They'll handle it. Contain it.

Sheehan looks past Father McCormick at Connie.

SHEEHAN
Connie, how bad is it?

Father McCormick spins, then points at Connie.

FATHER MCCORMICK
Connie, don't!

Sheehan steps in front of Father McCormick, face to face.

SHEEHAN
I'm out.

FATHER MCCORMICK
You are not "out". I told you they
will handle it. And, if necessary,
I will assist.

Sheehan sits next to Jerry, who holds his sketch up, beaming
with pride.

JERRY
Whaddya think? Pretty good, huh?

SHEEHAN
Good Jerry, the forging lessons are
paying off.

JERRY
Ain't never taken a forging lesson?
Self taught!

CONNIE
He knows, Jerry.

JERRY
Look Sheehan, this is our license
to collect -

SHEEHAN
I know what it is, Jerry.

Father McCormick's CELL PHONE RINGS. He answers.

FATHER MCCORMICK
 Yes... tell me... okay... I see...
 Well, that's diasppointing... Tell
 him... I disapprove.

Father McCormick hangs up. Sheehan gets up and faces him.

SHEEHAN
 They took the principal out, right?

Father McCormick's silence speaks volumes.

SHEEHAN (CONT'D)
 Why is that okay, McCormick?

FATHER MCCORMICK
 It's not.

A BABY'S CRY emanates from the back of the R.V. Connie gets up and goes to a basinette. She leans in.

CONNIE
 Oh, is my little baby hungry? Yes
 she is! Yes she is!

Connie reaches into an overhead counter. She produces a bottle filled with DARK, CRIMSON LIQUID... and guides her hand into the basinette.

Sheehan spins to face the basinette. His EYES GLOW like FIRE...

SHEEHAN
 (growling)
 I'm hungry too!

Sheehan whirls and attempts to walk past Father McCormick, who restrains him. Father McCormick's EYES LIGHT UP...

FATHER MCCORMICK
 Not so fast. I will NOT let you
 jeopardize our entire operation.

SHEEHAN
 It's too late, McCormick. This was
 bound to happen. First Johnstown,
 then what? It will all break down.
 I was willing to follow you at
 first because you're a genius...
 but now... I NEED TO FEED!

CONNIE

Sheehan, no! You can't!

Sheehan violently throws McCormick aside. He stops at the door and turns back.

SHEEHAN

WE have the power. Not them! Look at me! I'm starving! Trying to live on the morsels you provide. I will feed tonight!

Sheehan turns toward the door. McCormick steps forward.

FATHER MCCORMICK

There was anarchy before I arrived. Did you enjoy being hunted like an animal?

Sheehan turns back and approaches Father McCormick.

SHEEHAN

At least as an animal I was -

Father McCormick THRUSTS A WOODEN STAKE into Sheehan's heart...

Sheehan stares at McCormick in shock... wonderment... then collapses to the floor. His body begins to SIZZLE.. and shrivel... until it EXPLODES INTO DUST.

Connie SHRIEKS. Jerry runs up to her and shields her quivering body.

Father McCormick calmly puts the stake back into a cabinet.

CONNIE

Why?

FATHER MCCORMICK

You know why, Connie. I will not let one rogue destroy all that we've built. He who dishonors the code must be punished.

Father McCormick approaches the shaking duo.

FATHER MCCORMICK (CONT'D)

Now say it with me.

JERRY

Aw, c'mon, McCormick, we know -

FATHER MCCORMICK
SAY IT WITH ME...

Connie and Jerry reluctantly nod their heads.

FATHER MCCORMICK/CONNIE/JERRY
"You can shear a sheep many times,
but you can skin him only once..."

FADE OUT.