

"SANCTUARY"

Emil, a German architect, disgusted with his
role in the "Final Solution," seeks refuge
from the Catholic Church for himself
and pregnant Jewish mistress.

RT: 30:00

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Cast of Characters

<u>Archbishop Umberto Raphael:</u>	Powerful Archbishop hiding a dangerous secret.
<u>Father Carmine Santos:</u>	Devoted priest eager to prove his loyalty.
<u>Emil Steiner:</u>	German architect disgusted by his role in the "Final Solution."
<u>Anna Ginsberg:</u>	Emil's Jewish lover who is pregnant with his child.
<u>Major Vogel:</u>	Gestapo officer suspicious of Emil.

Time

Berlin in 1942.

ACT I

SCENE 1

SETTING: The Papal Legation.

AT RISE: A stark, serious mood fills the conference room with a table and four chairs CS. A small table with a crucifix, votive candles and a phone is SL. Archbishop Raphael enters SR. Father Santos follows him holding a newspaper.

SANTOS

Your Excellency, here is the morning paper.

RAPHAEL

Father Santos, thank you. It is almost not worth reading anymore. The news is the same.

(Takes paper and scans it
as he sits.)

The German Armed Forces stretch farther than Alexander the Great. Herr Hitler's armies are in Egypt and Africa. German U-boats command the Atlantic. Once he defeats Russia, Hitler will be unconquerable. Here in Berlin, the Third Reich must greet this news with great pride.

SANTOS

Your Excellency, what if Russia defeats Germany as it did with Napoleon?

RAPHAEL

Father Santos, perish the thought. If Godless Russia ever gained a stronghold in Europe, Christianity itself would be doomed.

SANTOS

Do you think Herr Hitler will force England and America into concession?

RAPHAEL

(Stands and tosses newspaper
on table.)

Absolutely. After all, he let England escape at Dunkirk. Herr Hitler's policy is victory with as few German losses as possible.

SANTOS

There is a chance that England could defeat Germany.

RAPHAEL

Then the fate of Europe rests in the hands of that bad English painter, Churchill.

SANTOS

And if the United States joined the war?

RAPHAEL

Then the fate of Europe rests with that crippled American president, Roosevelt.

(Looks at his watch.)

Father, our guest is late.

SANTOS

I apologize, Your Excellency. Lieutenant Steiner expressed an urgency to speak with you.

RAPHAEL

Isn't he the one who restored St. Hedwig's Church several years ago?

SANTOS

Yes, sir. Herr Steiner is an architect of great promise.

(The phone rings. Santos X to answer it.)

Yes? Have him come in immediately.

(X to SR as EMIL enters carrying a rolled plan. Santos escorted him to Raphael.)

Your Excellency, Lieutenant Emil Steiner to see you.

(Emil X to Raphael. He bows and kisses the Archbishop's ring.)

RAPHAEL

Lieutenant, I remember you now. You did an excellent job of rebuilding the chapel. I have not seen you since its dedication. Is the church still in need of more repairs?

EMIL

Your Excellency, I could not have put it better myself.

RAPHAEL

I sense from your tone that we are talking about the same thing. Gentlemen, let us sit.

(Raphael sits at the head of the table with Santos next to him. Emil sits at the other end of the table.)

RAPHAEL

What is this matter of great urgency you told Father Santos?

EMIL

Your Excellency, I am educated and trained as an architect. A profession I deeply love. I have designed schools, hospitals and museums throughout Germany. I am honored to serve on the Third Reich's construction staff.

RAPHAEL

Is this why you came to see me, to boast of your accomplishments?
Be careful of too much pride.

EMIL

No, sir. I am a German and a Catholic. I wear this uniform but
it does not make me a soldier.

RAPHAEL

I am an Italian but this uniform does make me a priest. Do you
agree Father Santos?

SANTOS

Of course, Your Excellency.

EMIL

I just received a new assignment from the Inspectorate of
Concentration Camps, the I.K.L.

RAPHAEL

(Stands and makes the sign
of the cross. Santos stands,
too.)

Congratulations, Emil. You have my blessings on your career.
Please excuse me; I have a busy schedule that needs my attention.

EMIL

(Stands quickly.)

Sir, I can't obey this order.

RAPHAEL

That is a matter between you and your German superiors. It does
not concern the Holy Church. Good-bye.

(Raphael turns to step away.)

EMIL

Your Excellency, it has everything to do with the Church. My new
job requires me to build crematoriums ... to murder Jews.

(Raphael stops. He eyes
focus on Emil and clasps
his hands behind him.)

RAPHAEL

Father Santos, please bring in some tea.

SANTOS

At once, sir.

(Santos glances at Emil
then exits SR. Raphael
strolls around the room.
Arranges the votive candles
on the table a little.)

RAPHAEL
When did you go to confession last?

EMIL
This past Sunday.

RAPHAEL
What sins did you confess?

EMIL
I took the Lord's name in vain three times.

RAPHAEL
What else?

EMIL
That was all, sir.

RAPHAEL
Still you confessed. Admirable but a waste of time.

EMIL
Your Excellency, excuse me but I disagree. All sins should be confessed to God.

RAPHAEL
Lieutenant, I did not ask for your agreement. A confession is a serious act between man and God. It has the power to change one's humanity. Would you agree with me, now?

EMIL
Of course, Your Excellency.

RAPHAEL
The church is not a library where one leaves his sins like returning an unread book. God already knows of your sins before one ever, if ever, confesses them.

EMIL
Your Excellency, I feel closer to God when I admit my sins however small.

RAPHAEL
Certainly, confession is good for the soul. I am sure you came here with a clean conscience. I hope that is how you will leave, but it is not up to me.

(Santos enters SR with a tray and teacups. Puts it down on the table.)

RAPHAEL
Here is our tea. Thank you Father Santos.
(MORE)

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Hands a cup to Emil. Raphael sits. Emil and Santos sit, too.)

Lieutenant Steiner, I can tell you are troubled by your new duty. However, the Church's attitude must be one of neutrality and peace.

EMIL

England signed a peace accord with Germany only to see it broken. False peace like that should never happen.

RAPHAEL

Never say never in politics. Lieutenant Steiner, how badly you misunderstand the world. Germany today is Hitler, yet we know that he will not touch the Holy Church. In part, because of the Concordat signed between Germany and the Vatican but more importantly, it is not in his interest. However, what of our ships in the Church's fleet in the world that we must steer through dangerous waters? Into which safe harbors can they sail if we oppose Hitler? Perhaps we should just let our faithful drift aimlessly to land on Stalin's Godless shores. This is not the time for action based on passion, but one of great and thoughtful reserve.

(Raphael and Santos sip their tea.)

EMIL

I can assure Your Excellency that the Third Reich is showing no great and thoughtful reserve with its plans.

RAPHAEL

That is the difference between a government and the Church. The Third Reich has been in power a decade, but the Holy Catholic Church has lasted over a thousand years.

EMIL

Your Excellency, in Berlin no synagogues remain open.

RAPHAEL

You tell me facts I already know. Let me remind you of the German policy that no baptized Jews are deported. A triumph of the Concordat. The agreement also implies no moral approval by the Church of Nazism.

EMIL

Your Excellency, the King of Denmark vowed to wear the Jewish star if the Jews in Denmark were forced to wear it. Germany backed down and they were not made to wear it. When will the Vatican act? When will the Pope speak with the voice and power of millions of Catholics?

(Beat.)

Sir, in order for a Jew to be baptized by the Church, he must reject his faith and family.

(MORE)

EMIL (CONT'D)

Your Excellency, can you imagine how it must feel to deny your family's existence? Those of your own blood are condemned to death if they refuse to convert? Could you do that?

SANTOS

Lieutenant Steiner, how dare you show such disrespect to His Excellency.

(Raphael waves Santos to stop.)

RAPHAEL

I know what it means for someone to give up his faith to survive, as does the Holy Father. I have heard many confessions, and so has he. Your tea is getting cold.

(He slides the cup closer to Emil. Raphael and Santos sip their tea.)

SANTOS

(With a gentle smile.)

Lieutenant, please your tea is getting very cold.

EMIL

(Slides the cup away.)

Your Excellency, in Poland five thousand Jews a day, probably more, are gassed.

RAPHAEL

I have met with Herr Himmler to discuss these events. My words fall upon his polite ears then he reminds me the Jews detained in Poland were not baptized, thus they were outside the protection of the Church.

EMIL

(Stands quickly.)

Sir, what a clever way to put murder, outside the protection of the Church.

(Spreads the blueprints, uses his teacup to hold it down. Santos looks at it but Raphael puts his cup down and walks away a few feet.)

EMIL

Your Excellency, here are the plans for advanced chambers to gas even more Jews. They must be designed to operate around the clock. Over here are the crematoriums to incinerate their bodies. The bodies of mothers, grandparents, and their children, even the sick. No exception is made. All become ash.

SANTOS

(Looks closer at plans.)

Your Excellency, radio announcements from England do report similar details.

RAPHAEL

(Turns to face Santos.)

Father Santos, have you made first-hand confirmation of the details?

SANTOS

No, Your Excellency.

RAPHAEL

Then stay quiet on the matter. Lieutenant, I have protested against atrocities, confirmed and otherwise, with the German authorities as much as my position allows.

EMIL

(Voice rises.)

What more confirmation does the Church need? These are factories for murder. The Pope must speak out as the conscience of the world. He must speak for the dying and dead.

RAPHAEL

(With controlled anger.)

Lieutenant Emil Steiner, hold your tongue. You are in the house of God. There is no shouting here.

EMIL

I beg your forgiveness, Your Excellency. As a Catholic, I want to best serve the Lord.

RAPHAEL

Do you think you are the only one who feels this way? Do not come here to try to be noble. Father Santos, inform him of my recent actions.

SANTOS

(Obediently.)

Last month His Excellency, Archbishop Umberto Raphael, issued twenty passports to baptized Jews. All left Germany for Sweden under the protection of the Vatican.

EMIL

Your Excellency, I apologize. I know that many people help Jews, often at the risk of their own lives.

RAPHAEL

Are you speaking about the one-thousand priests throughout Europe who were abused by the Nazis for their protection of Jews?

EMIL

Sir, excuse me but I did not know about it.

RAPHAEL

Few outside the Church do. It is one of the secrets those who serve God accept as our duty.

(Emil tries to speak.
Raphael lifts his hand to
quiet him.)

RAPHAEL

Silence is your ally. The Holy Father is the leader of four hundred million Catholics at a time when anguish fills the streets of countless cities. Governments court his Papal approval. He remains cordial to all but courtesy is not approval. The Pope is fully aware of the world's misery. His duties are beyond imagination yet you, a German Lieutenant with a conscience, orders His Holiness to do more. It is pure arrogance on your part. Pride is a new sin for you to confess.

(Sighs and puts a hand on
Emil's shoulder.)

Emil, I pray for all victims of this ghastly war. All victims. Now, I will add your troubled soul to my prayers. May you find peace with the work you must do.

(Makes the sign of the cross.
Emil crosses himself, as
does Santos.)

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. God Bless you. Amen.

(Raphael holds up his hand,
Emil kisses his ring.)

(Beat. Lights fade to half.
Emil exits SR. Raphael
exits SL. Santos rolls up
the plans. Lights up.
The phone rings. Santos X
to answer it.)

SANTOS

Yes? Very well, send him in.

(Major Vogel enters SR.)

VOGEL

Heil Hitler. I am Major Vogel of the Gestapo Central Command.

SANTOS

Sir, good day.

VOGEL

I wish to speak with Archbishop Raphael.

SANTOS

Sir, I don't recall that you have an appointment.

VOGEL

I request only a few minutes of his valuable time.

SANTOS

His Excellency is in a meeting.

VOGEL

I'll wait.

SANTOS

Sir, these meeting take longer than imaginable. Perhaps I can assist you.

VOGEL

(Takes out a note pad.)

Lieutenant Emil Steiner was observed entering and leaving the Papal Legation earlier today. His current duty does not include any work with the Church. Do you know why he was here?

(Santos stalls as he collects the teacups.)

VOGEL

Father?

SANTOS

Lieutenant Steiner paid a courtesy call to His Excellency.

VOGEL

What did they discuss?

SANTOS

Would you like a cup of tea? Perhaps some strudel. I smelled it baking this morning.

(Santos X to exit SR.)

VOGEL

Father, no thank you.

(Santos stops.)

VOGEL

Regarding Lieutenant Steiner's visit.

SANTOS

Yes, his visit today regarded ... the work that was completed on St. Hedwig's Chapel.

VOGEL

(Writes in note pad.)

When was that work done?

SANTOS

I am not certain but I think it was maybe a year or two year.

VOGEL

(Stares at Santos.)

Then why was he here today?

(Vogel walks closer to Santos.)

Are those the plans for the Chapel?

SANTOS

(Pushes the rolled plans aside.)

These? Oh, yes.

VOGEL

May I see them? I have an interest in architecture.

(Vogel holds out his hand just as Raphael enters SR. Santos stands in front of the rolled plans on the table.)

SANTOS

(Quickly.)

Your Excellency, the meeting ended sooner than expected. Major Vogel of the Gestapo just arrived.

(Raphael quickly senses Santos's fear. He nods at Vogel.)

VOGEL

Good day, Your Excellency.

(Santos cuts off Vogel.)

SANTOS

I was just telling the Major about the reason for Lieutenant Steiner's visit. It concerned -

VOGEL

(Interrupts and steps in front of Santos.)

Sir, you have a most eager and helpful assistant. Your Excellency, I wish to know why the Lieutenant was here today.

(Raphael eyes Santos who blocks the plans from view.)

RAPHAEL

Is there a problem with his visit?

VOGEL

I hope not.

RAPHAEL

It concerned architectural work for the Church.

VOGEL

That is what Father Santos said. Sir, can you elaborate?

RAPHAEL

(Leads Vogel away from Santos.)

Lieutenant Steiner was the Project Architect for the restoration at St. Hedwig's Chapel several years ago.

VOGEL

Please go on.

RAPHAEL

There is little to tell. He brought to my attention a few new problems he noticed during his annual routine inspection.

VOGEL

Such as?

RAPHAEL

A few cracks in the walls.

VOGEL

(Jots a note.)

Is there anything else he discussed?

RAPHAEL

No.

(Vogel eyes Santos who shows no reaction.)

VOGEL

I thank Your Excellency for your valuable time. I will return the plans to Lieutenant Steiner, too.

RAPHAEL

(Laughs mildly.)

Major Vogel, what a delightful sense of humor you have. I would never burden someone of your rank with the menial task of making a delivery to a subordinate. Father Santos, please return those to Lieutenant Steiner.

VOGEL

Your Excellency, I assure you it is not a problem.

(Raphael gently turns him away.)

RAPHAEL

(Distracts him again.)

Will I see you at Mass on Sunday?

I am not Catholic. VOGEL

Would you like to be? RAPHAEL

No thank you, Your Excellency. VOGEL

Perhaps in another war. RAPHAEL

I pray not. VOGEL

You are not Catholic, yet you pray. Major Vogel, you are a most interesting man. RAPHAEL
(Smiles and pats him on the shoulder.)
Thank you for coming today.

Heil Hitler. VOGEL

(Vogel salutes and exits
SR. Raphael sighs then
turns to glare at Santos.)

ACT I

SCENE 2

SETTING: A simple living/dining room. A table with two chairs is SL. A sofa and an armchair beside it is CS. A radio sits on an end table by the chair.

AT RISE: Emil enters SR and flops on the sofa.

(Anna enters SL. Sees him
and X to Emil.)

ANNA
Emil, what happened? Are you all right?

EMIL
Anna, you must be quiet. The landlady knows I live alone. If she hears you, or if anyone hears you.

ANNA
(Sits beside him.)
I am sorry but you seem ill.

EMIL

It is all this work I have to do. The production schedules are very tight.

ANNA

(Rubs his shoulders and
kisses him.)

I am certain you will do your best work.

(Emil stands and walks away
from her.)

EMIL

I pray not.

(Beat.)

My work!

ANNA

Yes, Emil?

EMIL

I left some plans behind at a meeting. I'll have to go back for them. How foolish of me.

ANNA

You are tired and need rest. I'll turn on some music to relax you.

(She turns on the radio. A
waltz plays.)

EMIL

Turn it off.

ANNA

It's only music, Emil.

(Emil storms to the radio,
shuts it off.)

EMIL

Music like that is played by bands in camps to soothe German soldiers doing their work.

ANNA

Emil, you are so angry. Why?

EMIL

I'm sorry. I just can't stand that music anymore.

ANNA

I like your anger.

EMIL

You're the only one.

ANNA

You must be hungry from your busy day. Dinner is on the table.
It is not much. Some meat, cheese and bread.

EMIL

(Kisses her.)

It's wonderful, Anna.

(Emil sits and eats. Anna sits beside him. He uncorks a bottle of wine on the table, and pours into two cups. They eat and drink a few seconds then a knock is heard. They freeze.)

EMIL

Into the bedroom now.

(He hurries Anna away.)

Anna, don't make a sound. I love you.

(They kiss. Another knock sounds. She disappears SL. He X to door SR.)

EMIL

(Enters with Santos.)

Father, what a surprise.

SANTOS

(Carries rolled blueprint.)

I hope I am not interrupting, Lieutenant?

EMIL

Of course, not Father Santos. How did you find me?

SANTOS

As the Archbishop's assistant, I have many contacts. You left this behind. It almost fell into the wrong hands.

(Santos hands him the plan then sits in the arm chair. Emil sits on the sofa and lays the plan beside him. Santos scans the room. Turns on the radio. The waltz still plays.)

SANTOS

I love waltzes, don't you?

(Leans toward Emil.)

The music will drown out our talk. Your visit was foolish and dangerous. His Excellency is a man of great power and humanity.

(MORE)

SANTOS (CONT'D)

Major Vogel of the Gestapo arrived after you left to ask about your visit. They watch the Papal Legation. I told Vogel the Archbishop was busy, a lie. Then I told him that you came to discuss the St. Hedwig's repair work, another lie. His Excellency collaborated my lie.

EMIL

Father Santos, I owe you ...

SANTOS

Silence. We share a belief that Hitler is this century's Napoleon. If you had humbly asked for His Excellency's assistance in getting you reassigned, based on your deep Catholic beliefs, he might have arranged something. Now, it is impossible with the Gestapo's interest in you.

(Santos stands and walks
around the room. Sees
food and cups on table.)

SANTOS

May I trouble you for something to drink?

EMIL

(Rises and X closer to
Santos.)

Father, please help yourself.

SANTOS

I see two cups here. Are you expecting another guest?

EMIL

No. It was left over from this morning.

SANTOS

(Sips from a cup.)

You drink wine for breakfast? You are a devout Catholic.
(Approaches Emil.)

A delegation arrives from Rome in two days. It will make an official visit to His Excellency. Then it leaves for Sweden with a prominent citizen disguised as a priest. Within a few days, he will be in America. In exchange, he donated much of his wealth to the Church, although some of it found its way into the Third Reich's treasury. However, fate intervened last night when he died drunk in a car accident with a prostitute. That means his new Swedish passport can be issued to another.

(Finishes the wine and put
it down.)

His Excellency is certain an outstanding young architect can quickly begin a new life in America. Do you accept, Lieutenant Steiner?

EMIL

Father, I am not going to leave so easily. It is the coward's way.

SANTOS

It is the smart way. Emil, how long do you think it will take Vogel to find out about your betrayal?

EMIL

How will my disappearance be explained to my colleagues?

SANTOS

You should have thought about them before coming to the Legation. Does anyone else know of your actions?

EMIL

No.

SANTOS

What about your family? The Gestapo can still get to them.

EMIL

I have no family. My parents died from TB then my aunt cared for me. She married an English teacher before the war and moved to Scotland. I've had no contact with her in several years. She was my only relative.

SANTOS

Then one insignificant German architect won't be missed. There are many types of war related accidents which result with unidentified victims lying in morgues. Most are never claimed. Since you have no family, I will identify your remains. In any event, you will be elsewhere with a different name and a new life. Naturally, your gratitude to His Excellency is eternal silence.

(A loud noise from SL.
Emil is startled. Santos
turns to the direction of
the sound.)

SANTOS

Who else is here? I know you are hiding someone.

EMIL

Father, no one is here but us.

SANTOS

I have no time to play games. I need your yes or no.

EMIL

I am a German. I was born in Berlin. I can't leave my country just like that.

SANTOS

Then your answer is no. Thank you for the wine.

(Santos starts to exit as
the noise happens again.)

EMIL

(Stands in front of Santos
to stop him.)

Father, I beg you not to tell anyone.

SANTOS

Let me see him first. Bring him out.

(Emil exits SL. He returns
with his arms around Anna.
Santos sighs quickly then
approaches them.)

SANTOS

Fraulein, I am Father Carmine Santos of the Papal Legation in
Berlin. I serve God, Pope Pius the Twelfth and His Excellency,
Archbishop Umberto Raphael. I am here on behalf of the Holy
Catholic Church.

EMIL

She is Anna Ginsberg. A schoolteacher I met last year. Anna is
carrying my child.

(Santos shakes his head
with disbelief.)

SANTOS

I though this was going to be such a simple day.

(Then a knock on the door
is heard. Santos motions
for silence. Another knock.)

VOGEL (O.S.)

Lieutenant Steiner? Emil Steiner?

(Santos puts his hands up
to Emil and Anna to stay.
Seconds pass. Santos X SR
to door. He returns in a
few seconds. X to them.)

SANTOS

(Lowers voice.)

He is gone for now. It is Major Vogel of the Gestapo. My worst
fear is confirmed.

ANNA

Why is the Gestapo after you? What is going on, Emil?

EMIL

(Tries to calm her.)

Anna, there is nothing to worry about.

SANTOS

Anna, there is everything to worry about.

EMIL

I will speak with the Major. I am not afraid.

SANTOS

Then you are stupid. He doesn't want answers, Emil. He is here to arrest you. I must get you out of here before he returns.

EMIL

Where will we go?

ACT I

SCENE 3

SETTING:

The Papal Legation.

AT RISE:

The empty conference room. Santos enters SR with Emil and Anna.

SANTOS

You can wait in here. I will be back soon.

(Santos rushes out SR.)

ANNA

Emil, I want to go home. I am not feeling well. Why are we here anyway?

(Emil guides her to a chair.)

EMIL

Anna, we will leave very soon. First, I must meet with the Archbishop.

ANNA

What does he have to do with the Gestapo? You are lying to me.

(Beat.)

I know all about your new work. I have looked at your plans when you are asleep. You taught me how to read architectural drawings, remember? Emil, I don't want to believe it but I do.

EMIL

I never should have asked you to stay with me. You would have been better off if you hid with your friends in the country.

ANNA

I would have died with an empty heart without you.

EMIL

I promise no one will hurt you.

ANNA

Don't promise me anything now. I am no fool.

(Anna kisses Emil. Santos enters SR. Stands silently as they kiss. They stop and turn to him.)

SANTOS

I just informed His Excellency of your visit. He will be in soon.

EMIL

Why did you bring us here?

SANTOS

His Excellency is a powerful man. Perhaps he can make some arrangements for you. I see no other choice.

ANNA

As a Jew, I should not be here.

SANTOS

As a child of God in need, where else should you be? Anna, I want to ask if you are a devout Jew?

ANNA

Yes.

SANTOS

The only choice I see is for you to be baptized a Catholic. His Excellency can grant more protection for you.

ANNA

(Stands.)

Never. I was born a Jew and will die one. Our baby is half-Jewish. Emil, I can't renounce my faith. My family was taken away months ago. If you hadn't found me and hid me, I would be dead.

EMIL

Father Santos, it is impossible. There has to be another option.

SANTOS

Both of you must understand the gravity of your situation. Anna, if you renounce your faith, it will save your life.

ANNA

How can living a lie be called salvation?

SANTOS

It is not a lie if you save the baby.

ANNA

Father Santos, I know you are a man of God. A man true to your beliefs, but they are not mine. I know thousands of Jews died terrible deaths, but they died Jews. My parents. For me to deny my faith, would be spitting on their graves.

(Santos X to her and Emil.)

SANTOS

Just as there are thousands of Jews who died, there are thousands of Catholics who died trying to save them. My father was a layman in the Church. My mother was a midwife who brought countless babies, many Jewish ones, into the world who would have died without her help. I begged them to come with me. I would have gotten them to Sweden. They refused to leave. They were handcuffed together and made to stand at the river's edge. All night they stood shivering in the cold. At dawn, only one of them was shot and fell into the river dragging the other one in.

EMIL

(Brings her closer to him.)

Anna, listen to me. If we have no choice, then we must think of the baby.

ANNA

Emil, how can you ask this of me?

EMIL

I beg you to save yourself and the baby.

ANNA

Emil.

EMIL

And I beg you to forgive me for asking you.

(Raphael enters SR slowly.)

RAPHAEL

Lieutenant Steiner, I did not expect to see you, again. Fraulein, you are Anna Ginsberg?

ANNA

(Emil and Anna rise.)

Yes, Your Excellency.

RAPHAEL

(X to her and motions for them to sit.)

I overheard the conversation just now. A most poignant plea from both sides. However, the decision rest not in your heart or mind, but with God. Only he can give you the answer you seek, and only when you are ready to hear it.

(MORE)

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Walks away a few feet.)

Now, to the serious matter at hand. The Papal Legation is not a hotel. Father Santos should not have brought you here. I will give you both a meal, some clothes and passage to anywhere in Berlin, but that is all.

SANTOS

Your Excellency.

(Raphael holds up his hand
for quiet.)

RAPHAEL

Father Santos, I have heard your voice too many times today. My Papal duties are daunting enough without your fly in my ointment. Emil, had there been more time to prepare, other arrangements might have been made. I ask you to believe me, but you have now put me into a corner with the Gestapo. It is a position I do not deserve.

(The phone rings. Santos X
to answer it.)

SANTOS

Yes? I see.

(Covers receiver. Addresses
Raphael.)

Your Excellency, Major Vogel is here to see you.

(Raphael looks at Emil and
Anna then nods yes.)

SANTOS

Send him in.

RAPHAEL

(To Emil and Anna. Santos
puts down the phone and
stands beside them.)

Stay where you are.

(Vogel enters SR.)

VOGEL

Your Excellency, excuse the interruption.
(Surprised to see Emil.)

More talk about cracks in the walls, sir. Lieutenant and Frau Steiner?

ANNA

(Stands defiantly.)

I am Anna Ginsberg. Emil's lover and mother of his unborn child.

VOGEL

All three of you are under arrest for treason.

EMIL

(Steps in front to protect
Anna.)

Touch her and I will kill you. I'll burn in hell for your murder,
but it will be worth it.

VOGEL

Steiner, don't be an idiot. You are either a German or a
Christian. Choose.

(Emil looks at Vogel then
Raphael. He clutches Anna.)

EMIL

Your Excellency, we wish to remain here with God.

VOGEL

You will see him soon enough.

RAPHAEL

Emil, what did you say?

EMIL

We seek sanctuary, Your Excellency.

VOGEL

Come with me, now.

RAPHAEL

Major Vogel, Emil has requested sanctuary. As a priest, I must
grant it.

VOGEL

Enough nonsense.

RAPHAEL

Silence, Major. This is not nonsense; it is the word of God.
Since you are not Catholic, let me inform you of Matthew Twenty-
Five, Thirty-Five, "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was
thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you gave me
shelter."

VOGEL

I am taking them with me.

(He steps forward. Santos
shields Emil and Anna.)

SANTOS

(Shouts at Raphael.)

Help us!

(Raphael stands in front of Santos blocking Vogel.)

RAPHAEL

In the name of the Holy Catholic Church, stop. Sanctuary is a grave matter that demands respect. It is granted to those who fear persecution and injustice from a government. Emil and Anna deserve respect ... as do I.

VOGEL

Your Excellency, the laws of the Third Reich order me.

RAPHAEL

In the house of God, I obey only his laws. The Third Reich has no power over me here, Major Vogel.

VOGEL

Sir, do not interfere with my duty.

RAPHAEL

How dare you interfere with mine.

VOGEL

(Steps back then in a respectful tone.)

Your Excellency, a priest's authority can be overruled by a higher Church power. However, you are no ordinary priest. As Archbishop, the Pope is the only Church authority who can overrule you.

RAPHAEL

IF he overrules me, it would take days possibly weeks.

VOGEL

Your Excellency, with respect to your position, the request to the Vatican will come directly from Reichfuhrer Himmler. Therefore, it should take hours instead of days for a decision. You and your staff can perform your normal duties. I will post a guard outside. Sir, I apologize for any inconvenience the wait may cause.

RAPHAEL

Major Vogel, you underestimate His Holiness. He must agree to overturn my decision.

(Steps to Vogel.)

MY decision. I am one of the most prominent Archbishops in Germany and within the Catholic Church. I never mention this but I will make an exception for you, the Holy Father and I have a deep friendship of many, many years.

VOGEL

Sir, perhaps it is you who underestimates the Pope. He has been agreeable with the Third Reich for many, many years. Heil Hitler.

(Vogel salutes and exits SR.)

(Beat. Lights fade to half. Santos exits SR, and Raphael exits SL. Anna reclines on top of the conference table to sleep. Emil sits on the edge by her. He takes off his jacket and covers her. Seconds pass then lights up. Santos enters SR.)

SANTOS

(Quietly.)
Is she still asleep?

EMIL

Yes.

SANTOS

Anna would be more comfortable in my room. You both would.

EMIL

Father Santos, thank you but I can't sleep, and I won't leave her.

(Stands to stretch. He rubs his eyes.)

I was thinking how different my life was only a few days ago. I woke up, went to work, ate lunch, more work then went home to Anna. So simple, Father Santos. All I had to do was be like my colleagues. I couldn't that but why? I am a traitor. I betrayed my country. Why did I do it?

SANTOS

Don't second-guess your actions. Besides, how long could you have kept Anna and the baby a secret?

EMIL

I don't know.

SANTOS

Exactly my point. You can't answer these questions. It is too late to ask why.

(Raphael enters SL, and peeks at Anna.)

RAPHAEL

It is good that she rests as much as possible. Emil, have you slept?

(Emil shakes his head no.)

Father Santos, where is Major Vogel?

SANTOS

Your Excellency, he returned to his office to brief the Kommandant.

RAPHAEL

Emil, you must find a way to convince Anna to be baptized. I can grant her more protection.

EMIL

Your Excellency, she won't deny her faith and heritage. I begged her already.

RAPHAEL

She will die if she does not and so will the baby. You all will die. I am certain the Holy Father will grant sanctuary because I made the request to the Vatican. This is a necessary procedure to appease Vogel. I can assure your safety as long as you stay here.

EMIL

Your Excellency, why have you done so much for us?

RAPHAEL

Many good people risk far more than I do. Emil, I use my position to do as much as I can, not just for you, but others. I hope you believe me.

(Vogel enters SR.)

VOGEL

Your Excellency.

(Raphael X to him. Emil returns to Anna. She begins to awake. Santos goes to her, too.)

RAPHAEL

Major, no decision yet. I told you it would take days.

VOGEL

Even if sanctuary is granted, they will be prisoners here.

RAPHAEL

Better here than in a death camp.

VOGEL

I don't understand why you protect a Jew and a German traitor.

RAPHAEL

It is what you risk that concerns me more.

VOGEL

What is that?

RAPHAEL

Eternal damnation.

VOGEL

Let's see which one of us ends up in hell first.

(The phone rings instantly
before Raphael can reply.
Emil helps Anna off the
table. Santos goes to the
phone to answer it.)

SANTOS

Yes? Your Excellency, it is the call from the Vatican.
(Hands the phone to Raphael.)

RAPHAEL

(Crosses himself then
listens. Pauses after each
reply.)

Yes, Your Holiness. Of course. I understand, Your Grace. Thank
you, Holy Father.

(Slowly puts the phone down.)
Sanctuary is denied.

VOGEL

In the name of the Third Reich, both of you are under arrest.

(Raphael quickly grabs Anna
aside.)

RAPHAEL

Anna, do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven
and Earth?

(Anna is scared and confused.
Santos steps to her.)

SANTOS

Reply, "I do believe."

ANNA

(Cries to him.)
Emil, I can't.

EMIL

(Begs her.)
You must.

VOGEL

You are under arrest.

ANNA

I do ... I do believe.

VOGEL

Enough.

RAPHAEL

(Shouts.)
Silence you bastard.

VOGEL

(Pulls a revolver out.)
They belong to the Third Reich, not the church. Step aside,
priest.

RAPHAEL

(To Anna.)
Do you believe in Jesus Christ ...

(Vogel aims at Anna. Raphael
steps in front of Anna.)

VOGEL

I said step aside.

RAPHAEL

No.

(Vogel glares at him, but
lowers the gun.)

RAPHAEL

(To Anna.)
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was
born and who suffered?

ANNA

I do believe.

RAPHAEL

Do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the
communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body and life everlasting?

ANNA

I do believe.

RAPHAEL

(Makes the sign of the cross
on her forehead. Santos
and Emil cross themselves.)
I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy
Spirit. Amen. Anna Ginsberg is now baptized as a Catholic and
protected by the Holy Church.

VOGEL

Fuck you. She will die a Catholic now instead of a Jew. You
accomplished nothing.

RAPHAEL

I obeyed God's law.

VOGEL

I've had enough of you, priest. They are under arrest.

(Vogel raises the gun but Raphael lunges and pushes him offstage. Emil clutches Anna. A shot is heard.)

SANTOS

(Runs towards SR but stops as Raphael re-enters.)

Your Excellency, what have you done?

(Raphael grabs Santos by his shoulders.)

RAPHAEL

Listen to me I acted alone. Do you understand?

SANTOS

Sir!

RAPHAEL

(Faces Santos and tightens his grip.)

Carmine, do you understand me?

SANTOS

(Shocked.)

Yes, but the gunshot. The guard heard it.

RAPHAEL

(Regains composure.)

The boiler in the basement? It makes that terrible sound when it over-heats. Father, I thought I told you to have it fixed?

EMIL

Your Excellency, the Gestapo will come for you now.

RAPHAEL

Exactly.

EMIL

I never should have come here. I'm so ashamed. Please forgive me.

RAPHAEL

I have known more shame than you. Forgive yourself for I already have. I never expected the Holy Father to overrule me, never. We were ordained together so many years ago. He always greets me as "my dear brother" except today then I knew. Emil, I am the one who is now guilty of pride.

(Beat.)

You all must fly immediately to Sweden.

(MORE)

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

Father Santos, disguise Emil and Anna as Papal staff leaving for the day. Tell the guard that Major Vogel and I still await the decision, and we are not to be disturbed. That should buy enough time for your escape.

SANTOS

I refuse to leave, Your Excellency.

RAPHAEL

I trust their lives only with you. Do your duty to God and the Church. They need ... I need your strength.

(Santos nods yes.)

RAPHAEL

The Legation's airplane is on standby at the airport. You will travel under the protection of the Vatican. I will contact the Archbishop in Stockholm. He can arrange Swedish passports for you to America. You must leave now.

(Emil and Anna approach him. Raphael holds up his hand but Anna kisses him on the cheek.)

ANNA

May God bless, Your Excellency.

(She and Emil kiss his hand. Santos kisses his hand then tries to hug Raphael but he gently pushes Santos away.)

RAPHAEL

You must hurry.

(Santos, Emil and Anna rush off SL. Slowly Raphael starts to take off his robe and shirt to reveal a Jewish yellow star painted on his chest. He falls on his knees and crosses himself.)

RAPHAEL

Forgive me Father, for I have sinned.

LIGHTS FADE OUT

THE END