

SEMINARIO MULTIDISCIPLINARI  
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MONSIGNOR'S HOUR Francisco (Paco) Prado

gabriel JCS  
24/10/08 JCR

Pagnani

In this room we have ~~what are generally regarded as~~ some of the most intriguing mysteries of the Vatican Gallery.

Monsignor

Well, all I can say is that they all look like Raphael to me.

Pagnani

One sees perhaps the hand of one artist, the hand of another, in several of these paintings.

Monsignor

But if we don't know who did them, how do we know they're any good?.....  
~~Of course~~ I would have liked to see the Pope....I've never seen a Pope.

Pagnani

~~Why didn't you write ahead?~~ There's usually no difficulty. Why, he sees everyone. At least he did until a few days ago. I hear all his general audiences have been canceled for at least a week. Strange, too, at this season of the year.

Monsignor

Whose is that? (indicates large painting)

Pagnani

This is the enigma of the collection: forgotten for centuries, we are told; rescued from obscurity a few years ago by His Holiness. Admired by many, ignored by others, behold: "The Key Of Heaven".

Monsignor

Ah, Gabriel, one hour in Rome is not enough!

Pagnani

We shall see, Monsignor, we shall see. Better one hour in Rome, than an eternity in ~~St. Paul~~. Ah, Monsignor, it is a great privilege, a rare honor, to have you with us. You are a distinguished Father of the Church!

Monsignor

No, no Gabriel. You must not say that. What would people think? I come from Mt. Morris, Michigan.

St Paul Minneapolis

Pagnani

Monsignor Carey. You are what you call: incognito, eh? ~~How is it you Americans say it?~~ These are paintings--oh yes, you may take them or you may leave them. ~~It is entirely up to you. But now we leave this gallery.~~ I always say the Vatican gallery is just like the Church. It's got everything in it--if that's what you want.

Seminario Multidisciplinario Josemilio González  
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Monsignor  
Really, it's too incredible at times. Do you believe all that about Michael Angelo and the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? My dear, I should think he would have been exhausted. After all, he could have done a floor just as well, couldn't he?....But His Holiness does see the folks sometimes doesn't he?

Pagnani  
So I have been told. But it depends very much on who you are.

Monsignor  
I know, of course he sees people privately as well as publicly, lots of them.

Pagnani  
Your best chance would be to see him in a crowd. When he does see people, he usually sees them all at once.

Monsignor  
I call that pretty nice. Sees 'em all but sees 'em all at once...just like a Democrat!...Is there any chance?....How do people see His Holiness alone?

Pagnani  
You know, I've often wondered about that too. But I haven't the slightest idea.

*There must be a way.*  
Monsignor  
~~I know I'm right.~~ I know it as surely as if I could walk right in now and see him. There must be some way. Can't you think of something?

Pagnani  
This is Rome, not Killarney or Mt. Morris, Michigan. Padre mio, it is impossible what you propose. It is not done. It can not be done.

Monsignor  
And why not?

Pagnani  
Do you not understand? This is the Vatican. One does not go up and rap on the door of  $\Pi$  Papa like he is a village priest. You must remember he is a king in his kingdom.

Monsignor  
Yes, well...something will have to help me out.

Pagnani  
You are magnificent, Monsignor. Such divine effrontery! But you are mad, most pleasantly and completely mad.

Monsignor  
~~If I could explain everything to His Holiness, I feel certain he would understand.~~ Could be, but I feel sure there IS A way to see him - alone - for just 5 minutes.

Pagnani  
Do you think His Holiness can be bothered about what one pilgrim thinks?

Monsignor

I do.

Pagnani  
Il Papa has other things on his mind. Big things are in the wind. No general audiences for a week. Ambassadors come and go like so many pigeons. I myself have seen them. Something is in the air.

Monsignor  
Would one more pigeon bother him so much?...There is always the power of prayer. Do you believe in it, Gabriel?

Pagnani  
It depends on what I'm praying for. There's no use in making it too hard for the good Lord.

Monsignor  
Think how many millions would learn to pray if they believed prayers were answered. All most of us have against praying is the fear that it won't work! Come, let us stand here a moment before this beautiful painting. It was for this that I stopped off in Rome.

Pagnani  
You have only one hour in Rome and you spend it on one painting.

Monsignor  
I heard about it from an old missionary. He told me to look at it, shut my eyes, and that then I would know what contentment really is.

Pagnani  
It is not accounted one of the great unsigned masterpieces.

Monsignor  
Hush, Gabriel. Can't you hear what is being said: "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it ve afraid."

Pagnani  
I am listening, Monsignor.

Monsignor  
Now let us shut our eyes and pray. (Perez enters)

*mit laban*  
Perez  
So! This is what this picture does to people. Shuts their eyes to the realities of life.

Monsignor  
I beg you pardon. —

Pagnani  
Your Eminence! Your blessing. — *Do e?*

\* Well, it makes no difference, now  
" it's of no consequence now

So someone remembers Perez, eh? Well, no matter.

Monsignor

Who is he? Do you know His Eminence?

Pagnani

His Eminence is a prince of the Church. And you--look here, Monsignor, who are you ~~any~~?

Monsignor

Does that really matter?

Perez

Ah, Monsignor, I could not help hearing. With such humility surely you must be at least a nuncio?

Monsignor

You flatter me, Your Eminence, but you are quite mistaken.

Perez

No matter, Monsignor, when I came in, you were looking at this painting. Do you see anything in it?

Monsignor

Yes, indeed, Your Eminence, there is much to be seen.

Perez

Strange. Very strange. If that be "The Key <sup>To</sup> of Heaven", I fail to grasp it. No, Monsignor, I can't. Not today anyway. Perhaps it is well that I am going home to Venezuela.

Monsignor

And I've just come from Mt. Morris. Whym Your Eminence, you know you're the first person I've had a chance to talk to--that is, without an introduction. Now I suppose I won't see you again and I did so want to know...

Perez

Much too shrewd for a nuncio, Monsignor. What is it you want to know, if you don't already know it?

Monsignor

What is His Holiness like, personally I mean? Would it be possible..... does he....does he ever smile, for instance?

Perez

Monsignor, this is an effrontery! Forgive me, I forgot you could mean nothing unpleasant since you hardly know me. Hmhmhm. I can say this to you, Monsignor: I should imagine that His Holiness does smile upon occasion and particularly this one. Only a moment ago he ~~told~~ <sup>told</sup> me to look at this painting on my way out, ~~the~~ while he assured me, with a smile, that I would probably see nothing 'n it. Well, I still don't. So he is probably still smiling. Monsignor, good day

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effrontery = shameless boldness, insolence, temerity

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Colección  
Francisco (Paco) Prado

stay with painting

Monsignor *Francisco (Paco) Prado*

And what does he mean by that?

Pagnani

But it is all clear, these comings and goings of big men. Il Papa is talking peace!

Monsignor

Are you sure? How would you know?

Pagnani

Do you not read the papers? A month ago they said Cardinal Perez would go home. Some say he may even resign and give up the red hat. He and Il Papa have never seen eye to eye on peace.

Monsignor

Small wonder he could see nothing in the painting. But you heard what he said: the Pope smiles. Now if I could....

Pagnani

I shall never, never understand you. You can speak of whims when Il Papa carries such a crisis on his shoulders. You--you are as impossible as Cardinal Perez.

Monsignor

Oh, no my friend. You see, I understand the painting! (Amato enters)

Amato

Monsignor! Signor! Permit me: a question, please. Cardinal Perez--has he passed this way? Or perhaps you do not know him.

Monsignor

Oh, yes, we know him. You can tell His Holiness that he found nothing of interest in the painting.

Pagnani

Monsignor! One must be discreet.

Amato

I do not understand... that you should understand so completely. What is it you know about the painting? What is your business with Cardinal Perez? Monsignor, I do not believe we have the honor....

Monsignor

It's all very simple. I happened to be standing here when he came in. I never saw him before.

Amato

But Cardinal Perez is not in the habit of speaking before strangers.

Pagnani

Ah, Monsignor Amato, there you have it. The little father, he has a way with him. That is all.

Amato  
And you, ~~who know my name~~, who are you?

Monsignor  
Gabriel? Why, Gabriel was a policeman! Now he is a Swiss Guard here.  
I met him this morning.

Amato  
A policeman!

Monsignor  
Of course! He comes from the ~~border of Switzerland~~, <sup>Swiss Guard</sup>  
I missed the general tour and I did not want to come alone and so.....

Amato  
This is most irregular. I come here looking for Cardinal Perez and I  
find a Swiss Guard who was a policeman and a....a...

Monsignor  
Aman from ~~Mt. Morris, Michigan~~.

Pagnani  
That's what he says, but I don't believe him.

Amato  
And I find you parites to a most important....Monsignor, your business  
here?

Monsignor  
I came to see the pictures--and--His Holiness!

Pagnani  
Yes, he's really here to see His Holiness. Absurd, isn't it?

Amato  
Impossible. Do you expect to find him in the galleries? Have you  
arranged for an audience?

Monsignor  
Oh no. I did not ask for an appointment.

Pagnani  
He thinks maybe he can see His Holiness just for the asking.

Amato  
I have no time for idle jests. Let us come to the point at once. What  
were you doing here with Cardinal Perez?

Monsignor  
Why, we were discussing this painting--and whether His Holiness has a  
sense of humor.

Amato  
Now you become insulting.

Monsignor

Oh, Monsignor, please. This is the truth. I wasn't to see if it is as easy to meet the Bishop of Rome as it is to see my Bishop back home in ~~Michigan~~.

Amato

Why should His Holiness, who sees everyone in general audience, grant you a special hearing? What reason have you?

Monsignor

Must one always have a reason? Here in St. Peter's or in my little church at home, if I wish to speak with God, the door to the sanctuary is open day and night. If I would speak with His Vicar, must I always have an appointment first?

Amato

I am amazed. What do you think would happen if we were to let people see His Holiness at will?

Monsignor

I was afraid you'd think of that. But what about him? Doesn't he want to ~~let down the barriers once in a while, just to find out for himself~~ whether the sun is still shining in people's hearts--with out having to take it on the word of some diplomat?

Amato

Ridiculous. Think you His Holiness has time for such nonsense? Or what I have either? Now that I think of it, how do I know that you are not an imposter?

Monsignor

Monsignor jests with me.

Amato.

I shall take no chances. I must ask you both to remain here, under guard. You know entirely too much about the conversations of His Holiness and Cardinal Perez to be permitted complete liberty for the present.

Pagnani

Now, you see. He wants to arrest me--~~a former policeman and present Swiss Guard~~. What will my chief say? Most reverent Monsignor, the situation looks bad. That I will admit. My friend has no credentials at the moment. Indeed he is not accredited at all. He is only passing through. And I don't really know who he is. But no sane man could be that simple without being somebody.

Monsignor

Thank-you, my friend.

Pagnani

Are they not crazy these Americans? So Absurd. Make no mistake about it, reverend Monsignor. Gabriel Augustine Pagnani <sup>Seminario de Drama</sup> knows a churchman, when he sees one.

Amato

I am perplexed. I can not comprehend. Nothing like this has ever happened before. You must remain here for a few moments for further questioning. You understand: I do not like to make ~~a~~ mistake, This is ~~not~~ time for mistakes. I shall return presently. (He exits)

Monsignor

Have I seen him somewhere?

Pganani

Ah, Monsignor Amato is here, there, everywhere. He is, my friend, one of the secretaries in the Papal household. And if you aren't what I think you are, this little prank may go hard with us.

Monsignor

But Gabriel, why will you insist on making me something that I am not?

Pagnani

You could be somebldy, just as well as not. Ah yes, the more I think of it, the more I'm sure you are--at least, until we get out of here.

Monsignor

You Italians are incorrigible. You all talk like Dante and act like Lorenzo the Magnificent.

Pagnani

Much better. We shall make something of you yet. You have, my friend, the soul ifor adventure.

Monsignor

Adventure, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. And for the present I can find all I need in this one canvas.

Pagnani

Peace! A poor man's dream, eh? A bird on the wing, that. So easy to catch with the brush on a painting, but in life? Santa Maria, it is out of our hands. P-s-s-t. Look, Monsignor, the guards are gone. Perhaps we had better go before they come back.

Monsignor

I am in no hurry. you may go if you wish.

Pagnani

Perhaps it would be wise if I find someone to intercede for us....

Monsignor

By all means.

Pagnani

Ah, but you think that I desert you, I--Gabriel--Augustine--Pag--

Monsignor

No, my friend. I am afraid I am not even thinking of you at all. And

Monsignor (cont'd)

I would like to be alone.

Pagnani

If Monsignor insists....

Monsignor

Consider that I have insisted.

Pagnani

I bow to Monsignor's wish but I return, never fear. I go--yes, I go,  
but only that I may return. Good Father--arriverderci! (He exits)

8/2/82

CARDINAL: A world at peace <sup>Passing</sup> ~~which passeth~~ all understanding.

MONSIGNOR: Oh, I beg your pardon. I thought I was alone. ~~Your your~~  
~~Eminence?~~

CARDINAL: Dont let me disturb you.

MONSIGNOR: You are a Cardinal of the Dominicans. Your white cap gives  
you away. I am deeply honored, Your Eminence.

CARDINAL: Does it matter so much who <sup>We Are?</sup> ~~I am, Monsignor, or who you are?~~

MONSIGNOR: But of course not. I just said that to Monsignor Amato.  
My name is Micheal Carey, from St. Paul, Minn. Do you know  
Monsignor Amato?

CARDINAL: We are acquainted.

MONSIGNOR: I'm so glad I ran into you, Cardinal. For some reason he  
suspects me of being a troublemaker. Perhaps he will arrest  
you to if he finds you here with me.

CARDINAL: I dont imagine we'll be troubled by Monsignor Amato.

MONSIGNOR: I wouldn't want to get you into trouble. The guards he left  
with me may come back.

CARDINAL: I dont think we shall be troubled by the guards either.

MONSIGNOR: But how do you know?

CARDINAL: The Pope is not in his apartments. They are looking all over  
for him.

*Seminario de Drama*  
*Colección*  
*Francisco (Paco) Prado*

Mon: Your Eminence, is anything wrong?

Car: Just between ourselves, I think he wanted to get away from Monsignor Amato.

Mon: I knew it! he's a man after my own heart,

Car: ~~Sometimes I wonder~~ <sup>looks at painting</sup> who knows what is really in the heart of His Holiness. He is very much alone.

Mon: Ah, that must be hard. At least it would be for me. I love people, new people, new places. That's why I have only one hour in Rome, Your Eminence. I fell in love with Stresa ~~and~~ and it left me ~~no~~ no time for ~~anything~~ anything else.

Car: Stresa! I have not been there since I was a young priest. I think I understand, Monsignor.....Stresa in the spring....the world at peace. Monsignor, what made you give Rome even one hour?

Mon: A young priest whose chapel I shared at Stresa told me not to miss "The Key To Heaven".

Car: So he remembers the painting? Every so often I come back to look at it. Sometimes it's meaning seems clear, other times.....

Mon: My peace I leave with you. It seems simple enough. The words are plain. He wants ~~you~~ <sup>us</sup> to commit ~~yourself~~ <sup>ourselves</sup> to ~~peace~~ peace, that's all.

Car: Who wouldn't, but how far, how far must one go?

Mon: How far did Christ go for us? Who are we to put limits on His Peace?

Car: True, Monsignor, but times have changed since Christ said those words.

Mon: Times have changed. Only God remains the same.

Car: Your theory is unimpeachable. But we are ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> dealing with theories. The whole threatening question is before us. The conference at Geneva ends tomorrow. Nothing has been accomplished. The race for nuclear arms begins anew. What can we do that men may live in peace?

Mon: End war forever.

Car: But there is no war, at least not yet.

Mon: It's shadow is always over us. It was over Cardinal Perez when he stopped to look at the painting.

Car: Yes, that is true. Conditions in his country are disturbing.... what did Cardinal Perez say about the painting?

Mon: He saw nothing in it.

Car: And Cardinal Perez is most astute. He is always for God and Country. If only he were a shade more for God...

Mon: But surely His Holiness will do something? Now, when others are playing with war, he should strike for peace and strike hard--- no matter who it hurts.

Car: And yet, we must consider diplomacy.

Mon: Diplomacy! A word so small you cant find it in the gospels.

Car: But now the world is at peace. Is this the ~~time~~ time for drastic measures?

Mon: What better time? The time for the Prince of Peace to speak is while there still is peace.

Car: The full measure of what you ask in not easy,

Mon: Nothing is too hard if it is for the honor and glory of God.

Car! I know. All the arguments are good. They have been good for centuries but too strong an action might lose us as much as it would gain.

Mon: Oh expediency: thy name is war!

Car: You dare to go that far?

Mon: Your pardon, Your Eminence, I forgot myself for a moment.

Car: You are to be congratulated--and envied. Everything seems so simple to you. This afternoon His Holiness meets the Council for Public Affairs of the Church to draft an encyclical. He is considering two possible forms: One is a prayer for peace, the other orders the faithful to refuse to take arms.

Mon: God be praised.

Car: Like you, His Holiness has been of the opinion that there can be no just war today.

Mon: Ah!

Car: And I have opposed him.

Mon: Oh, but youre wrong, Your Eminence. You mustn't do that. People all over the world are looking up to the Holy Father. Hes the last hope of millions who never want to fight again. You must let him know that. Tell him what we ordinary people are thinking. You must let me see him.. Yes, thats it, let me see him, for now I have a good reason for seeing him.

Car: What is your reason?

Mon: In Stresa I had a talk with that young priest. He got very angry and told me His Holiness was so remote an ordinary person could never see him. And I told him he was all wrong. I even made a bet with him that all I needed was a good enough reason... Maybe it is impossible, but I would like very much to have the chance to turn that young man back to the Holy Father.

8/1/82

Car: Would you turn the Vatican upside down for just one soul?

Mon: If I save his soul wouldnt it be worth it?

Car: But why should he see you--today ~~of~~ all days?

Mon: ~~It~~ It must be today/ He's going to decide things today. You just said so yourself.

Car: And do you think he would really listen to you?

Mon: He must listen to someone. If he listens to you why can't he listen to me?...If I were Pope for only five minutes, I'd fix things. I know what it is people want. And I'd get it for them too.

Car: And start a new war overnight?

Mon: Not a war with my people in it.

Car: Monsignor, you intrigue me. Would nothing stop you? Surely you would have to make some allowance for extenuating circumstances?

Mon: Ah, no Your Eminence. It is the exceptions that betray us every ~~time~~ time. If we make allowances for the just war, we will have nothing but just wars. Everyone will find the loophole.

Car: Yet sometimes if the cause is just, there is no alternative but to fight for it.

Mon: Well, I'm against all war no matter what labels you put on it. It hurts just as much no matter what you call it and i've decided you can't get anywhere with half-way measures. One is either for war- or for peace- in season and out. There's no in-between ground any more.

Car: You give no quarter, Monsignor.

Mon: War is relentless. So must peace be. They give us little chance for peace. Let us give them little chance for war. The trouble is we arent relentless about it. We forget too easily. A good slogan, the right bit of music, and were off to the fighting. I've been through it so often, Your Eminence. And always "in a good cause" I gave a brother to Ireland "in the trouble"--we were a fighting family--and when they counted the American dead in the Argonne my brothers boy was there. Piped off to the wars both of them by a phantom tune that never changes. Oh, if only I were Pope I'd change it.

Car: But can the world be run as simply as a parish?

Mon: Why not? The principle doesnt change with the size of the parish.

Seminario de D. D. D.  
Cul. m.  
Francisco (Paco) Prado

①

C. Very well, Monsignor. Let's put <sup>your theory</sup> ~~it~~ to the test.

Mon: A test?

Car: Occasionally I like to play a little game of make-believe. Do you want to play it with me right now

Mon: If you insist, your Eminence.

Car: Only if you want to, Monsignor. But let me warn you right off it's not easy to play.

Mon: Whoever plays must be ready to lose. What do I have to do, Your Eminence?

Car: First of all, sit down in that chair. And now suppose, Monsignor, that you are Pope.

Mon: Your Eminence, you suppose too much.

Car: You see, the game isn't easy from the start.

Mon: How could I presume to ~~imitate~~ the Holy Father?

Car: We presume much more when we are asked to ~~give an imitation~~ of Christ every day and every hour.

Mon: So be it. I will then, with your permission, Your Eminence. Perhaps it is time to remember that each one of us is made in His image, that we are all children of God. And so, if a man is allowed to kill his brother, he kills his God as well.

Car: But does that mean that if he is a child of God, he has to give his life away to anyone who wants to take it?

Mon: No. Defending your home and family against an intruder isn't going to war. But between nation and nation there must be laws to protect the individual ~~from exploitation by the state.~~

Car: But there have been wars that gave ~~liberty~~ to a people when nothing else could.

Mon. ~~History changes.~~ The wars that gave us ~~liberty~~ are in the past. The wars that take our liberty are before us.

Car: All right. Let us assume you could convince <sup>me</sup> ~~people~~ that their freedom is safer in peace than it is in war. Suppose ~~they~~ believed it with all ~~their~~ hearts. What happens if someone challenges their honor?

Better

Mon: Isn't it to live for your honor than to die for it?

Car. But the people are afraid they will be called cowards.

Mon: Nobody who can face the truth <sup>JOHN</sup> is a coward. And the truth is that nobody will win the next war. Kennedy said that man must end war or war will end mankind, and he was right. There won't be armies against armies, but people against people. Everyone fights and everybody will die.

Car: What can people do? The church has told its children in moments of great crisis to support their governments with their lives. The state has a place in the scheme of things.

Mon: Then let it keep its place. Which came first in the world, Cardinal, God or the state?

Car: If we ask 700 million people not to bear arms, we expose them to brutal persecution.

Mon: The church knows what persecution means. We dont have to ask what will happen if we do this, only is it the right thing to do.

Car: It may mean the massacre of innocent thousands.

Mon: The price is often the same for peace or war. Wouldnt you rather pay it for peace?

Car: But suppose your call for peace <sup>isn't</sup> followed. What if the people dont obey?

Mon: They will--they are waiting for someone to give the order not to fight.

Car: And why should we succeed where the United Nations has failed?

Mon: Because we speak to the people and the UN speaks to governments. We speak to the individual first and last.

Car: Every country would be against us.

Mon: Every statesman would be against us.

Car: Even if the people would follow us what could they do? Their governments controll them.

Mon: People can change their governments and their destinies.

Car: And you may have revolution. Kings will fall, governments may be wiped out. If we try to change the world who stands at our side to preserve order?

Mon: God, of course. Is He not with us all days even unto the end of time?

Car: But who are we to change the tide of centuries?

Mon: We are the Vicars of Christ on earth.

Car: None of our predecessors ever went so far.

Mon: But each one has gone a step further.

Car: How can you be so sure that we are not meant to leave things as they are?

Mon: Our God is not the Lord-of-things-as -they-are, but the Lord of things as they should be. Didnt he tell us "Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid"?

Car: You make it all too simple. Much too simple. After all, this the 20th century.

Mon: And what are 20 centuries in God's eyes? If all life is just one hour in His sight, can centuries be more than a few seconds? Isn't it only yesterday that He left us--in peace?

Car: Nothing, not even time can separate us from the love of Christ. Is that the mystery of the Key to Heaven? That time means nothing, and we are as close to Him right now as Thomas was when he ~~touch~~ ~~his side?~~ *Put his hands on his wounds*

Mon: Yes, time is all one. It all happened only yesterday and our Lord is just risen.

Car: For us, yes. But for most people it happened so long long ago.

Mon: That's why we must act as if it were only yesterday.

Car: ~~Do you~~ think if men ~~really~~ believed that the Son of God became ~~Man~~ Man and walked the earth for our redemption nobody would be left to pick up the sword?

Mon: He did walk the earth. It really happened. We know it did, only time has played tricks on us and made Him seem so far away.

Car: But if they ~~don't~~ <sup>don't</sup> believe?

Mon: They believe but they don't know it. They do believe every time they see the stars of a baby in its mother's arms. It's then that they sense His divine plan.

Car: Yes, but can we stop time and just look up at the ~~stars~~ <sup>STARRY HEAVENS</sup> ~~into the eyes of our children?~~ <sup>AND INTO THE EYES OF OUR CHILDREN?</sup>

Mon: Who makes the sun rise? Who determines the hour men must die? This life God gave us comes at too great a cost to be thrown away. It is God's and God's alone to take. He made it. It belongs to Him. The time has come for us to say to each country of the world: you can take this life of ours in the name of peace, but you can never have it for war. Amen.

Car: Sanctus Simplicitus.

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Monsignor (cont'd)

We must remember that we were--jesting, if you will--about a mere whim. But this is not a day for whims.

Cardinal

On the contrary, Monsignor, a most excellent day for whims.

Monsignor

But I crave your indulgence. I--I didn't realize the demands on His Holiness today of all days.

Cardinal

~~But there are other days.~~ Tell me, Monsignor, would it mean so much to you to see His Holiness?

Monsignor

You make me feel a little small when you put it that way, sir--I mean, Your Eminence. But it would mean a great deal. Just to see him would settle something for me forever.

Cardinal

Then, by all means, let us consider it arranged.

Monsignor

~~Oh, Your Eminence.~~

Cardinal

It is a little irregular perhaps--but why not? Perhaps it will be good for His Holiness as well as for you. Return here at the same hour tomorrow and I shall arrange to have you presented. I--I shall meet you here myself. Truly Monsignor, it is a day for whims, a day with the zest of adventure in it. I shall look forward to your audience.

Monsignor

If that were only possible. But my boat leaves Naples in the morning and I have overstayed my time already. The pity of it too. It must be my penance for leaving just one hour for Rome. (he hears a noise outside) There, you see, Your Eminence. They've come back to arrest me.

Cardinal

~~Amato~~ Monsignor Amato. It is for me that he comes. I am late for a meeting again and he won't like it--but if you will wait at that end of the gallery and leave me here with Monsignor Amato, I shall arrange everything to your satisfaction!

Monsignor

Ah, Your Eminence is most kind. You know, the more I see of this place, the more I like it!

(Amato enters)

Amato

If you are ready, Your--

Cardinal

Well, what is it this time, Monsignor Amato?

AMATO (almost severely): The <sup>Council</sup> ~~Congregation~~—it has  
been waiting one hour.

CARDINAL: Let us hope the <sup>Council</sup> ~~Congregation~~ has possessed  
its soul in patience.

AMATO: On the contrary, it is most impatient. Their  
Eminences will at least expect some word. . . .

CARDINAL: Very well. The word shall be: Peace. Peace on  
earth and good will to men.

MONSIGNOR (very softly): God be praised.

AMATO (in protest): But it was agreed that now is not  
the time. . . .

CARDINAL: Then there must be a new agreement.

AMATO: The situation is grave . . . there are new ad-  
vices from Berlin . . . Vienna.

CARDINAL (significantly): There are also new advices—  
from ~~Amato~~ **Mr. MORRIS!**

AMATO (stiffly—with a sharp look at MONSIGNOR): Mon-  
signor! My apologies. I was not aware of your mission.

CARDINAL: It shall be communicated to you and the Con-  
gregation in due time. Advise Their Eminences that I  
shall be with them shortly.

(MONSIGNOR AMATO bows stiffly and goes out—  
~~the guard remains~~)

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MONSIGNOR (delightedly): That means you stand with  
His Holiness. Oh then, he will win the day. But, Your  
Eminence, I have no mission.

CARDINAL: You shall be an ambassador without portfolio.  
You shall come with me now to the meeting of the  
~~Congregation~~ <sup>Council</sup>.

MONSIGNOR: I couldn't do that, Your Eminence. What  
have I to offer Their Eminences?

CARDINAL: You have the divine gift, a sense of propor-  
tion. I must have you with me. It will not be easy to  
make them understand, at first.

MONSIGNOR: Never fear, Your Eminence. We're on the  
side of the angels. <sup>Much</sup>

(Offstage there is heard the gentle tolling of bells in  
a nearby chapel where an organist is playing at vespers.)

CARDINAL: And they will listen to us, Monsignor, even as  
I have listened to you, for have you considered: who  
is it that speaks inside us to-day? Is it you? Is it I? It  
seems to me that never before have I seen so clearly that  
there can be no brotherhood of man without the father-  
hood of God. Come, Monsignor, let us ~~good~~ pray for  
peace to men of good will.

(They kneel)

~~Monsignor Amato starts to follow Cardinal~~  
~~lightning is heard~~ (PAGNANI ENTERS)

B. W.

Pagnani

Monsignor! Monsignor! You must not leave yet. I have just discovered great news. His Holiness is in the wing, even now!

Monsignor

Are you sure? What can it mean? Do you suppose I can see him before I go? Ah, Gabriel, this is my day of days. And I almost forgot: we have a great friend at court, a distinguished prince of the Church. Come, Gabriel, I must present you to His Eminence. I declare, Your Eminence, I don't even know your name!

Cardinal

Nor I yours, Monsignor. But does it matter? My name--it is--

Pagnani

Il Papa! Il Papa Mio! ~~Viva Il Papa!~~

Monsignor

Your--Your Holiness? ~~████████████████████~~ Forgive me.

Cardinal

Ah, Monsignor, what is there to forgive? Was what you said any the less true because you said it to ~~the Bishop of Rome?~~ IL PAPA

Monsignor

But I'm not a diplomat at all, Your Holiness. That's what I've been trying to tell everyone all along. You see--I'm--just a parish priest, from ~~St. Morris,~~ nothing more.

*St. Paul, Minn.*

Cardinal

What more is ~~there one~~ could <sup>one</sup> be? What, ~~think you,~~ am I, Monsignor? I am no more than pastor, with a world for my parish.

Monsignor

You are the Vicar of Christ on earth. You are the Prince of Peace. Your blessing, Your Holiness.

Cardinal

What was it you said, Monsignor? "The time for the Prince of Peace to speak is while there is still peace?" I will bless for peace, Monsignor, and I act for peace, God be with us.

Monsignor

Ah, Your Holiness, God is always with us when we go God's way.

Cardinal

Come, Monsignor, shall we walk His Way together?

(they exit)

CURTAIN

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*Seminario de Drama  
Colección*

*Francisco (Paco) Prada*  
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