Scene 5.
Lights up as three sisters sit around the table chatting with Zeke who eats voraciously.

GRETA
What a story, Father Connolly. And to lose your luggage like that.

ELIZABETH
We can make you a collar, Father.

ZEKE
It’s just clothes.

ELIZABETH
Yes.

GRETA
Did you have any jewelry?

MARILYN
Priests don’t wear jewelry.

GRETA
I meant. Valuables. A chalice perhaps?

ZEKE
You mean the cup?

ELIZABETH
I can’t believe the driver took your wallet and everything.

GRETA
He’s probably imposterizing as a priest somewhere.

After a short lull.

MARILYN
(to Zeke)
We have five thousand dollars.

ZEKE
You do?

ELIZABETH
Sister Marilyn took the story of Veronica from the bible and won a play writing contest.

GRETA
She writes plays for us to perform at local schools and prisons.

ZEKE
I don’t recall that... Five thousand dollars?
ELIZABETH
Father, I can make you some clothing in addition to the collar.

GRETA
Elizabeth is a talented seamstress.

MARILYN
I can make rosaries, see?

ZEKE
Those are very sweet.

GRETA
Sisters, could we get a Madonna fountain? It's always been my dream to work at a convent with a Madonna fountain.

MARILYN
Do we smell bad?

ZEKE
No! A little.

ELIZABETH
I'm wearing vanilla bean, can you tell?

ZEKE
(smells her wrist)
That's delicious.

ELIZABETH
It grows wild here.

GRETA
More oatmeal, Father?

ZEKE

MARILYN
Ooh, prayers?

ELIZABETH
Poems?

GRETA
Prose?

ZEKE
Puh... Politics, protests, things like that.

GRETA
Ooh. Very cause worthy.

And dangerous.

Dangerous, yes. That’s how I ended up in... here.

Thank God you’ve come to us.

Yes, thank God.

Yes.

We need to receive!

Receive?

Could we do communion now?

Sisters, Father is still recovering.

All it takes is a little, (makes a two-handed version of a priest’s blessing and chants some gibberish), vassa-nassa, vassa-nassa. I’ll get the paste wafers.

Marilyn retrieves a cloth filled with tiny wafers and holds it out to Zeke. Imitating Elizabeth’s gesture, he blesses the wafers which appear unchanged so he adds a small magician’s gesture. The nuns bless themselves and quickly kneel around him with their tongues out, eyes closed, ready to receive. Zeke takes one, and holds it like a fish over Marilyn’s mouth. She rocks like a seal.

Amen!

Marilyn jumps up to catch it in her mouth, chews, barks, claps, blesses herself.

Greta is next, who makes a chicken-headed gesture pecking at the wafer

Amen!

Greta snatches the wafer with her beak.
Elizabeth’s tongue becomes active as she tries to lick it from Zeke’s fingers. She finally takes his hand and moves it closer to her mouth, closing her lips around his fingers.

ELIZABETH

Ah...men.

Elizabeth has closed her eyes and is sucking for a moment. Zeke touches her shoulder and nears his mouth to hers. The two have to force themselves to stop. Zeke sits back in his chair. All four seem to be recovering. Zeke absentmindedly nibbles a wafer. Realizing his action, he quickly blesses it and himself and everything else in the room.

ZEKE

Amen. The Lord be with you.

SISTERS

And also with you.

The nuns giggle as they rise to their feet. They begin to clean the table. Zeke watches them, wants to help but they are in their routine. The nuns begin humming over their chores. The hums and giggles eventually turn into huge snorts of laughter. Zeke joins them. When it quiets, Greta sings.

WE NEED EVERYTHING

GRETA

Why do I feel so great? At the moment I’m inspired could it be that we just ate.

MARILYN

We just received. It is the Christ that we are feeling yes indeed.

GRETA

(spoken)

Of course.

(Sings) But God! I just remembered about the money...

ALL INCLUDING CONNELLY

Money, money, money....

GRETA

(spoken)

A shopping list!

There is a pause as Greta tries to think of what they need.

GRETA (sings)

It’s been so very long since I have thought of what we needed
So, so very long since I just bought the things we needed

ALL (sing)
We need everything. We are in need of everything!
If only we had everything, everything would seem fine.

GRETA
We've no raindrops for our roses

ELIZABETH
And no whiskers for our kittens

MARILYN
No bright or copper kettles

GRETA
And no warm and woolly mittens

ZEKE
You wear brown paper packages tied up with strings

GRETA
My shopping list insists that we need...

ALL
...everything! We are in need of everything!
If only we had everything, everything would seem fine.

ELIZABETH
We'll buy cream colored ponies
For the children to ride

MARILYN
Crisp apple strudel
So they'll feel something inside

GRETA
And we'll cook the wild goose with the moon on her wings
And then we'll sing our favorite thing is...

ALL
Everything. We are in need of everything!
If only we had everything, everything should be fine.

Poverty the dog forever biting at your heels
Poverty abandonment times ten is how it feels
Poverty the queen bee who perpetually stings
Forget the list we must insist on ...

ALL
Everything. We are in need of everything!
If only we had everything, everything would seem fine.

ELIZABETH
Wimples we'll make new ones  
All in white, blue satin habits

MARILYN
Simple not like TV nuns who fly and look like rabbits.

GRETA
Watch this cold starving winter  
Turn prosperous Spring  
As now we can afford to afford

ALL
...everything!

GRETA
I'm out to pick up everything!

ELIZABETH
And don't forget the everything!

MARILYN
I think we're out of everything!

ZEKE
Yes I could use some everything

ALL
(ritard)
Yes with everything, everything we should be fine.

*Song ends and nuns prepare to leave.*

GRETA
We'll be back much later, Father.

ZEKE
Where are you going? You don't think I should come?

GRETA
It's a five mile walk until the jeep is fixed. But you're recovering, you should stay. Besides, I'm sure you want to catch up on your writing.

ZEKE
Oh my God. Do you have paper?

MARILYN
Yes, that's what the paste wafers were made from.

*Marilyn grabs paper kept beneath the table.*

ELIZABETH
I have 2 pens!

_She pulls one from her bra and hands it to him._

ELIZABETH

We have to remember to get wine!

ALL

Ooh, wine.

GRETA

And coffee!

ALL

Ooh, coffee!

MARILYN

And vegetables. Ooh...

_She is met with no reaction._

GRETA

Father do you think you'll be up to giving confessions later?

MARILYN

Ooh, and can we have mass soon?

ZEKE

Certainly. Whenever you're ready.

_Marilyn starts a “Mass, mass, mass...!” chant which the nuns join to humor her. The three sisters exit gleefully._