

CREAM CITY  
Milwaukee in the '80s

by

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WGA/e Registered

**TEASER**

BLACK. The year "1982" flickers on screen in pink 80s neon with a sizzling sound.

A male cantor sings a solo Gregorian chant to the text of the *Gloria* of the Catholic Mass.

FADE IN:

INT. ST. VERONICA'S CHURCH - EARLY EVENING

Saturday night mass in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in a beautiful, modern Catholic church. Clean, shiny floors. Colorful stained glass depicting the stations of the cross. Incense. Candles.

A smattering of working-class parishioners sit in the mostly empty pews. The women have big 80s hair and shoulder pads; the men have mustaches and glasses with tinted lenses.

The *Gloria* chant ends. FATHER DORAN, 38, Caucasian, wearing all white, holds up his hands for everyone to stand.

DORAN

Let us pray.

They stand.

DORAN & PARISHONERS

*Our father, who art in heaven...*

He looks out and spots JUAN CARLOS, late 30s, Latino, sitting by himself. They make eye contact as they pray.

INT. ST. VERONICA'S CHURCH - LATER

Parishioners stand in line to receive Communion one at a time. Juan Carlos comes forward.

DORAN

The Body of Christ.

JUAN CARLOS

Amen.

Doran gives him a wafer. Juan Carlos takes it, puts it in his mouth, and steps aside.

INT. CONFESSIONAL BOOTH - LATER

DORAN sits one side of confessional booth. He is upright, holds a Bible and a rosary. Juan Carlos sits on the other side. His face is not visible.

JUAN CARLOS

(His accent is prominent)

Father, I must confess I have sinned.

DORAN

God is pleased you have come to confess your sins. Tell me what you have done.

JUAN CARLOS

I'm attracted to men. I always have been. I know it's a sin but, there's ah, this bar that I've been going to and it has those kinds of men. I haven't done anything yet, I just go alone and watch... these guys.

DORAN

This bar you go to-

JUAN CARLOS

It's downtown. On my way home from work. I don't know what to do, I can't tell my wife, my family would-

His voice breaks.

DORAN

Who did Jesus spend his time with?

JUAN CARLOS

His disciples.

DORAN

Scripture tells us that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Associating with sinners doesn't make you a sinner.

JUAN CARLOS

But I have thoughts.

DORAN

And you must never act on them. Do you know the Prayer of the Penitent and Absolution?

JUAN CARLOS

"My God, I am sorry for my sins..."

DORAN

Tonight when you go home you will say it  
ten times. Followed by the Lord's Prayer.

JUAN CARLOS

I will. *Gracias*, Father.

DORAN

You're welcome, my son.

Juan Carlos is about to leave.

DORAN (CONT'D)

May I ask, what's the bar's name?

JUAN CARLOS

Cream City.

DORAN

Cream City.

Doran smiles slightly. *That's Milwaukee's nickname.*

Juan Carlos leaves. Doran thinks for a moment, then steps  
out of the booth and back into the church.

INT. ST. VERONICA'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Doran emerges from the booth and into the cavernous,  
empty church. It is dark except for a few candles and  
sparse lights. He is alone.

SLAM TO CREDITS.

**END OF TEASER**