**“Civilize It” Commercial/Skit**

**Cast**

Narrator

Citizen 1

Citizen 2

Jesus

*Setting: Narrator is off-stage, speaking into microphone. Citizens 1 and 2 are on the stage, standing about 10 feet apart. Jesus is hiding from sight (behind the altar or the small walls in the rear)*

Narrator: Do you feel like your neighbor’s in the wrong?

Citizen 1 *(as monologue, looking out to audience)*: He’s so frustrating! How can it seem like a good idea to discriminate our way to greatness. Equality, shmequality . I just want to punch him in the face!

Narrator: Do you feel like your friend’s missed the boat?

Citizen 2 *(as monologue, looking out to audience)*: Does he even know how the economy works? No, no – let’s just keep piling on the debt and raise taxes too! Who needs money! What an idiot!

Narrator: You’re not alone. Every four years, Americans everywhere discover the person sitting in the pew next to them is actually across the aisle, politically speaking – not even our churches our safe. Let’s listen in….

The Mass has ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Citizen 1 and 2 *(together, hands folded)*: Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Citizen 1 *(turning to Citizen 2)*: That was such a great homily, right! I loved the way he brought in that point about welcoming the stranger.

Citizen 2: Yeah, metaphors like that really remind me how we are all strangers to ourselves. Only God really knows and loves us completely. That’s why we are called to always grow in knowing and loving our families more and more, like God loves us.

Citizen 1: Uh, I thought he was being literal. Like, we are supposed to actually welcome strangers and refugees being resettled in Cincinnati and stuff. You know, the holy family were migrants.

Citizen 2: The Holy Family were NOT like those illegal moochers, who are taking our jobs and not paying taxes.

Citizen 1: Excuse me?! Those “illegal moochers” are risking life and limb to flee conflict and poverty and try to make a better life to support their families and loved ones. We should help them.

Citizen 2: Help them!? They are stealing our jobs and our money illegally. We need to be responsible to our own first and foremost.

Citizen 1: How dense can you be!? Our families were ALL migrants to the US at some point. Why are today’s migrants any different than Irish potato famine refugees or Chinese laborers that built America’s infrastructure.

Citizen 2: You’re crazy! I can’t talk to you! May God show you the light.

Jesus *(popping up from his hiding place)*: Here I am!

Citizen 1: Whoa! It’s Jesus!

Jesus: Wherever two or more are gathered, am I right? I heard the two of you coming out of church, and wanted to help you out before you went too far astray, to remind you of how a Christian ought to live.

Citizen 1 *(whining)*: But Jesus, even Pope Francis said Christians aren’t wall builders but bridge builders, surely you’re not defending her…

Jesus *(cutting off)*: I didn’t see any bridge-building going on here. Now *(tapping his lip)* what was that I said back in the day, Love your…

Citizen 2: Neighbors?

Jesus: Yes, yes, and *(tapping his lip)*... Love Your….

Citizen 1: Friends?

*Jesus shakes head no*

Citizen 1 *(looking down)*: Enemies

Jesus: Bingo! So let’s try this again. Take your positions everyone (*Citizen 1 and 2 move back to original positions)* and…Action! *(claps)*

Narrator: The Mass has ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Citizen 1 and 2 *(together, hands folded)*: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Citizen 1 *(turning to Citizen 2)*: That was such a great homily, right! I loved the way he brought in the image of welcoming the stranger.

Citizen 2: Yeah, metaphors like that really remind me how we are all strangers to ourselves. Only God really knows and loves us completely. That’s why we are called to always grow in knowing and loving our families more and more, like God loves us.

Citizen 1: Huh, that’s a good point. I didn’t realize it could also be a metaphor. I was hearing him say that we are *literally* supposed to welcome the stranger, whether a new person moves to the neighborhood or an undocumented family is fleeing violence in Central America.

*Citizen 1 and 2 now take more thoughtful and respectful tones with each other.*

Citizen 2: Huh. What makes you feel such a concern for these immigrants?

Citizen 1: I guess because I’ve met lots of them and heard their stories. If I were in their shoes, running from poverty and death threats and couldn’t get here any other way, I’d probably do the same thing. The Catholic bishops are saying that the Gospel is on their side.

Citizen 2: I see. You know, I knew someone who was recently laid off from his job, and he feels it’s because his company’s just trying to save money by paying immigrant workers much less. He’s devastated, so how’s that fair for him? I thought the bishops were also big advocates for good jobs and worker rights too.

Citizen 1: You know, I haven’t considered that perspective much. I think I’d be interested in hearing more of his story.

Citizen 2: Sure. And I think I could learn a lot too if you could introduce me to some of those immigrant families you’re talking about.

Citizen 1: Absolutely! Why don’t you come to Holy Family Church with me next Sunday. They have a bilingual Mass and there’s a family I know who’d love to meet you afterwards.

*Citizen 1 and 2 look over to Jesus for affirmation – and Jesus gives a big double thumbs up! They smile and laugh, walking out – Jesus moves to center stage.*

Narrator: This election season, let’s try listening, let’s try dialogue, let’s Civilize It!

Jesus: *(pointing at his chest, center stage)* I’m Jesus, and I approve of this message.