

"18/26"

Stop the clock  
Take time out  
Time to regroup  
Before you start to doubt

Say those prayers  
Twice as hard  
If you make a choice  
You're letting down your guard

School days feeling slower  
While the future's coming faster  
You're getting college letters  
But you know God's will is better  
Don't panic, don't schism  
Can't fight it, like Otis  
At least it happens only once in your life

They're singing, "Happy Birthday"  
You just want to lay down and cry  
Not just another birthday  
It's 18/26  
Why can't you stay 17  
Heck still feels like your license is new  
Turn 18, twenty two six  
Then graduate  
What can you do?  
What can you do?  
What can you do?

Clear the aisle  
For a priest to pass  
Or beg on your knees  
That your kid won't cry at Mass

Friends talkin' 'bout their college  
But I don't know if I'm there with 'em  
God please give me the courage  
If I go to the Josephinum  
Don't freak out, don't strike out  
Can't fight it, like Latin tests  
And you feel all alone  
No friends can help you

They're singing, "Happy Birthday"  
You just wish you could run away  
Who cares about a birthday?  
But 18/26, hey  
Can't you be optimistic?  
Not long till you're an adult dude  
Turn 18, twenty two six  
Boom, *Alter Christus*  
What can you do?  
What can you do?  
What can you do?

Thérèse Lisieux and Vianney  
Which narrow gate leads to Heaven  
But this world is straight bullhonkey  
Since our parents gave in to Satan  
On the streets you hear the voices  
Lost souls and poor sinners  
But you're not into  
Making choices, vowing obedience  
celibacy, no biological children  
Living simply or dying like a martyr  
Clock is ticking, that's for certain!

They're singing, "Happy Birthday"  
You wish God made it clear in a dream  
It feels much more like judgement day  
Frick, 18/26  
Seems like I'm about to build character  
I don't see some divine sign do you

Turn 18, twenty-two six

Into my hands now  
The choice has passed  
High school just went by so fast  
The world is calling  
It's time to be a man  
Why can't I stay a child forever and

18/26

18/26

18/26

18/26

18/26

18, 18/26

Oh

What can I do?

What can I do?

What can I do?

**Look What'd You Miss:**

[JOHNNY]

Seventeen. Se-se-seventeen...

Se-se-seventeen...

You're still seventeen years old

Now listen up man

You can say "woe is me", crying in the closet

The truth is that nobody's a prophet

We all don't know our futures, so it's fate to whom we forfeit

Could have it all or lose it all

You gonna buck up yet?

I promise it's no different even with this priestly precedent

It's a challenge that is sent to every earthly resident

Time feels fast. But we got our ways to resist that

Nice distractions in even more ways than I can list at

You can sit and watch the game with us, chill and just veg

Or could even let loose with an alcoholic beverage

Come on just indulge and let yourself be free

Are you even listening, Zachary. Zachary!

[JOHNNY + ENSEMBLE]

Zac's coming back to the party

Zac's coming back to the party  
Zac's coming back to the party  
Zac's coming back to the party  
Zac's coming back to the party  
Man he's been in that closet for so long!  
Ah-ooh!  
Ah-ooh!

[JOHNNY]  
Look around us ringing in the new year this is not a time for woe  
Dance till the sun comes up and the day's startin'

[ENSEMBLE]  
Ah-ooh

[JOHNNY]  
Every one here wants you to hang out  
Stop pessimistically stressin'  
No time now for whinin'  
Or worrying about sin

[ENSEMBLE]  
Ah-ooh!

[JOHNNY]  
Cause look what you'd miss?  
Look what you'd miss?  
Hmm  
Even a guy like you should a girl a kiss  
Muah  
At St. Charles we're deprived of the ladies...  
But here around you are Jackie, Kate and Sadie ...  
I know you're a holy dude, but nothing's wrong with this...

[ENSEMBLE]  
Ah-ooh!

[JOHNNY]  
There's that stress dwelling in you free of rent  
Evictive prayer's not working yet

So don't waste your breaths droning about a covenant  
When we can lift your spirits with some spirits cause it ain't Lent  
And I know you don't believe in fate, great  
God surely sent a friend like me to you  
To let you know your scruples are not ringing true

[JOHNNY]

They are not true  
Surely, that is not true

[JOHNNY + ENSEMBLE]

Lookin' around at this party  
Imagine if you were set free  
From stepping on these egg shells  
To try and please our sky daddy  
Look who's over there by the fireplace?  
That's Michelle Freiburger's pretty face  
Go talk some charm, you'll cheer up if you aura farm

[ZACHARY]

Johnny, I appreciate everything that you're trying here to do  
But I know that sin is never right

[ENSEMBLE]

Ah-ooh!

[ZACHARY]

I hear what you're saying and I'm praying that you see that it is not true  
And come to change your point of view  
I'll call it a night

[JOHNNY]

You can't go man!

[ENSEMBLE]

Ah-ooh!

[ZACHARY]

Thanks for the invite

[JOHNNY + ENSEMBLE]  
Cause look what'd you miss?  
(Look! Look! Look what'd you miss)  
Look what'd you miss?  
(There's nothing wrong with this)  
You don't wanna just try and meet a Christian sis  
(She's your sister in Jesus)  
If you leave you'll be pouting all day  
(Chik-a-pow!)  
But some fun awaits you if you stay  
Come on back in this way (In this way)  
So we can fix all this...  
(Look what'd you miss? Ah ah!)

[ZACHARY]  
Michelle it's nice to meet you

[MICHELLE]  
Likewise

[JOHNNY]  
Michelle, it's nice to meet him!

[JOHNNY + ENSEMBLE]  
Zac it's nice to meet you  
You've been in that closet for so long

[JOHNNY]  
So look what'd you miss

**When Jesus Sees Me:**

There's one thing I want  
Just like everybody  
We all want love except we look for it in many different ways  
Guess what?

I've tried a lot of ways  
To make me happy  
They never end all that well

There can't be meaning in some brand new toy, or friends that just annoy  
Where can I find the joy?

In the rat race of a high school class  
Where I study real hard just to forget it all after class  
Or when I'm so focused on wearing all these Gucci clothes  
Which I parade around the school  
Until I eat cheetos  
And get that orange dust on my sleeve  
But in all of these woes  
None fulfill the most

But when Jesus sees me,  
I know he always loves to  
He said himself upon the cross that tore the temple veil in two  
If they only knew  
He probes and knows me  
This virgin's faithful bridegroom  
He knew me long before he even knit me in my mother's womb  
That's why it's an empty tomb

So, I'm just fine, leaving this world behind  
Cause now I only want you  
But though Jesus sees me, others do too

(Michelle, don't you think you're being a little bit cynical, I mean-)

No I'm not- I'm simply realistic  
I'm done with shallow dating  
Judging myself through degrading eyes  
I've bid that life good-bye  
I've seen with others  
It leads to sin or sorrow  
It's not for me to try and find a man to give my whole life.  
I'm not called to be somebody's wife.

Sorry Jen

But there's just no point to it, why would I hang around these boys when my vocations locked in,  
I'll just stick with the girls.  
These guys probably are all creeps

Or worse they could be heretics!  
How untrustworthy is that  
Like Gerry Matatics  
Or even worse they could be very nice, have lovely eyes.  
And make me laugh, lose my vocation  
I can't allow for that  
Oh no,

Cause when Jesus sees me  
I love him and I show it  
I'm not afraid to be myself, I can't control it  
That's what happens when  
My Jesus holds me  
And sets my heart on fire  
I'll give myself away, he is my one desire  
But still I would be a liar  
If I said I don't miss another  
Who kissed me, and held my hand  
But cause he won't see me, God's my husband

**Stereotypical Song:**

In the Walter commons, the kids all dance  
While I stand up here acting like its France  
IRL there would not be a band at all  
But Zac made it up cause its a musical  
There's no plot function, it's a stupid parody  
He can't write actual music, so this will only be a

Stereotypical song  
(Stereotypical, stereo stereotypical)  
A stereotypical song (it's in the background, to cover the backstage sound)  
It doesn't serve a purpose, it's just a bit of fun  
We'll sing it to kill time till the costume change is done  
This stereotypical song

{Instrumental break}

Stereotypical song  
(Stereotypical, stereo stereotypical)

It's a

Stereotypical song (it's in the background, to cover the backstage sound)

It doesn't serve a purpose, it's just a bit of fun  
We'll sing it to kill time till the costume change is done

This

Stereotypical song

Stereotypical song!

*What a Waste of a Holy*

*Night*

[ZACHARY]

The band now all has gone  
The dance is nearly done  
But we're milking out the entrance fee

There's nothing else to do  
But stand and talk to you  
Though it seems you don't want to talk to me

Some other girl and guy  
Could have a great old time  
But there's only you and I  
And I fear, it's been weird

I asked you to show me  
Why there's hostility

But you still just want to fight  
What a waste of a holy night

[MICHELLE]

You say there's conflict here  
Well, let's make something clear  
This tension started long before this ball

[ZACHARY]  
This is a ball?

[MICHELLE]

Let's go back to the root  
Of this petty old dispute  
It started with your rudeness after all

[ZACHARY]

I started it?

[MICHELLE]

So can I just be real  
This sucked except the meal  
And this frankly is the deal

There's no chance we  
speak postdance But a  
Christian should be loving

[ZACHARY]

Is that so?

[MICHELLE]

So I'll drop it and be loving

[ZACHARY]

There we go  
Still we agree

[MICHELLE]

That's right

[ZACHARY + MICHELLE]

What a waste of a holy night

*Extensive dance break follows until end of song.*

### **Lunch (I Only Want to Say)**

I only want to say,  
If there is a way,  
Take these fries away from me  
For I don't want to taste potatoes  
See them salty  
I'm enraged  
To get this side, I did not order

I told them onion rings  
But, it's fries she brings  
Listen, surely you know I want food that's a little better  
I even asked her, "what's the upcharge?"  
So they better not, include this on my bill

But I got fries  
They gave me a side that I do not even like  
This waitress hates me, hits me, hurts me, brought fries so soggy

I want to know, I want to know, Michelle  
I want to know, I want to know, Michelle,  
Want to see, I want to see, Michelle,  
Want to see, I'd want to see, Michelle,

Why I got fries,  
Why do these waiters act like they've never worked before?  
This is literally their only job, and they left their brain at the door

I have to know, I have to know, Michelle  
Have to know, I have to know, Michelle  
Have to see, I have to see, Michelle  
Have to see, I have to see, Michelle  
Must I eat, what I can't bear to smell  
Must I eat, what I can't bear to smell  
Have to know, I have to know, Michelle  
I have to know, I have to know, Michelle

Why I got fries? Oh why I got fries?  
Can you show me now that I did not order in vain?  
Show me just a little of your smarter female brain  
Show me there's a reason that I got these fries  
I know your food's cold by now, but I'm still asking why

Alright, I'll eat fries  
Let me eat fries  
See me eat fries  
Watch me eat fries

I told them onion rings  
But it's fries she brings  
After all, I even asked her, what's the upcharge  
Why then am I scared to ask her, to fix my order  
Her order, I didn't order this  
So, though it is hard  
She has my credit card  
I will eat these fries of poison  
Give the onions to table three  
Bleed me, beat me,  
Kill me.

I'll eat it now  
Before I change my mind  
Now, before I change my mind

### **When I'm Ordained**

[ZACHARY]

When I'm ordained

I will be blessed enough to pray the prayers that I need to pray to say the Mass you get to say  
when you're ordained.

And when I'm ordained

I will be smart enough to answer all the questions that laymen have 'bout the faith I serve when I  
am ordained

[MICHELLE]

And when you're ordained

You'll use breviaries every day on the way to Mass and you will say your Compline every night!

[ZACHARY]

And I will wake up  
when the sick calls come and I  
will comfort families under great despair  
and show I care 'cause I'll have been ordained! When I'm ordained!  
And when I'm ordained (when you're ordained) When I'm ordained  
I will be strong enough to weather all  
the insults, smears, and slander that get thrown at you when you are ordained

[MICHELLE]

And when you're ordained (when I'm ordained) When you're ordained  
You will be brave enough to fight the demons that you have to fight inside your head each day to  
have been ordained!

[ZACHARY]

And when I'm ordained  
I'll forgive souls every day.  
And I'll brag to all the saints about the souls that I have won .  
And days'll wrap up with holy adoration  
and I will spend all night just with God's Son  
and I'll have peace 'cause of my ordination! When I'm ordained!

[MICHELLE]

When I make vows  
I will be brave enough to fight the demons that you have to fight inside your head each day to  
have made your vows  
(When I'm ordained)  
Just because you find a breakup's tough it  
doesn't mean that God does not have greater stuff, but  
sometimes I still feel like I've had enough and nothing will change  
Just because I don't know my place in God's story  
It doesn't mean that there is not a plan here for me  
But still I fear my calling might be to marry  
And everybody tells me, it all will be ok  
But are they right

*Curtains close. End of Act I.*

*Convent:*

[NUN ENSEMBLE]

Convent! Fasting harder now this Lent  
Convent! Cloistered off so the world will never find you  
Convent! Where the Holy Spirit's sent  
Convent! Say goodbye to the friends that used to know you

See the veils  
Read the books  
Say your prayers  
In holy nooks  
White and black  
Nun and priest  
Holy water  
Fast and feast  
Graces!

Take your turn in the loft with the sister's choir

Go up the back staircase  
Hearts of gold  
Seeking truth  
Help the old  
Teach the youth  
Intinctive dips  
Jesus' crown  
Sacred hearts  
Graces! Drink it in, drink it up  
Till you've drowned  
In God's light  
In His sound  
In the Spirit's grace!

Convent! Servants of Christ the head  
Convent! Pray to God, let the sacraments consume you  
Convent! We'll be here until we're dead  
Convent! Take your time, and see how the Lord works through you

Convent! Praying against the devil's lies  
Convent! There's no fear for His angels all surround you  
Convent! Only women, there's no guys  
Convent! Look and see all the holiness around you

[MICHELLE]  
What a place  
All the saints  
All the peace  
I could faint  
It almost feels like its heaven

[NUN]  
Well you should come join us then

[MICHELLE]  
But there's things in my past

[NUN]  
Fear not  
Have relief  
And rest my child  
In the Father's peace

[MICHELLE]  
No more dates  
A blank slate  
No more wealth  
God holds my fate  
I could see myself here

[NUN]  
Then come join us next year

[MICHELLE]  
Is this where I'm sent!  
It's been a blessed release!  
In this great convent

Think of it

To run to the convent  
I could be Christ's bride.  
Just think of it.  
But is this my calling, or a place to hide?  
I promise you, my Lord, I promise you  
I want what you want every time  
So then what am I afraid of  
I won't fear  
I trust you  
I will understand in time

[NUN ENSEMBLE + MICHELLE]  
Convent! Fasting harder now this Lent  
Convent! Cloistered off so the world will never find you  
Convent! Where the Holy Spirit's sent!  
Convent! Say goodbye to the friends that used to know you  
Convent! Servants of Christ the Head  
Convent! Pray to God, let the sacraments consume you  
Convent! We'll be here until we're dead  
Convent! Take your time, and see how the Lord works through you  
Convent!

*Song cuts off before the ending Phantom of the Opera riff, instead gives final repeat line to end.*

**Senior Going on College:**

[DEACON SHANE]  
You're here now young man  
And the devil's enraged  
As Priest's save souls from fryin'  
His lies now, young man, may challenge your gauge  
To see your true vocation  
(Vocation)

You're a senior going on College  
Buddy, it's time to think  
So spend time in prayer  
Discern, now, with care  
Cause, Buddy, you're on the brink

You're a senior going on college  
Church grandmas will fall in line  
They're eager to pray  
For your soul each day

But they pester; you'll lose your mind

Totally unprepared are you  
To face your inner demons  
Timid and shy and scared are you

Not a strong seminarian

You need someone older and wiser  
Telling you what to do  
I'm a deacon going on priesthood  
I'll take care of you

[ZACHARY]

I'm a senior going on college  
I know I was naïve  
Quo Vadis retreat, said "this place is sweet"  
And I let myself believe

I'm a senior going on college  
I now see that this life's hard  
Late night with compline, up then at morning  
I really let down my guard

Totally unprepared am I  
To face my inner demons  
Timid and shy and scared am I  
Not a strong seminarian

I need someone older and wiser  
Telling me what to do  
You're a deacon going on priesthood  
I'll depend on you

**When Jesus Sees Me (Reprise):**

[MICHELLE]

When Jesus sees me  
I know he always loves to  
He said himself upon the cross that tore temple veil in two

I give it all to you

[ZACHARY]

You're the highest priesthood

You showed us at that supper

If we want to be just like you, we'll have to suffer

Lord teach me to suffer (I'll do it for my lover)

I know you see me and always love to

So why do I feel, I don't see you

**Throwing in the Towel on the Priesthood**

[ZACHARY]

Deacon, I'm really a mess

The past few days I've worried myself to death

While you're praying the Mass

Or getting taught in your theology class

I know you told me that you think I gotta priestly heart

Something 'bout me that you say could take me far  
But I'm still starting to doubt  
I just don't know if I'm following God's route  
Maybe this just isn't for me  
I don't know what else to say  
I'm losing faith and losin' my way  
I think a fool could discern better  
Maybe I've been afraid to say  
That I'm just not cut out for this  
This fisher of men should stay a fish  
And it's harder now than ever  
It's more than I can take  
Divine signs aren't helping out  
And I fear the priestly vow  
I think I'm throwing in the towel

[DEACON SHANE]

Discernment often makes ya feel like you're torn in two  
In the darkness of the hour, God seems blind to you  
But think that he don't see?  
He was thinking of you on Calvary  
Don't make big decisions when your mind ain't sound  
I know it must feel hard but try to just calm down  
Jesus called you  
No matter what he's got a plan set for you  
He knows you love Him  
That's all you gotta do  
And I don't know what else to say  
I know you feel like you've lost your way  
But I think you're doing better  
Better than you know

[ZACHARY]

But if I choose wrong, there's a price to pay  
A wrong vocation throws my life away

[DEACON SHANE]

Now that's not true my brother  
You just got to be holy

[ZACHARY + DEACON SHANE]

This is the darkest night in the Christian soul  
All the fear is finally taking its toll  
But there's still no need to worry  
Heaven is our only goal

[DEACON SHANE]

You might feel like you're givin' out  
Prayers needed more than ever now  
Don't go throwing in the towel  
I know your head is full of doubts  
But brother, that's what love is all about  
Don't go throwing in the towel

[ZACHARY + DEACON SHANE]

When you love someone that's all that you can do  
There ain't no throwing in the towel

***The Vine, For Forever:***

Sometime near the end of June  
A serene and holy afternoon of prayer

Leaving Damascus, backroads I take  
Make a stop at Twist 'n Shake  
And then I'm there

At Adoration at St. Mary's  
I pick a pew, praying on my knees  
Like servants do  
Interceding for family friends  
Petitioning I make amends  
With those I knew  
And I pray, my seeds may bear fruit

All I see's the Vine for forever  
Let the world pass by for forever  
Grace let me persevere for forever this way  
Me on my conversion day

I stay a while and pray about  
The things I'll do when I get out of school

Hike on that Camino trail  
Become a priest or get a girl who veils  
Wouldn't that be cool?

There's nothing that I can't discuss  
Like friends I wish would know Jesus or already do  
From the monstrance he says to me  
In this host I'll always be  
And I say, "I love you"

And I pray my seeds may bear fruit  
I just pray my seeds may bear fruit

All I see's the vine for forever  
Let the world pass by for forever  
Grace let me persevere for forever this way, this way

All I see's his light for forever  
'Cause God's Son shine bright for forever  
As this branch holds tight for forever this way  
Me on my conversion day

And Father comes  
Processing from the sacristy

Once he reaches the priest's chair I hear him saying "pray with me"

I stand up

As I start to settle my heart for this Mass

One prayer after the other

One reading then to another

I pray harder and harder

As Father lifts up the Eucharist

I see Calvary

And I suddenly feel my faith give way

I'm kneeling down

My heart grows cold

I start to doubt

But the spirit comes to get me

It comes to get me

And everything's okay

All I see's the Vine for forever

I let the world pass by for forever

Jesus, you and I for forever this way, this way

All I see's His light

'Cause God is just and right

As this branch holds tight for forever this way

This Christian

God's friend

On conversion day

**Till He Used You:**

[MICHELLE]

God had plans for my life

But I lived by own willing

No, I did not heed Him at all

Till He used you

God placed love in my heart

But I ran away in hiding

No, my heart was too cold to thaw

Till He used you

Then there was music  
Angelic choirs rejoicing  
They tell me, with scents of incense  
Rising anew

There were friends all around  
But they never were discerning  
No, nobody got me at all  
Till He used you

(Instrumental break)

[MICHELLE + ZACHARY]  
There were friends all around  
But they never were discerning  
No, nobody got me at all  
Till He used you

**December, 0 AD (Oh What a Night)**

[DEACON SHANE]  
Oh, what a night  
Late December, in 0 AD  
The son of God had come forth from Mary

As I remember, what a night

Oh, what a night  
Yeshua would be that child's name  
The world was never gonna be the same  
What a baby, what a night

Oh, I, I got a funny feelin' as I walked to the sanctuary  
And now, God's flesh would come incarnate through me

Oh, what a night  
The real presence, mesmerizin' me  
It was everything I dreamed it'd be  
I surrender, what a night

I choke up feeling like the blessed mother  
Seeing shepherds and Magi bearing treasures  
(Oh, what a night)

I'll forever dwell within God's house  
Just like Mary, the Spirits my spouse  
What a baby, what a night

I choke up feeling like the blessed mother  
Seeing shepherds and Magi bearing treasures  
(Oh, what a night)

[DEACON SHANE + ENSEMBLE]

Do-do-do-do, do-do  
Do-do-do, oh, what a night  
Do-do-do-do, do-do  
Do-do-do, oh, what a night  
Do-do-do-do, do-do  
Do-do-do, oh, what a night  
Do-do-do-do, do-do  
Do-do-do, oh, what a night