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### Agent 2: A Priest from Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

My second agent, who I am unfamiliar with, is a priest who works and resides at Our Lady Star of the Sea parish in Cape May, New Jersey. I can imagine his experience of my fabric would be vastly different than my own. Firstly, it is important to note that he lives in the very center of the town year-round, unlike me who lives about thirty minutes away. He is more connected to the town than I am, and knows it far better than I do. This means that he likely does not see Cape May through the lens of novelty and sentimentality like a tourist would, or even like I occasionally do. Since he spends every day surrounded by the Queen Anne style houses and storefronts of this town, he is probably jaded to their beauty. This essay will further examine how he likely experiences the three conditions of my fabric of Cape May.

Since he is a priest, it is obvious that he is the most familiar with my condition of conflict, Our Lady Star of the Sea church. This structure is a roman catholic church which has been operational in its current location since 1911. [ASSOCIATIVE]There are currently three priests who work and reside there. Since roman catholic churches require the priests to live in the rectory, Our Lady Star of the Sea is a home to these men as well as their place of work. It is the center of Cape May to these men. They are likely hyper-aware of how profoundly the church clashes with the surrounding architecture and feel of the town. The exterior of the structure is made of grey stone. The heavy, fortress-like quality of the masonry is reminiscent of the Romanesque style. Other romaneseque influences of Our Lady Star of the Sea include a large bell tower, rounded arches, a small loggia, and attached buttresses. The facade contains pointed stained glass windows with stone mullions that are constructed in the early Gothic style.

The church is right in the center of the outdoor strip mall that consists of small businesses that are mostly beach-themed and touristy. All of the storefronts are small one to two story buildings that have colorful exteriors and Queen Anne and Cape Cod style influences, such as wood filigree and cedar

siding. The buildings are all rectangular in shape and most are directly touching each other. The strip mall is a huge tourist attraction where they all flock to purchase their Cape May themed souvenirs. The priest might look upon the shops with disdain, viewing them as a symbol of how shallow and materialistic people can be. This directly clashes with the church's teachings that material riches are unimportant in the grand scheme of things. [SOLITARY] The conflict of the harsh architecture of the church and the happy bubbly storefronts directly reflects the opposition of the seriousness or organized religion and the frivolity of consumerism.

Additionally, since the priests live in the rectory attached to the church it is likely that they are also familiarized enough with the beautiful ornamentation of the church's interior that it no longer strikes them with its beauty. The appearance of the interior impresses parishioners and visitors with its ornamentation. It is filled with gold adornments, clustered columns, rounded arches, and marble statues that appear to be Romanesque or Byzantine in nature. [OBJECT] The altar has a large marble tabernacle in the center that is very gothic in appearance. It has numerous vertical members and delicate carved ornaments. The two central rows of pews are able to seat 240 people. I imagine the most impressive interior sight to the priest is when the church is filled to the brim with people.

Since the priest is a local, it is unlikely that he has ever spent a night in Congress Hall, the building that represents the quality of Residence. [ASSOCIATIVE] For him this structure is not a place of residence at all. It is simply a place where tourists rest their heads and where he can go to shop and eat. Congress Hall is right down the street from Our Lady Star of the Sea, which is his permanent residence. He is likely very familiar with the structure since it is within such close proximity to the epicenter of his life. In all probability he is more familiar with this hotel than I am because he sees it more often in his daily life than I do. I'm sure he has been inside to the shops or to dine at the four different restaurants at some point. [FORMAL] He probably appreciates the exterior beauty of Congress Hall, which has both Queen Anne, Victorian, and colonial architectural influences. The dormer windows are of the Victorian style, the slight asymmetry from Queen Anne, and the columns and shuttered windows Colonial. As he walks around his neighborhood he likely strolls through the columns that line Congress Hall's panoramic porch. The bright yellow building blends in perfectly with the colorful storefronts of the adjacent strip mall and the vibrant Victorian beach houses all around. This structure is an integral part of Cape May's appeal that has been around for longer than the church. This embodies the fact that Cape May was a

touristy beach town before it was a place where people practiced catholicism. The town's novelty outweighs its religious influences.

My last condition, that of Congregation, is not as familiar to the priest as the church and Congress Hall. The Cape May Lighthouse is on the other side of town, and definitely is a tourist attraction. Since the priest is a resident of Cape May, he probably does not feel the need to drive over to the lighthouse to experience its views of the ocean and Delaware bay. However, I would be very surprised if he has never visited it. He presumably has visited a few times just to experience it, or maybe even with a youth group field trip. [RHYTHMIC] Like every other tourist, his first time climbing the 199 steps up the shaft to the top was both claustrophobic and exciting. The stairwell only has four windows, so the spiral staircase wrapped in brick can feel suffocating. Once he got to the top of the light tower, he was certainly wowed by the three-hundred-sixty degree view of the Atlantic ocean, Cape May Point State Park, and the Delaware bay. With a youth group trip, it would have been a joy to see a group of children so excited being up so high (157 feet, to be precise). The lighthouse differs greatly from the surrounding built structures, since it is surrounded by Cape Cod style beach houses and a small wooden nature museum. It does not differ from other lighthouses with its architectural style, but it is the only functional one left in Cape May so it stands alone. It is a unique sight to behold, and a symbol of the nautical lifestyle of the other year-round residents.

In conclusion, the priest of Our Lady Star of the Sea has a very different experience from me when it comes to the three structures that represent my fabric of Cape May. He is far more familiar with the church since it is his permanent home and place of work. The priest is just as familiar with the architectural conflict this building has with those surrounding it, but he has not experienced the emotional conflict of a building representing loss of faith like I am. Congress Hall is not a place of residence for him, but rather one for the tourists that come to visit the beach and end up at his church on Sundays. He is very familiar with the facade though, because it is in his immediate neighborhood. Because of this, he probably notices its details that I have overlooked, since I only see it a few times a year. Like me, he experiences the Cape May Lighthouse as a fun tourist trap that is fun to fall into once in a while for locals too. However, he does not feel the need to go often, just on occasion with a church trip or a friend.