

**CHURCH LADIES 2:  
MAMA ROSA RETURNS**

*by Kathy Frady*



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# Church Ladies 2: Mama Rosa Returns

More comic monologues  
for women's ministry

by Kathy Frady

**CAST**

*(In order of appearance)*

**NARRATOR**

Gently pokes fun at each Church Lady

**MAMA ROSA**

Mafia maw, speaks with Italian  
accent, power-hungry

**MISS MYRA**

Oldest member of church, speaks with  
elderly/country voice, hates change

**MATCHMAKER MARGE**

Lovable matchmaker, works with singles  
ministry, speaks with Jewish accent

**FASTING FRAN**

Over-the-top faster, speaks as  
highly religious person

**PENNY, PASTOR'S WIFE**

Sweet Southern woman who  
says everything is "such a blessing"

**PRAYING PATSY**

Gossiping "prayer warrior,"  
speaks with inner city accent

**TAKE-CHARGE TESS**

Overpowering leader, speaks with  
deep voice full of power

## *PRODUCTION NOTES*

This program of monologues offers a hysterical portrayal of seven zany female personalities which are found throughout today's churches. A Narrator transitions between each monologue while gently poking fun at each "Church Lady." Mama Rosa is a power-hungry deacon's wife — part Church Lady and part Mafia maw. Well past her prime, Miss Myra is still teaching the old ladies' Sunday school class. Matchmaker Marge dreams of uniting singles into couples with her ideas about a "Swingles Ministry." Fasting Fran elevates the biblical principle of fasting to ridiculous heights as she only gives up healthy foods. Penny, Pastor's Wife shares the "blessings" of her role. Praying Patsy takes her prayer ministry high tech with new gadgets that get the gossip — uh, prayer requests — out more quickly. Take-Charge Tess steamrolls over the church's leadership from last year's vacation Bible school and once again puts herself in charge of everything. This collection is the perfect complement to a women's weekend conference or a statewide minister's wives retreat.

Costumes for the Church Ladies should be kept simple, yet reflect their unique characters. For example, Mama Rosa could wear a long silk scarf over her hair and a silk rose on her lapel. Miss Myra might wear a shawl and orthopedic shoes. Matchmaker Marge could wear extra-large costume jewelry. Fasting Fran might wear a very fancy church dress and Easter hat, symbolizing her "holiness." Penny, Pastor's Wife could wear a conservative, 1950s-style dress. Praying Patsy might wear slacks and a flashy, brightly colored shirt. Take-Charge Tess could wear a bright red suit with a loud scarf tied at the neck.

Props are simple and can include a pin for Mama Rosa, a cane for Miss Myra, a clipboard for Matchmaker Marge, fast food bags for Fasting Fran, and a Blackberry or other techno device for Praying Patsy.

Any setting or stage will work well with this collection. Place a podium at one side for the Narrator and have each of the Church Ladies present her monologue from Center Stage. If lapel microphones are available, they will allow the ladies to use their hands to gesture more effectively. If lapel microphones are not available, set up a wired microphone at Center Stage for each Church Lady to use.

1           *(NARRATOR is in place behind the podium.)*

2   **NARRATOR:** Ah, Church Ladies. Every church has them.  
 3           You know the gals I'm talking about: The women who  
 4           bless us with their presence, their prestige, and their  
 5           misguided power year after year in business meetings,  
 6           worship services, and Sunday schools. What are we to  
 7           do? The Bible clearly tells us to reach out to the lovable  
 8           and unlovable alike. And you can trust me when I say  
 9           that the Church Ladies you are going to meet tonight  
 10          fall into the ... well, how shall I say it? They fall into  
 11          the "memorable" category! Take our first Church Lady,  
 12          for example. She's the kind who works tirelessly behind  
 13          the scenes. Pulling strings. Pushing people into place.  
 14          Making sure that if the church down the road has  
 15          something, her church has it too. She's not afraid to  
 16          ruffle feathers or provide a pair of cement shoes if the  
 17          situation should call for it. This is one Church Lady  
 18          whose good side you want to stay on at all costs. Please  
 19          join me in welcoming Mama Rosa. *(MAMA ROSA enters.)*

20   **MAMA ROSA:** Who could have guessed that my husband  
 21          Mario would be Interim Chairman of the Deacons for  
 22          longer than anyone else in the history of the church?  
 23          Who could have known that when Brother Joseph  
 24          slipped on that deviled egg at the deacon's dinner last  
 25          year that he would be out of commission for such a  
 26          long time? If my husband Mario has power, the family  
 27          has power; and if the family has power, Mama Rosa  
 28          has power.

29          With me as the wife of the Interim Chairman of the  
 30          Deacons, we've gotten things accomplished in this  
 31          church! We got the rose-scented garbage can liners.  
 32          Now our garbage smells just as good as the garbage at  
 33          the church down the street. Under my leadership, the  
 34          kitchen committee had a fund-raiser and bought new  
 35          ice cube trays. It took a lot of doing, getting those old

1 ladies to part with those 1950s metal trays. But now  
 2 thanks to Mama Rosa, we have state-of-the-art plastic  
 3 trays.

4 Now what can Mama Rosa, wife of the Interim  
 5 Chairman of the Deacons do for you? You want to sing  
 6 a solo in the Easter cantata? I'll get my cousin Pauly to  
 7 erase a few sopranos' names from the list. No? You  
 8 want to be the chairman of a committee? Just name  
 9 your ministry. I'll see that you are set up into a position  
 10 of authority by Sunday night. No? I know what you  
 11 want. You want to stop having to do the worst job in  
 12 the  
 13 church — serving in the nursery! No? You are crazier  
 14 than I thought!

15 Then what do you want Mama Rosa, wife of the  
 16 Interim Chairman of the Deacons to do for you? Ah,  
 17 you want your daughter to get the lead in the next  
 18 Easter cantata. She is a monotone and is paralyzed  
 19 with stage fright, but you see star potential. I'll talk to  
 20 my cousin Pauly and see if he will make a place for  
 21 your Broadway baby. Now, if there is nothing else ...  
 22 Oh, another request? You want to be in a Sunday  
 23 school class that is not for your age group? You feel  
 24 there are too many old people in your current Sunday  
 25 school class? You know what, I like your face. I'm going  
 26 to speak to my brother Julian, the Sunday School  
 27 Superintendent, about letting you switch. What, you  
 28 have another request? Ah, you young people, so bold!  
 29 You want the pastor to preach shorter sermons? Who  
 30 do you think I am? I am only the wife of the Interim  
 31 Chairman of the Deacons. Even I can't control how  
 32 long the pastor talks. No, no, wait a moment. This  
 33 getting the pastor to preach shorter sermons is a  
 34 delicate matter. It can be done, but it will have to be  
 35 done carefully, with much planning and conniving. I

1 will have my husband, the Interim Chairman of the  
 2 Deacons, bring this up in the next deacons' meeting.  
 3 Perhaps we can put some pressure on our pastor by  
 4 informing him that the pastor of the church down the  
 5 road has decided to cut his sermons in half. How do I  
 6 know this? My sister's husband is the Interim Chairman  
 7 of the Deacons at the church down the road. And if her  
 8 family has the power, she has the power — and if my  
 9 sister has the power, Mama Rosa has the power. Mama  
 10 Rosa is pleased to ask my sister to do this for you.  
 11 Perhaps there will come a time in the future when  
 12 Mama Rosa will ask a favor from you. Until that time,  
 13 *(Holds up pin)* you may kiss my Sunday school perfect  
 14 attendance pin. *(MAMA ROSA exits.)*

15 NARRATOR: See what I mean about staying on Mama  
 16 Rosa's good side? You know, in my heart, I think Mama  
 17 Rosa probably means well. She's just let her husband's  
 18 position go to her head. Of course, please don't tell her  
 19 I said that. I don't want to end up sleeping with the  
 20 fishes! In fact, *(Fearfully)* let's stop talking about Mama  
 21 Rosa and move on to another Church Lady! I'm sure  
 22 you have a Church Lady like this next little saint at  
 23 your church. You know, a woman who is older than the  
 24 building itself. A woman who was a member before the  
 25 educational building was built. A woman who is so old,  
 26 she remembers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John  
 27 personally. I think you get the idea. Some of you might  
 28 belong to a church where you know a sainted senior  
 29 like our next Church Lady, Miss Myra. *(Pause)* Miss  
 30 Myra, Miss Myra, honey, it's your turn. *(Louder)* It's  
 31 your turn to speak! Miss Myra! *(MISS MYRA enters*  
 32 *slowly, using a cane.)*

33 MISS MYRA: Well, hello, I'm Miss Myra. I've been a member  
 34 of this church since before it was built. That makes me  
 35 a charter member. Got my name on that brass plaque

1 that hangs in the old fellowship hall. I've seen some  
2 good things and I've seen some bad things in all my  
3 years here. And let me tell you, change is one of the  
4 worst bad things I've seen.

5 Take, for example, the size of the new Communion  
6 crackers they've started serving. For fifty-seven years  
7 they served those little oyster crackers, and now  
8 they've started getting big crackers and breaking them  
9 into pieces. I never know what size cracker I'm going  
10 to get, and the big pieces make me choke!

11 And if that's not bad enough, they've started a  
12 contemporary service. They play the music so loud it  
13 shakes the pews, and they turn the lights low. People  
14 can't see the bulletin announcements. They started  
15 putting the announcements on a screen. In my day, the  
16 pastor stood on the platform in front of everybody and  
17 read the announcements one at a time. Everyone knows  
18 that if the pastor doesn't read each announcement, he  
19 doesn't support the activities they are announcing.

20 And this week, they announced they're going to start  
21 paying the nursery workers. Why in the world would  
22 we need to pay someone to work in our nursery? In my  
23 day, we didn't have a nursery. Our babies slept through  
24 the sermons right along with the rest of us. And when  
25 we had two-week-long revivals, we just put our  
26 toddlers on the pew beside us and told them not to  
27 move. And they didn't! Course we poured cough syrup  
28 down their throats to make them sleepy, but I don't  
29 know why young mothers don't just discipline their  
30 children better. Why, we even have a cry room at our  
31 church now! The mothers can sit out there with their  
32 kids and watch the preacher on a TV. On a TV! My  
33 preacher has become one of those televangelists! No  
34 good is going to come from that, you mark my words!

35 And another thing, they've started serving coffee in

1 the foyer in between Sunday school and church. Coffee!  
 2 The next thing you know, people will be sitting in  
 3 church eating pancakes and scrambled eggs! Turning  
 4 the house of God into an IHOP! What in the world  
 5 would the good Lord think of that? Why, in my day, we  
 6 ate our breakfast *before* we came to church. And after  
 7 church, we went back home for pot roast. Do you know  
 8 I see young church families going to restaurants for  
 9 Sunday afternoon dinners? Restaurants like the  
 10 Chinese buffet. How in the world are you going to find  
 11 a slice of good old-fashioned pot roast between all  
 12 those containers of rice and dumplings?

13 And people wonder why the family unit is falling  
 14 apart! I'll tell you why; it's because there are so many  
 15 newfangled changes at our churches, that's why. Psalm  
 16 15:4, and I quote, "The Lord changest not." That proves  
 17 it right there; the Lord is not in favor of change. Why,  
 18 change is almost the same thing as evolution, and I do  
 19 not for one minute believe that I came from a monkey!  
 20 Although monkeys are kind of cute. In fact, I took my  
 21 grandkids to the zoo the other day, and we saw this  
 22 little monkey who would jump from limb to limb. Just  
 23 the cutest thing you ever saw ... and ... where was I?

24 Well, doggone it — I done forgot what I was saying.  
 25 Well, you folks look like a real nice bunch. I hope you  
 26 enjoy our church service today. Oh, we're having  
 27 Communion today. Be sure you get a small piece of  
 28 cracker, or you'll surely choke to death! (*MISS MYRA*  
 29 *slowly shuffles off.*)

30 NARRATOR: Poor Miss Myra. She got so flabbergasted with  
 31 the changes at her church that she lost her train of  
 32 thought. Of course, most of us would agree that change  
 33 is sometimes hard. But I think most of us would also  
 34 agree that change brings growth. A church that is truly  
 35 stuck in the past is a church that might not make it to

1 the future. And everyone knows that young families are  
 2 the future of the church. In fact, I'd like to introduce  
 3 you to a woman who is working as hard as she can to  
 4 get single church ladies connected to single church men  
 5 so they can enjoy the bliss of holy matrimony. Please  
 6 welcome Matchmaker Marge, a woman who is in and  
 7 of herself a Christian dating service. (*MATCHMAKER*  
 8 *MARGE runs in excitedly with her clipboard.*)

9 **MATCHMAKER MARGE:** Well, hello! I'm Marge, and it is  
 10 my joy to be here, and it is my pleasure to try to create  
 11 some Christian hookups this evening! My singles-to-  
 12 married ministry has a ninety-seven percent success  
 13 rate, and after my presentation, I'm sure most of you  
 14 single folks will be single no longer! Years of working  
 15 with singles has helped me to discover that as a single  
 16 person, you all fall into one of four categories based on  
 17 your age. I'll give you a little information about what  
 18 you are like at each age, as well as tips for finding a  
 19 mate.

20 OK, first are "young singles, age eighteen to twenty-  
 21 four." Here's a little information about this group: First,  
 22 you think you will live forever. Second, Mom and Dad  
 23 still pay some of your bills, like rent, car insurance,  
 24 health insurance, and school loans. Third, you're thin;  
 25 you can eat whatever you want. And fourth, you can  
 26 stay up late. Now for folks in this category, for you to  
 27 meet people — you can just go to any Christian event  
 28 for an easy hookup. You look good and don't have real  
 29 bills and you can stay up late. Enjoy it! But let me give  
 30 you a little hint: Don't be so choosy. If the girl isn't  
 31 cross-eyed and if the boy has a job, consider her or him  
 32 a future mate. You won't be thin and wide awake  
 33 forever.

34 OK, the second group is the "mid/career singles, age  
 35 twenty-five to thirty." Here's a little information about

1           this group: First, at this age you've found a career you  
2           enjoy. Secondly, you are paying your own bills, grateful  
3           if Mom and Dad slip you a check now and then. You  
4           can still eat most whatever you want and stay thin. You  
5           are in bed by midnight because of work the next day.  
6           Your choice method for meeting people is go on  
7           Facebook and other social Websites. You talk on-line  
8           for weeks before you set up a meeting in a well-lit  
9           public place with a friend on standby. That way, she  
10          can call you on your cell phone and pretend to have an  
11          emergency that she needs your help with in case your  
12          date is a dud. But stay away from 900 single numbers.  
13          The voice may sound good, but the look is always bad.  
14          That's why they're on the phone. My cousin used to  
15          work for one of those numbers and trust me, she was  
16          a gal you wouldn't want to meet face to face.

17          OK, the next group is "full career, ages thirty-one  
18          through forty." Here's a little information about this  
19          group: By this time, you are the District Manager at  
20          your branch. You are paying your rent, car insurance,  
21          health insurance, and instead of school loans, you're  
22          trying to pay off credit cards. At this age, as a single  
23          person you eat whatever you want, get fat, and don't  
24          care. And you are in bed by ten p.m. with your cat. At  
25          this age, I find that you try to meet people — either in  
26          a job-related situation or a food-related situation. At  
27          work, you hang out near the snack machine, water  
28          cooler, or break room, hoping to catch someone's  
29          eye — and if that doesn't work, you bring donuts and  
30          attract the three p.m. work crowd looking for a  
31          sugar/energy fix.

32          OK, the final group is "older singles, forty plus."  
33          Here is a little information about this group: At forty  
34          plus, you've gotten a second raise at work. You are  
35          paying your own bills and have cut your credit cards

1 up. You eat whatever you want as long as it's Jenny  
 2 Craig and Slim Fast, because the spare tire you inflated  
 3 in your thirties is really starting to bulge now. Your  
 4 sleeping habits have changed a little. You're not sure  
 5 what time you go to sleep because now you put in a  
 6 movie and fall asleep on the sofa before the movie is  
 7 over. To meet people ... OK, statistics tell us that it's  
 8 easier to be hit by a car than to meet someone over  
 9 forty. So you go for the hit-by-the-car idea. You've got  
 10 good insurance, and hey, have you seen some of those  
 11 handsome E.R. doctors? Talk about a hookup!

12 Well, I hope I have brightened the day of you poor  
 13 single people in the crowd! Don't worry. The perfect  
 14 someone is out there for you somewhere. At least I  
 15 *think* there is a perfect someone out there. I mean, I  
 16 can't say for sure. I mean, love and romance is not an  
 17 exact science. You know, there is really nothing wrong  
 18 with being single. I mean, at what other time in your  
 19 life will you have complete power over the remote  
 20 control? Whatever your status in life, enjoy and be  
 21 blessed!

22 NARRATOR: Any of you single folks out there, be sure to  
 23 sign up for Marge's help after the services.  
 24 (*MATCHMAKER MARGE nods enthusiastically, waves*  
 25 *good-bye, and exits.*) You know, when you think about it,  
 26 Marge is just trying to make people happy. And  
 27 everyone knows how much single people love having  
 28 the fact that they are single being pointed out to the  
 29 entire church and then being matched up with other  
 30 single people. We ought to start a new singles ministry.  
 31 We could call it Swinging Singles, or Swingles for short!  
 32 I'm sure we could get Marge in to do a weekend  
 33 workshop or something! Anyone interested? No? I can't  
 34 say that I blame you! Well, we've met some interesting  
 35 ladies so far, but I don't think that anyone could ever

1           compare to Fasting Fran. Fran is so spiritual that she  
2           is going on a fast. It's a rather unusual fast, so pay  
3           attention. It may be the kind of fast that you might  
4           consider going on too! (*FASTING FRAN enters excitedly.*)

5   **FASTING FRAN:** Well, glory! My fast has started, and I am  
6           looking forward to the blessing the Lord has in store  
7           for me! It's in the Word. Look it up. Luke 6:38! A good  
8           measure; pressed down, shaken together, and running  
9           over of blessings will be poured into my lap! Well, it  
10          doesn't exactly say that, but I know the Lord is going  
11          to reward my spiritual fasting with some material  
12          blessings! I have big plan for the blessings I'm going to  
13          get through this fast! Mmm-hmm. God's gonna bless my  
14          kids to start behaving, my husband's gonna get a raise,  
15          and I'll be able to quit work and be a stay-at-home  
16          mom. That's why God's got to bless my kids with good  
17          behaviors, because if I'm gonna be a stay-at-home mom,  
18          those kids have got to straighten up! And I know the  
19          blessings are coming because I am getting ready to fast!  
20          That's right. Pressed and shaken, shake and bake. Just  
21          like fried chicken!

22                I have a fasting plan: I am fasting from healthy food  
23                and looking for the blessings! That's what I said —  
24                fasting from healthy foods. It's easy to cut out junk  
25                food, fast food, and sweets, but fasting healthy foods is  
26                gonna take some work and willpower! You know what  
27                I'm saying? I am gonna have to start buying processed  
28                foods full of high-fructose corn syrup and refined sugar  
29                with extra saturated fats! But I'll do it for my Lord,  
30                because it's all about the blessings.

31                Now, let me ask you something. Do you think it's  
32                cheating to take a healthy food and make it unhealthy  
33                so I can eat it as a part of my fast? See, I am craving  
34                sweet potatoes. A plain baked sweet potato is a healthy  
35                choice for dinner, but since I am fasting healthy foods

1           in favor of unhealthy foods, can I just make it  
 2           unhealthy by spreading butter and a heaping spoonful  
 3           of brown sugar on top? Is that cheating on my fast? Do  
 4           you know what I am saying? I want to expand my  
 5           temple of the Lord and add a back porch or maybe an  
 6           educational wing. You know those skinny church ladies  
 7           look all anorexia. By the time I'm off this fast, I won't  
 8           have to worry about whether my church pews are  
 9           padded or not. You know what I am saying?

10           And I am willing to do whatever it takes to make it  
 11           through to the other side of this fast! I mean it. If the  
 12           lady at the drive-thru asks me if I want to biggie-size  
 13           my order, I will tell her yes, for the glory of the Lord!  
 14           If I order a medium cheese pizza and they accidentally  
 15           deliver an extra-large supreme, I will eat the whole  
 16           thing, because it's the right thing to do when you are  
 17           fasting healthy foods. If my kids don't finish their fries,  
 18           I will eat the leftovers and lick the salt out of the bag  
 19           because I want the rewards that come from fasting!

20           I've even got my husband on board. Last night after  
 21           we got home from church, I served him a seventy-two-  
 22           ounce steak smothered in garlic butter, homemade  
 23           yeast rolls smothered in honey butter, and an entire  
 24           apple pie smothered in butter-flavored ice cream! And  
 25           for dessert we both ate raw sugar straight from the  
 26           bag! I am telling you, all this fasting has changed my  
 27           life! Who would have ever thought that fasting from  
 28           eating healthy foods could be so rewarding?! I feel... I  
 29           feel ... I think I feel a little sick. All that butter and  
 30           sugar seems to have made me a little light-headed. But  
 31           don't worry. I won't let a little dizzy spell keep me from  
 32           following the Lord! I think I have a chocolate bar in my  
 33           purse. Let me just go get it. (*FASTING FRAN lurches*  
 34           *unsteadily Off-stage.*)

35   **NARRATOR:** Maybe we should consider what the Bible has

1 to say about fasting before we jump on the bandwagon  
 2 with Fasting Fran. We might end up in a worse state at  
 3 the end of her kind of fast than at the beginning. I'm  
 4 not too keen on fasting as a way to manipulate the  
 5 Lord. And as a wife and mother, I'd rather not lead my  
 6 kids and husband into diabetic comas from following  
 7 such a high-sugar, high-fat, fast-food diet. In fact, if I  
 8 were to fast, I'd discuss it with someone I trust and  
 9 respect. Someone wise and spiritually mature.  
 10 Someone like our pastor's wife. (*If your pastor is a*  
 11 *woman, substitute "Someone like our pastor."*) Although we  
 12 couldn't get \_\_\_\_\_ (*Fill in the blank with your pastor's*  
 13 *wife's name*) up on the stage tonight, we did manage to  
 14 get another pastor's wife, and I think hearing from her  
 15 will help us understand what our \_\_\_\_\_ (*Fill in the*  
 16 *blank with your pastor's wife's name*) encounters as a  
 17 pastor's wife. Won't you welcome Penny, Pastor's Wife?  
 18 (*PENNY, PASTOR'S WIFE minces in, smiling.*)

19 PENNY, PASTOR'S WIFE: Well, hello, everyone. I'm the  
 20 pastor's wife over at First Church. Being a part of First  
 21 Church is just such a blessing! Why, just last week I  
 22 was on my way from Sunday school to the church  
 23 service to hear my husband's sermon on "How to Have  
 24 Abundant Life" when the Music Minister stopped me  
 25 and asked me if I was still planning to sing the solo for  
 26 our church Easter pageant. He mentioned that in  
 27 addition to the eleven o'clock service and the sunrise  
 28 service, we were also hosting a pre-sunrise service on  
 29 Easter Sunday at four a.m. and would I bless those  
 30 early risers by singing my solo at four a.m. on Easter  
 31 Sunday morning? I told him of course I would. Doing  
 32 that is just such a blessing.

33 I hadn't gone two steps when our Women's Ministry  
 34 Director stopped me. She told me that our Miss  
 35 Gertrude, who is a friend of your Miss Myra, was

1       supposed to lead the new women’s Bible study, but she  
2       threw out her back at the last minute, and would I lead  
3       it? I said of course I would, and that leading the study  
4       would be such a blessing. She said “Good,” and she  
5       handed me the book and told me it started at five p.m.  
6       that night.

7       I’d just finished talking to her when our Youth  
8       Minister spotted me. He said the youth were having a  
9       bake sale to raise money for their mission trip to  
10      Mexico, and he asked me if I would bake some  
11      brownies. I said of course. Baking brownies would be  
12      such a blessing. He then proceeded to tell me that  
13      several of our teens had food allergies to flour, sugar,  
14      eggs, dairy, nuts, and chocolate, and could I please use  
15      a brownie recipe that didn’t call for any of those? I said  
16      of course, that making brownies with no ingredients  
17      will be such a blessing.

18      I was just rounding the corner when our Preschool  
19      Director caught me. She explained that the teacher of  
20      the two-year-olds had already called in sick for this  
21      coming Wednesday, and would I take her place? I said  
22      of course I would, and that it would be such a blessing.  
23      She went on to explain that there were twenty-seven  
24      two-year-olds and that half of them were potty trained  
25      and half of them weren’t, but that it wouldn’t take me  
26      any time at all to figure out who was who.

27      I thought I could slip by the Chairman of the Kitchen  
28      Committee, but she waved me down and asked if I  
29      couldn’t help clean out the freezers. Something about  
30      the old metal ice cube trays being flash frozen to the  
31      bottom of the freezer. I told her I’d be happy to help,  
32      and that doing so would be such a blessing. I had  
33      almost made it to the sanctuary when the church  
34      janitor approached me. He explained that he was going  
35      on vacation next week, and that there was one job he

1       felt he couldn't trust anyone to do properly while he  
2       was gone. He handed me a toilet brush and asked if I  
3       would please take care of cleaning the commodes while  
4       he was away. I said of course I would. Doing that  
5       would be (*Screams hysterically*) *such a blessing!*

6       (*Regains composure.*) It was at that point that I  
7       realized I was not going to make it into the sanctuary  
8       to hear my husband's sermon on "How to Have  
9       Abundant Life." I found myself pushing open the door  
10      of the church building, running across the lawn to the  
11      parsonage, flinging open the bathroom door, lighting a  
12      candle, filling the tub with hot water and bubbles,  
13      locking the bathroom door, and getting into the tub.  
14      That, I can tell you, really was such a blessing! (*PENNY,*  
15      *PASTOR'S WIFE exits.*)

16     **NARRATOR:** Well, ladies, I hope we've all learned that we  
17      are not to "bless" our pastor's wife (*Or "pastor"*) the way  
18      Penny was blessed by her congregation! In fact, if  
19      there's one thing a pastor's wife doesn't need, it's  
20      "blessings." A pastor's wife needs support,  
21      encouragement, and an occasional pat on the back for  
22      putting up with us church members the way she does.  
23      In fact, if a pastor's wife needs anything, it's prayer.  
24      Well, luckily for us, we have a Church Lady with us this  
25      evening that specializes in prayer. At least she calls  
26      what she does "prayer." Truth be told, most of her  
27      prayer requests are actually juicy pieces of gossip  
28      cleverly disguised as prayer requests. But Praying  
29      Patsy is an unstoppable force, and once she decides  
30      you need her prayer services, watch out! Oh, here  
31      comes Patsy now! (*PRAYING PATSY walks in, texting on*  
32      *her cell phone.*)

33     **PRAYING PATSY:** Girl, I went to this high-tech prayer  
34      conference the other day, and they had all these new  
35      ways you can communicate your prayer concerns with

1        your church family! I mean, remember that time when  
2        my husband's cousin's boss had that friend who goes to  
3        church in another town and how her mother's sister's  
4        hairdresser told her that she saw our pastor making  
5        copies at Kinko's? And we determined that he was  
6        probably making copies of his resume because he  
7        wanted to leave us. Well, it turns out that he was  
8        making a copy of a wedding license because he was  
9        performing a ceremony in that town. Apparently he  
10       wasn't planning on sending out his resume until I told  
11       the deacons that we needed to start praying for a new  
12       pastor. Well, at this conference I learned about this new  
13       Internet social networking site called "My Face," and  
14       you can post prayer requests to thousands of people on  
15       your list, and they can get the information instantly.

16        Wouldn't it have been wonderful to use My Face to  
17        tell everyone that instead of praying for Buddy and  
18        Sarah's secret engagement that Buddy didn't know  
19        about, because Sarah's aunt's college roommate  
20        overhead Buddy's friend's mechanic tell Buddy's dad  
21        that his car needed new rings, so Sarah's aunt was sure  
22        that was man talk for engagement rings, only it wasn't?  
23        We could have used the Internet to get the word out  
24        that new rings for the car really meant new rings for  
25        the car, and we could have avoided that impromptu  
26        prayer meeting we had to call that night so we could  
27        minister to a brokenhearted Sarah who did not get the  
28        proposal she and we were expecting!

29        And I also learned about this new kind of phone  
30        where all you have to do is speak into it, and it  
31        automatically types a text message and sends it to  
32        anyone you want! I mean, how helpful would that little  
33        gadget have been that time when we were praying for  
34        Bonnie? That was back when she decided to  
35        homeschool her two boys, and after a lengthy

1 discussion, we determined that it was probably the  
2 same two boys who had been so disruptive at VBS last  
3 summer. Remember how my sister's husband's uncle's  
4 friend was doing taxes for this woman who volunteered  
5 at VBS last summer? Well, it turned out that the bad  
6 VBS boys weren't Bonnie's kids but the tax client's, and  
7 I had to call every single person on the prayer list and  
8 straighten them out. Can you imagine how much faster  
9 it would've been if I could have just sent a massive  
10 voice-activated text message that said, "Whoops, wrong  
11 boys"?!  
12

13 Where were all these high-tech prayer devices when  
14 I needed them? I mean, I am still praying that we'll find  
15 a new pastor since my little confusion about resumes  
16 caused our pastor to leave, and I am still praying that  
17 one day Buddy and Sarah will get couples' counseling  
18 and that he will get around to popping the question.  
19 And Bonnie, well, she's set up her phone to block all  
20 my calls, but she can't block my prayers, even if her  
21 boys aren't the wild demon boys from VBS.

22 Oh, wait, there was one other fancy gizmo that I  
23 learned about at the prayer conference. What was it?  
24 Oh, it will just drive me crazy if I can't remember! Oh,  
25 now I remember! We have got to get us a prayer  
26 marquee. You know, one of those electronic signs that  
27 churches have that have words running across the  
28 screen that tell what time the services are and things  
29 like that. I know I could learn to program one of those!  
30 That way people could know who was in need of  
31 prayer and they could get all the juicy — I mean,  
32 relevant details just by driving past our church. I'm  
33 going to talk to the Interim Chairman of the Deacons  
34 right now and see if I can't take our prayer ministry  
35 high-tech! (*PRAYING PATSY strides purposefully Off-*  
*stage.*)



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