



FATHER  
of the  
**Fatherless**  
The Story of Nelson Baker



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NOVEMBER 29, 1851

9 YEAR-OLD NELSON BAKER IS BAPTIZED CATHOLIC BY FATHER JOSEPH LEMMON AT SAINT PATRICK PARISH IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

EGO TE BAPTIZO...

I'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR THIS DAY FOR NINE YEARS!

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, NELSON, FOR CHOOSING TO BE BAPTIZED!

YOU'RE GOING TO DO GREAT THINGS...

...I JUST KNOW IT!

3 YEARS LATER...





YOU DID IT!

WE WON THE GAME!



I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR TEAM!

YOU'RE OUR BEST PLAYER!



HEY NELSON...YOU SAID YOUR PARENTS GAVE YOU THAT DOLLAR TO GET A SMALL TREAT AFTER THE GAME?

WE COULD GET SOME ICE CREAM TO CELEBRATE!



IT'S NOT ICE CREAM I WANT TO GET. COME ON!

I'LL SHOW YOU!



TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY, I'M USING MY DOLLAR TO BUY THIS STATUE OF OUR LADY!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BUY THIS STATUE, AND I THINK TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO DO IT!



SEVERAL YEARS LATER IN 1863, NELSON BAKER ENLISTED IN THE 74TH REGIMENT OF THE NEW YORK MILITIA...

...AFTER THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, BAKER'S REGIMENT WAS SENT TO NEW YORK CITY TO CALM DOWN THE DRAFT RIOTS THAT SPREAD CHAOS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.





BUT A RESTLESSNESS IN NELSON REMAINED...  
A YEARNING TO ANSWER A CALL...