APRIL 24, 1938

I greet you all, noble countrymen and countrywomen, with the words: Let Jesus Christ be praised.

On March 36 of this year the English press in their dailies printed this significant cartoon. It depicts General Franco, standing before the city of Barcelona with his heavy boots in a city ruined and on fire. Franco hold in his fists war planes armed with bombs ready to bomb the unfortunate city for the second time. Depicted for the general is the hand of the Holy Father, St. Pius XI holding back the hand and forbidding further attacks on the city. The cartoon is accompanied by an editorial entitled, “and the entire populace says: “Amen!” Discursively I add, from the article: “When Pope Pius XI sent General Franco, “a new and urgent note”, asking him to cease bombarding the civilian population, it was the voice of 350 million Catholics throughout the world. Another million said Amen to that. The most important voice of peace in the world today is the voice of Pius XI called, “The Pope of Peace”. We need to remember that the Pope lives literally on the doorstep of the Volcano in Mussolini’s Italy. When General Franco was asked to stop bombarding the civilian population, it didn’t sit well with Mussolini. No one is surprised at the hutzpah of the Pope since at Christmas in his talk to the world condemned Hitler for his aggression. Similarly he criticized the brutality of Stalin when the Church was so strenuously persecuted. Despite his old age and physical debility the Holy Father became the leader of the whole world. He seeks the goodness and mercy of people in the civilized world even if the civilized world has to admit that war happens. And even today when bloody wars are occurring on two continents there is a real response when the Pope calls for the ceasing of brutality. Somewhere there must be a movement to settle things peacefully. The Pope shows the way. Let us follow his directives. Let us begin by restricting war to those in uniform. Let us show mercy to the elderly, to women and to children.” The entire article is important, very important, since it points to the incessant wish of the Holy Father to prevent the brutality. The sentence about having mercy on the elderly, women, and children strikes me most poignantly. And so to our talk:

**WILL THE WORLD HAVE MERCY ON THEM?**

Perhaps in this whole wide world, there is no one who has such a heart of cold stone as to agree that the elderly, women and children need special consideration in wartime. What will it profit the combatants to be cruel to them? They are not only innocent but feeble and defenseless. Who would not agree to that? I, however, have one urgent and simply audacious question: Why is it only in war that we are so concerned about old people, women and children and show them that we care? Why not in time of peace? Why not in our daily lives, today, tomorrow, in the future and always? Does not the fifth commandment, written by the hand of God on tablets of stone communicate to each soul, “Thou shalt not kill!” It does not solely pertain to warfare. It is totally illogical to restrict killing to warfare and to consider the elderly as the useless, that they are in the way, that they have to be removed from a functioning society and make room for the young. Such murder, cold blooded and careless is casually called “mercy killing.” The educated have washed and cleaned up the notion of “mercy killing” with a fancy word coined “Euthanasia” that is “beautiful death.” Unscrupulous materialists look upon this beautiful death or mercy killing as only for the very old but for the incurably sick, mental patients, and even for the jobless. What a terrible thing, what a barbarism. No one on earth gave himself life and so is not its owner or its Lord. He is only wayfarer, a traveler on earth. And so no one has the right to get rid of his life because he is not its owner. Neither has anyone the right to take another life and cannot bestow a life upon another. Mercy killing is murder no matter how it’s painted. The Church has condemned it with the words, “On the strength of Catholic teaching, mercy killing isn’t worthy of civilized countries and is condemned.”

It brings one to tears to think about the ways today’s world treats the elderly. Go to an old folk’s home. Talk to any oldster that lives there. Listen to some of the details that will shake your soul. In our times, people do not have any care for the elderly than for a piece of equipment.   
They are thrown away like old junk. One hears the saying: “The world belongs to the young. Put the elderly in the corner. What a pharisaical position to take – to say that the elderly, women and children should have special attention in wartime and to neglect them in our peacetime daily lives. How many hard hearted and unappreciative children have a corner in their homes for their parents for their father or mother in their old age? They have to go from relative to relative. They are made fun off. Or sent off to homes they never visit. What a behavior in a civilized society which teats the elderly who strove with the might to bring up their children, lost their health and the world is not giving them a straight shot.

Does the world perhaps treat a woman better than the elderly in time of peace? How beautiful it is when hone hears about the concern for women during war time; why not in peacetime and everywhere? History teaches us that Christianity took woman by the hand and raised her from the gutter and placed her on the altar for someone wrote: “The man and the woman are, in the mind of God, equal stars. - For thousands of years the woman was neglected, lowered, stepped upon and disliked. The Church, following the footsteps of the creator God lifted her person. Today the world models itself after the lunatic philosopher, Nietzsche, who is of the notion that “man is in the depths of his soul evil; woman is corrupted from the beginning.” Another Jewish-German wise man maintains that “women are childlike, shortsighted, in a word, they remain “adult children” all their lives born between a child and a man, but the man is a human in the full sense of the word!’ Craftily the seculars taught the women some kind of romantic equality: The woman’s race willingly and joyfully swallowed it. It took on man’s manners. Women lost their goodness, nobility, chaste ways and shame. They lost their calling. The world looks at the woman as Eve and lost the idea of woman of Christ’s Mary. In the last twenty years, we hear of the saying, “Everything is possible for women!” The clothing industry taught that in the world fashion. Women met in conventions and conferences for liberation. The media, the movie and theatre industries pushed “Modern Millie”. Changes in music and dance occurred. Women were dressed in military uniforms, worked in war, on submarines, and worked artillery. That same world criticized the idea of having women in services.

And that’s not the end. How does the world further protect the woman? It taught here that they are free to live together with men as a couple, in testing out marriage, and without commitment. There are no taking vows in marriage ceremonies. There is no cramping of style. Poisonous elements are thrown at young immature girls. Please listen to the following letter. You would not guess that it is written by a girl who, although she lived through 17 summers she acts like an experienced and mature adult. Please listen thoughtfully to what she says: Today’s youth is different our parents were when they were our age our age. It is better, more open and sincere, and not so naïve as the previous generation. Our teacher teaches us that no .one should suppress natural drives, but you need them direct them in the direction of a pursued goal. Otherwise people are not natural and don’t live as people but like parrots. Each person should be independent. We girls know take care of ourselves. We hold on to our fashions. We use lipstick, rouge and powder so look beautiful. We drink and smoke because today it is accepted in the best company. Flirting and kissing is a temporary thing without any meaning. Each of us knows what is permissible for ourselves. - My dear listeners, what do you think of the arguments and reasons that this young girl puts forth. You have proof of the manner in which the world treats young women, distorting their outlook, from the dawn of their existence at human life. You, my dear child, listen: Do you think that all natural tendencies and noble and knightly? Remember what the apostle wrote: “I do not understand how I operate: because I wish things that are not good and do them; but the bad things I do, I hate. I see another law in my members, contrary to my thinking, which takes me to task, to slavery. I am an unfortunate human being; who will liberate me from fleshified death? The grace of God through Jesus Christ our Savior. I serve God with my mind but the flesh through sin.” Certain natural inclinations are like a wild horse. One needs to conquer them and be aware of them. Otherwise they will run away with us. One should be aware of the Christian life. When you smoke, drink, power yourself into your own glory, you are self-destructing. You’re so-called good friendships never sinned by excess of virtue. Pilate, Herod, and the Pharisees counted themselves as the elite of their times. Their hypocrisy, falsehood, hardness of heart, self-love and rotten state hid and still hides behind the cloak of good fellowship. Unless you respect yourself and do not think about flirting or kissing non self-respecting girl will publically spread her most intimate feelings so thoughtlessly and cheaply. Do not be so certain that you know what you can permit yourself and how far you can go in these things because, remember, that who enters the fast currents of the Niagara River, with closed eyes or open widely the force of the waters will lead you to the precipice at the falls. You need not believe your own convictions. It is sufficient to read the newspapers which supply the details to the complication, murders and suicides who like you were “good sports” who “took a fling at life” who claimed that “they could take care of themselves” - Or as a matter of fact go and walk through the corridors of hospitals and the Good Shepherd Hoes. Look at the statistics of white slavery. Read and find out that daily in the united States 5900 children are born into this world and almost 300 come from unwed mothers; mothers whom were so cared about during the war but know are left to their own designs and their own downfall. You Polish girls, at least you, don’t let yourself be sold short; lift your eyes to your true model, Our Lady. Read in her nobility her worthiness and vocation. Seek aid and advice at her feet.

Once again the world lifts its voice and people speak of the protections of children during the war. Once more: what idea do people have about the rights of children at peacetime? What is their concern about children during the war? What respect do they show their children? Who in this age considers the child a grace and gift from heaven given by God? More worthy is a dog and a cat than a child! The car is more important; freedom and comfort and more sought after. The world has gone further; it has provided clinics or public service places where women to go to get various services, to become mothers. It is thus that this world loves children, how it cares about children and how it protects children. And that’s not the end of it. Those who have no conscience teach mothers to be how they could murder their own helpless children in the womb. Polish women were did your feeling of guilt evaporate. Are you not afraid of God? What will you do on the day of your death? When before your eyes stands the image of the child crushed in you womb? When you hear the words: “Expect from your Creator that mercy that care that you showed me. And what will you say at the last judgment when you see the murdered flesh of the youth pointing the finger at you and pronouncing judgment on your treatment. Do not believe that God will accept your excuses. God will point to the tablets of commandments. It is there that you will read: Do not kill! Just before the holidays of Christmas I received a letter from such a Mary Magdalene, who through several years enjoyed the taverns and the beer gardens of Detroit. She wrote about women who hope in themselves and believing certain dragons in human flesh to permit the killing of an unborn life. Some remain crippled all of their life; others have nervous breakdowns and a considerable number dies in the process. The letter ends: “Let Father Justin show them how they are committing sin, for each one of them knows that they committed murder. Pure and simple murder. And so this is the way that they protect children. They continue further as the Pope himself. St. Pius Testifies to in his encyclical, “Undefiled Marriage”: “It happens here and there that public authorities took upon themselves this murderous operation that as all know nevertheless occurs more frequently. St. Augustine reminds married couples who consistently use birth control and when it fails “they use all kinds of chemicals to prevent conception. Pius XII further says, “If Public Authorities foster these methods with their laws and regulations let them remember that God is Judge and has vengeance on spilling innocent blood.” I add that murderers of children cry out about the protection of children in time of war. What kind of human perversion is this to have these different and contrary views of the way children are treated during a war and the way they are treated in peaceful times? The media propagates these injustices. Let us protect the elderly, the women and children always and everywhere from all harm. God, the natural law and Christianity demands that through the law of God.