December 2, 1934

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

After the creation of the world, Almighty God, looked at his work, " and saw that things that he had made: and it was very good. That was, however, only for a time. It is a curious thing that the creature to whom he had given the most, to those whom he gifted freely, were the first to disobey for which they heard the terrible verdict: "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat. Until you return to the ground from which you were taken, for you are dirt and to dirt you shall return. The second even of people's ingratitude is found in the Book of Genesis: Cain said to his brother, Abel, "Let us go out in the field." When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LO rd asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper>? The Lord then said, "What have you done. Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil. Therefore you shall be banned from the soil that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. If you till the soil, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a restless wanderer on the earth." These two of God's curses upon people for their crimes, in a short time, generated hate and contrariness in mankind. Man lost the nobility of his mind and heart , and the mind was turned to material things. Already in the fifth chapter of Genesis we read: "When the Lord saw how great was man's wickedness on earth and how no desire that his heart conceived was ever anything but evil, he regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was grieved. So the Lord said, "I will wipe out from the earth the men whom I have created, and not only the men, but also the beasts and the creeping things and the birds of the air, for I am sorry that I made them. But Noah found favor with the Lord. In the eyes of God the earth was corrupt and full of lawlessness. When God saw how corrupt the earth had become, since all mortals led depraved lives on earth, he said to Noah: "I have decided to put an end to all mortals on earth; the earth is full of lawlessness because of them. So I will destroy them and all life on earth. Here, I close Holy
Scripture and turn to my radio audience with the q1uestian. Today, is the state of humanity similar in situation as it was in the days of the world flood. Is human nature in this day similarly contaminated; the intellect of man is weakened and his will prone to evil and error? The life of man is lacking of true peace, but like a volcano, which seethes and boils. Anger, hatred, misunderstanding, and so on without end. And so we come to the title of our talk:

 INHUMAN PEOPLE

From the stack of letters sent to the Rosary Hour, I read one which I picked at random.

 Dunkirk, N. Y.

Dear Father,

I write from here, although I come from Buffalo. My parents deal with the problem of theft. They taught my two younger sisters and me to steal. They forced us into this, and if someone of us did not bring home something stolen our father cursed and hit us without mercy. More than once in the evening, my father threw me out of the house. And that's not all. Several times a week drunks and thieves would visit our home and father drank too much and insisted that I was a real dish rag. I could stand it no longer. I wanted to be good and honest, but I could not while I was at home. One day an agent came and talked me into running away from home. I went with him. I did that from despair, even though today I realize that I had done wrong. I am now away from any relationships but I hope that God will forgive me and judge my parent who taught me evil and destroyed my life.

Listen my dear child. That your parents were conscienceless in dealing with, there isn't a shadow of a doubt. That they showed you little love, as animals give their young, I will give you that. That your mother and father who changed the family home into a school for robbery, deserve to be dragged out of town and stoned, as the Savior said, "it is better that a millstone be tied to their necks and drowned in the deepest sea" for the corrupt children. Despite that there is no use wasting time in despair. You have your health, friends and acquaintances who are ready to help you. It's a big world. Others can make it despite their troubles. You will find a way with the help of God. It is never too late. You need to want to and strive to. Others win and are victorious and so will you be. Don't curse your parents. That will not solve the problem. God will judge them for their deeds. They will not evade the judgment of God.

 Detroit, Mich.

Dear Father:

For eight years, I have suffered. The history of my life is long and bitter. I was married because my parents wished that I do so, especially my mother. She chose my husband. I wanted to stay single and study to be a nurse. My mother then said that if I didn't get married, I might as well leave home. I cried and begged but to no avail. I am 26 years old and a mother of three children. My husband gives me four dollars a week and expects me to feed and clothe myself and three children. He says that four dollars will last. He comes home angry and curses the children and beats me. Two days ago he kicked me and I couldn't get ups from the floor. When I criticize his drinking and abusiveness he always shouts: "I am the "boss" at home; leave if you want; there are plenty of women in this world." I have no idea what to do.

Another case: the betrayal and fortune of a daughter by parents not understanding their obligations. Under the pretext of caring and experience they force their child to accept a state of life without a vocation. It is true in every state of life. We have, because of this sour, bitter, unsatisfied, negligent and discouraged by loss. Such is the state of one who would be an effective doctor but a careless priest; who would be a nun is a terrible wife. Dear mother, it is left to you love of children and the patient bearing of the weight of marital life. Remember that you should be a companion and not a prisoner.

 Black Rock, N. Y.

Reverend Father Justin: I and 18 years old and my brother is 16. We are tired of this life. We were brought up Catholic. Our parents were good up to the time of the end of prohibition when he started making moonshine with help of mother. The both got drunk. God only knows what went on in our house. My brother and I at times went away from home to avoid embarrassment. If only our father be aware what our house is like today. For years mother and father have not gone to church. We asked our Pastor to pay us a visit to see what exactly is going on in our house in the evening especially on week-ends. He made a gesture with his hand and said that it would not be worth it. However, it pains us. We wish not to be embarrassed by our parents. Other children take their father by hand a walk the street but our parent spend most of the weekend on the laying on the floor. At times we wanted to leave them and go out into the world, but we felt sorry for them because then they were good to us. Usually mom took good care of us until dad taught her how to drink. I ask you for prayers so that our parents shape up and for us so that we don't lose our faith.

Just one practical and painful result of prohibition. It takes years and years for these results to go away. Please remain good children. God must answer your prayers because they are prayers of model children but weak parents. There will come a time when your parents will see the light and God will give you your just reward if you hang in there." Honor your mother and mother as God wills it in order to go well with you on earth, which God will give you.

 Wilkes-Barre, PA

How can I deal with my wife and mother of three small children. We were married 5 years ago. I thought that my wife would be a guardian angel but she became an evil spirit in my home. She always liked her clothes and dancing; I thought she would settle down but today is worse than before. In the past year she began to neglect the home and the children. What is distasteful to me is that lately she began to smoke and drink. She smokes a pack a day. She goes out every evening and comes back at midnight or in the morning and maintains that women as equal to men and so can do everything that men can do. I am not so much concerned about myself but worried about the children who do not want to go to sleep and ask about their mother. I am bundle of nerves. After a hard day at work I would like a peaceful evening but I only have troubles.

Your situation in these difficult days is not rare. Strife for equality, the World War, pagan outlooks, styles, literature, theatre, games, all came together which produced a curious type of wife and mother. Difficulties and responsibilities, differing goals, comfort and use. I condemn no one only cite things as facts. It is not surprising that the idea of family and home is losing its status; divorces are more common; children are going to suffer. Unless husband and wife cooperate instead of one going to the left and the other to the right, there never will be peace or blessings. See if you can convince your wife of this fact.

 Toledo, Ohio

Dear Father Justin

One of us is 19 years old; the other 20. We are contacting you because we are faced with a riddle; we cannot figure out the behavior of young people. We are not really old fashioned but we neither smoke nor drink, nor go to suspected entertainments and so we are not as a result, popular. It seems that boys have no respect for girls. We have to future outlook for our own home in which we could bring up a family. We have come to the conclusion that we have no hope in finding a permanent companions who realize that we come from honest families. Are we to spend our evenings at home, go nowhere, because young men know not how to behave?

Listen, girls. You need not fault all men. There are both respectable men and women. No need to search for them in dance halls. You won't find them there. If you show yourself respectful and honest, you will find those of the same qualities. That there are crooks in flesh and blood is not new. They always were and they will always be. In certain situations you cannot trust even those close to you. Human nature is by nature weak. In your homes under the watchful eye of your parents you can meet and have fun as God wills. You have a radio and can listen not only to music but educational programs. Leave the rest to God.

 Detroit, Mich.

Reverend Father,

This is our sad situation: We have five children. The oldest is 20; the youngest 6. We brought up our children with God and the company of people. The eldest daughter, who was the most loved at home, because she was the most good, met up with some man who does not believe in God, and is divorced. A couple days ago, she ran away from home and sent me letter that she will be married by a justice of the peace in court and will forget about God. My husband and I are at wit's end. Is it possible that God is punishing us for something we've done?

God often sends down various crosses as a learning experience and often to humble us. We ought to take what life has to offer with the conviction that the Providence of God directs the world in all things. I am aware that your daughter broke your heart, with her bad behavior, but she has also did herself a great disservice. She will be convinced of that in a very short time. She will return home in tears. In my experience I know of no similar situation which had turned out well. She says that she will forget about God. It is an empty assertion and done in order to soothe her own conscience as to the error in her judgment; it is something that will not happen. Everything will remind her of her first Holy Communion and Sacrament of Reconciliation and when she prayed and went to Church. The voice of conscience will not give her peace in the day nor the night. That voice will not abandon her. Will she be happy and at peace? The vicissitudes will bring your daughter back to her senses. She will pay dearly, often and painfully.

 Chicago, Ill.

Father Justin,

It's awkward for me to write this letter to you but I must. I ask for the grace to be able to talk to mothers. Everyone praises their mothers, that they are good, thrifty and good home makers. and they deserve love and respect, but there are the fathers? This is my problem. I have been married for two years. I have always been working so I did not have the opportunity to know my in-laws well. Now in a short time I have begun to know them well. My father-in-law is quite sociable and a bit quiet but this is understandable because he is up in age. I love him because I lost my real father some time ago. My mother-in-law is surely an in-law. Two sons are working but are quite the social beings in the evenings, going to the theatre and to "parties." so they contribute whatever they have left, at the most 10 or 15 dollars. And so, because of this, the father gives the mother his entire check. And what does the mother do? The father is not permitted in the parlor and cannot light up his pipe. Everything is permitted the sons and they have no mercy for their elderly father. They permit themselves everything but consider the father laughable. Is the commandment of God solely in regard to the mother, or the father also?

The commandment of God is short and clear. Honor your father and your mother. No translations are necessary here. Often one has to blame the mother whose self love and jealousy, separates the father from the children. The father is regarded only as the bread winner. They fix his lunch and march he wends his way to work. Bring home the bacon and that's it. The kitchen may be his only domain because the rocker is to delicate and the sofa too weak. The poor father is a bird in a cage. This is his reward for many years of caring and hard work; it's sad.

 Chicago, Ill.

Dear Farther,

I am writing this letter in the name of my entire family. When we were deciding what to do, before we actually acted, we thought it important to seek counsel. Our father is chomping at the bit. Mother is an angel in human flesh who suffers and is quiet for nearly 35 years. She said that for all those years of married life, that's the way it was, it is, and it always will be. There are thirteen of us children in the family. Three are married and the rest of us are at home. Three work, but not much, barely eking out a living, the rest go to school, and that according to the law which legislates that up to seventeen years of age children must attend school. If that wasn't the law, our father surely would have sent us out to work as he did with some of our younger children who finished early schooling who were 12 o13 years old. He asked those, in order to obtain work, to lie about their age so that they would obtain work because he was not going to work for them anymore. It is true that currently five of us who could work, cannot, because today you can't even buy a job. That is the center of our discontent and arguing. Our house is in disrepair and probably will be taken away from us; we have no money to buy coal to heat the house during winter. Most arguments occur about this. Surely we have a house but it is currently just about standing in disrepair; they soon may take it away from us; we have no coal for the winter but more importantly, if only we could have some harmony in the house we could eke out a living somehow. We have a living hell from morning to night with our neighbors listening in. Arguments and cursing occur; it is no wonder that we seek recreation outside of the house. We are but guests in own "boarding house". If we all worked and brought in large paychecks, and father would sit at home and count in income, everything would be co-pacific. When one of us grows up and doesn't work or is away from work for a couple of weeks, there is nothing for him to eat and there is no room for him because he doesn't do his part. Father then throw him out of the home, and when mother intercedes for him, he beats her and throws her out the door. When he gets angry, we warns us that he'll kill or shoot us. Did we beg to be born? Did our parents give us birth so that we could march to work before our time? Our father told us that he has so many of us so that when he gets old he could rest and count money coming in. We are not guilty because of the bad times that have come upon us and his is ready to retire at 52. Certainly we are in debt to our parents for feeding us and bringing us up but when we at the mercy of fate and can't help what can we do. O, we all curse the day we were born. Why does God give children to people like our father? God asks youth to love and honor parent, but our father can't even stand to look at us and even criticizes us with those who are not part of the family. This is not a father but some kind of stone because even a wild beast takes care of his own but here God's creation of his own blood does not care for his own. He beats us often, when a dish breaks of some accident. So we seek recreation away from the house but God and our guardian angel protects us so that up to now we have not lost faith or virtue. Even when he throws us out we have faith in Providence. Surely it must be the prayers of our mother that we survive and if it weren't for her we would all go astray. When one mingles with people of other faiths and see how the parents and children love each other, our heart breaks when we think that our Polish Catholic parents, who know the true God, behave the way they do towards us. Now we don't feel like giving mother any pay even though she has fourteen dollars a week for such a large family. We are at a loss at what to do. According to our father all people are idiots and he alone knows everything, even though he cannot read or write which is not his fault because he did not have the opportunity to be educated. We beg you to come to our aid, because if this goes on any longer and mother leaves this earth because she is up in age and often has anginas. If that should happen, we know what we will do. Maybe we will do to prison for it; but it would be better to be in prison than go through the hell that is in our house. We thank you for any help we can get.

 Signed, a Sinner in Chicago

This letter is reminiscent of a mighty orator. We see as if in a mirror the sadness and suffering of a good mother and despairing children and all this because of the senseless and unjust behavior of a father who has not conscience or heart, who hasn't the foggiest notion of the responsibilities of a husband and father. There are too many of these executioners in Polish families. They live only to poison the live and destroy the happiness of their own. Not only children in regard to their parents, but parents in regard to their children have certain obligations which they cannot disregard. They could be listed in following principles: parents have to care about the well-being and spiritual good of their children. God did not give children to the parents for their own selfish purposes and only for their own possession for a time saying: "Bring up these children for me." What a responsibility before God. How many parents think about this? One cannot but condemn the avarice and stinginess of such father, who in our times, does not understand children who do not have a job and still with the best possible intentions and efforts cannot get one! These children need understanding and feeling. One has to in these circumstances give them a big and warm heart. No antagonistic replies should be the fare when the children are in these straights. One should cheer them up, urge them to patience, perseverance, and peace. Youth, both boys and girls will be grateful to their parents for their good hearts and good word. They will respond with a hundred-fold.

Finally, my dear radio listeners, I ask you, to take the content of the above written letters, remember it and let it be of practical use in their lives. Always in all things, strive for understanding and patience - bringing joy and thanksgiving to people and the blessing of God.