**December 24, 1939**

Dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, I greet you with the words: Praised be Jesus Christ!

Already today, wherever we look around us, we notice an uncommon joy on the face of every mortal – the old father or the old mother, despite their hard lives, who normally are in the winter of their lives, are rejoicing; the youth are joyous in their strength of life; the rich as well as the poor rejoice; and generally innocent small children rejoice. Why? Because today we stand at the doorway of the Feast of the Birth of the God Child. And that joy is shared with all as they display it with a warm smile or greeting with gifts in hand and a Merry Christmas on their lips: it is Christmas, the birthday of the Lord. And all proclaim their joy and show it by a nice smile or a sincere greeting, or a response to a “Merry Christmas” or “Wesołych Swiąt Bożego Narodzenia.”

Yes! It all as if it were the holy truth. But, have we really determined as to the real reason why these hearts are so joyous, why the beautiful smiles at the thought of personal salvation. Perhaps the joy of the matter is really the salvation of the human race. I must admit that this is not the case. There are other Feasts in God’s Church which announce some mystery. Easter Sunday, that day in which we remember the victory of the Savior over death and the grave, over sin and hell, is a great day of joy and celebration; the same holds for the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost, the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is in these feasts that the faithful of Christ’s Church rejoice worldwide. But when it comes to Christmas we have to admit that there is something unusual about this personal sharing of joy. The joy and celebration of this day, is the joy of a child, which all are amazed at, and which in every eye is especially joyful, a day on which no one can be sad. The elderly forget about their aches and pains and youth about its troubles and concerns, we all without exception must feel and rejoice like little children because the Feast of Christmas cannot be otherwise celebrated with joy as with little children. Not only here on earth but in heaven as well. The Feast is not simply traditional but special to the human heart. Everyone is happy because they just must be for the Lord of heaven and earth because in this little child we find God’s Goodness and his Majesty and accept the figure of the little baby and so must we like small children do, if we wish to partake of the grace and blessings which flow from the day of His birth.

And so today, when we are gathered in the family home or in friendly circles to celebrate the “Wigilia” or Christmas Eve Vigil and wish each other the best with the breaking of the wafer I wish to speak to you on the theme:

IS THERE SOMETHING TO BE JOYOUS ABOUT AND CELEBRATE?

We know well the joy and celebration that occurs in a nation, when they announce the birth of a little prince who is destined for the throne and we know how they are moved to rejoice at the kingly birth of the little child. Even the elderly feel the youthful joy. And so it is with our personal joy on the day of Christ’s Birth when we kneel before the crib of our Godly Prince. Our hearts rejoice and we sing the song of the prophet Isaiah: “A little child is born to us; a Son is given to us; the government shall rest on Him, the anointed One from Heaven, His name is Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

And this God Child Jesus is our real King. When Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you a King? Jesus replied, “You yourself said that I am a King. But he was not an ordinary earthly monarch, because we hear from His very lips? “My Kingdom is not of this world.” The Christ Child is God’s Child Prince; but He is the Son of God, God Himself. And in the manger lies our Lord and Savior, and his throne is the universe.

Besides this Kingdom is the Kingdom of Grace. In Sacred Scripture it is sometimes called the Kingdom of Heaven, sometimes the Kingdom of the Saints and in truth is nothing else but the Catholic Church. And in establishing this Kingdom on Earth the Heavenly Father has sent the God Child, and we as members belonging to his Kingdom has good reason to happiness and celebration. Our eternal future is bound up with this kingdom of His and that is why we welcome this Child Jesus with prominence and although He comes to us without princely attributes but in the quiet of the night, we are glad and honor him because we know that he was born to rule. The Staff of authority he holds in his tiny hands; Goodness will follow Him; He will be victorious over sin and death; He will rule over all; and his Kingdom will have no end. The prophet Isaiah foretold this and so we can sing tomorrow with full voice, “A Child was born to us and his name is Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, humble Prince of peace. His rule will be universal and peace without end.

And what enhances our joy and celebration is the fact that this King of ours is taken from among us. He is not unknown to us, or an earthly ruler bringing with himself foreign traditions – but He is such as we are and loves us because of this not because we belong to him but because he belongs to us; He loves us through the strength of nature: “love among similar entities is stronger.” And because of this we are privileged beyond the angels. He is their King and ours as well, but he is not an Angel because of this, as St Paul says: “He does not take the nature of Angels but takes on the seed of Abraham. Angels surround him and look upon this God Child, but they cannot come near as we earthly beings can; they adore Him as we do, since his is both their Lord and ours; they love Him since He is beauty personified and their happiness but they cannot love Him as a nature as they are a nature. They cannot kiss the Christ Child as Mary and Joseph can; they cannot bend their knees in adoration as the Shepherds and the three Kings, because they do not possess a human nature.

It is a pleasant, joyful and celebratory thought, that this Child Jesus is in regard to our nature, which came with his birth, as it were one of us, but kingly, almighty and Divine. So do not be surprised if we do not embrace fear when we approach the manger tomorrow in which our Savior lay. We know and believe that He is God, but that does not curtail our joy since we also know that He is one of us and a baby as well. His Divinity fills us with fear but that doesn’t strain our joy for He is the Source of our joy. And we remember that his rule over us and the measure of His justice rests in his gracious little hands.

Yes that Kingly Child, whose anniversary of birth we will celebrate in a couple hours we will celebrate solemnly and it comes from the same human nature as ours and not in the sense that it appeared to be as our nature but it the strict sense that it came from a human blood line. St. Paul had that in mind when he said: “Because the same One who blesses and those who are blessed are of one human nature: that means that the blood of the born One flows also through our veins. To establish this brotherhood, this blood relationship, it was necessary that Jesus would be a baby born of a woman, a daughter of Adam, taking on the body and blood from her. This manger in which He was born, this hay on which he lay, this crib in which He was born, and most of all Hid Mother, who gave him birth and whole loving kiss was his first welcome to this earth – for all this we are grateful that we could name Him our Brother. I dare say that God could have accomplished this act in a different way but without the way it was done, He could not be his Brothers. This human blood relationship to the Christ child gives us even a greater joy on the occasion of His birthday.

I don’t know if I accurately responded to the question I posed at the beginning of my talk: “Is there something that we could rejoice in and celebrate at the birth of our Savior? The reasons I have given plainly that this day is one which is joyful and celebratory even when more than one of us will not rejoice in the same way. But in reality there is no other than the God child that can give us this joy. Yet in the same way, no one can give us the same kind of Joy that this innocent baby, smiling to us in His lowly manger could; He is a king and a Baby God who holds the faith of nations in his little hands and is the source of our salvation – all this ought to build in our hearts a holy joy.

 According to the age-old custom of the occasion of the feast of the Birth of Our Lord, we all, and especially those believing in God and the humanity of the Bethlehem Child, greet each other with heartfelt greetings. Standing before this microphone on the day before the Lord’s birthday, although hundreds of miles far from you, I break with you the traditional wafer and wish you, young and old the most sincere season’s holy day greetings.

Joyful and pleasurable greetings of “Merry Christmas” to the elderly men and women”!

Youthful hearts in a special way grab our elder age and the truth of it is that the older we get, then more willingly our thought goes back to those happy and pleasurable years of our youth and no one is not beyond appreciating the joy of seeing little children at play as grandma and grandpa. Personally it seems to me, that the knowledge that our Savior was once a little baby, ought to give us an unspeakable joy tomorrow. May the God Child deign in this Christmas time life its little hand in blessing and grant you who are elderly the joys of this life.

Joyful and pleasurable greetings of “Merry Christmas” to our Fathers and Mothers. Great is the affection of the family heart to its grandchildren especially to such who are the youngest and in not such good health and who need the greatest care. Who, if not they, sympathize with Mary and Joseph at this time of year? Who better understands their travails and difficulties and at the same time their holy joy. And with what great hope can the parents recommend to the Child Jesus, the Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph not only its young offspring and other little ones as well. May the lord bless our parents on Christmas and gift you with His graces in the rearing of your children for the glory of God, the glory of the Church and Society.

Joyful and pleasurable greetings of “Merry Christmas” to the sick and suffering in your homes or in the hospitals. May the Christ Child which from the morning of His life suffered deprivation or abandonment and who bears patiently their situation and surrender to the will of God. Joyful and Merry Christmas to you who have fallen in spirit and discouraged with the spiritual life! Think back to long time ago, namely to those times which came before the Savior came to earth. All peoples awaited with the hope of salvation of God and the coming of the Savior. The hearts of people pined in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “Rain down, o heavens like dew from above, like gentle rain let it rain down, let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up…” However God seems not to listen to these impassioned pleas of the people and then when the world was depressed in spirit of the long wait for it to happen He appeared as Savior of the world. And so he breathed a new, fresh hope into the hearts of people and not only that but He renewed the face of the earth and awoke the nations to a perfect spiritual life. Do not lose hope – look upon the God Child in the manger – there lay the strength of spirit, help, renovation and an awakening. Pray and I am sure you will receive from His hands the spiritual treasures you desire.

Joyful and pleasurable Holy Days to children and the young. I am sure that it is not necessary here to read the reasons why you have to be happy and rejoice. Christmas is your day. It is a tradition with us that the parents and in their role as Santa Claus they give out Christmas gift. I think that good children have a right to these and the parent should not as much as they could be skimpy with those children. You however young people amid your joyfulness do not forget that this day of giving brings joy to all – so kneeling by the crib ask the Christ child to bless your youthfulness and also to make holy your life for eternity as a reward in Heaven.

Joy and Merry Christmas to the poor! The day of Christ’s birth is a Feast of the poor. The Savior came upon this earth poor and stayed that way until he left it. He came in the figure that no one expected him to come in, in the figure of a weak baby and came to a place which no one expected him to come in an impoverished manger, he had no home, no cradle no warm clothing. Is that not the portrait of your misfortune? And would the new born Savior not be mindful of you? Would you have forgotten about his impoverished birth?

Those, however, blessed those with earthly goods and surplus, may not forget about poverty and how the Christ Ch8ilod was born; let them not forget to help those whose lack of needs suffer and be sure that no one can share with Christ who does not have the mercy and the empathy of Christ. Open you hearts to those and to the sweet Word of God, who was fleshified out of love for us.

Here, may I be permitted to add the example of some of the noble feelings of good works which, at the sight of the babe in the manger, enflamed the hearts of Francis of Assisi who no doubt was overjoyed at the sight of the Christ child. He wished also that on this festive day, all people even the animals were overjoyed. That is why St. Bonaventure often said to his friends: “If I would see Caesar, I would ask him for love of God, to arrange a different circumstance for God’s human entry into this world.” Earthly authorities, various districts ought to ask people on the day of the Lord’s birth, to throw our brother birds seed along the roads so that on this joyful day they might not grow hungry. And since Our Lady this night gave birth to the Son of God in a stable, where lived the donkey and the goat, everyone ought to feed their animals the best of food. And so the poor people on this day ought to be fed the best.

All of us, according to our means, let us help the unfortunate and the poor, whom are sent by God to our doorsteps. We need not help financially; there is the good word, a smile, especially those who have hurt us or saddened us in some way – that would be sufficient. Most of all, let us pray to our Heavenly Father in heaven, who sent his Only son into this world poor but rich in grace.