**February 28, 1932**

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

In the First Book of Kings, chapter XVIII, we read about the following incident: Elijah appealed to all the people and said, "How long will you straddle the issue? If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him." The people, however, did not answer him. So Elijah said to the people, "I am the only surviving prophet of the Lord, and there are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Give us two young bulls. Let them choose one, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood, but start no fire. I shall prepare the other and place it on the wood, but shall start no fire. You shall call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The God who answers with fire is God." All the people answered, "Agreed!"

Elijah then said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one young bull and prepare it first, for there are more of you. Call upon your gods, but do not start the fire." Taking the young bull that was turned over to them, they prepared it and called on Baal from morning to noon, saying, "Answer us, Baal!" But there was no sound, and no one answering. And they hopped around the altar they had prepared. When it was noon, Elijah taunted them: "Call louder, for he is a god and may be meditating, or may have retired, or may be on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." They called out louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until blood gushed over them. Noon passed and they remained in a prophetic state until the time for offering sacrifice. But there was not a sound; no one answered, and no one was listening.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." When they had done so, he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been destroyed. He took twelve stones, for the number of tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the LORD had said, "Your name shall be Israel." He built an altar in honor of the LORD with the stones, and made a trench around the altar large enough for two seahs of grain. When he had arranged the wood, he cut up the young bull and laid it on the wood. "Fill four jars with water," he said, "and pour it over the holocaust and over the wood." "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he said, and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar, and the trench was filled with the water.

At the time for offering sacrifice, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, "Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things by your command. Answer me, Lord! Answer me, that this people may know that you, Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to their senses.” The Lord’s fire came down and consumed the holocaust, wood, stones, and dust, and it lapped up fthe water in the trench. Seeing this, all the people fell prostrate and said, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God!"

My dear radio listeners this same scene is being acted among us. One may find among our fellow citizens some who still worship the true God and profess the true religion but have their eyes turned towards Baal; there are others also who prostrate themselves before Baal, yet do not wish to break away from God entirely. No man can serve tow masters. How long will you waver yet? God or Baal? Now choose “if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then fellow him”. The title of today’s speech:

**God or Baal**

It was different years ago. Look back twenty, thirty or forty years. Bring back to your mind the time when you were in the distant Poland. You were preparing yourself to undertake a journey to a country strange to you, America. There was awe and happiness, uncertainty and fear in your heart. You were bidding your parents, brothers and sisters a farewell. First you went to Church, confessed and received Holy Communion, in the village Church, where you were baptized, where you received your first Holy Communion, where you probably promised your bride-to –be fidelity and everlasting love. Later you went to the cemetery, where at the grave of your grandfather and great-grandfather, you knelt and prayed fervently for their souls. When the time to say farewell came, your industrious father cried, your virtuous mother wept loudly, your brothers and sisters couldn’t keep back their tears. And you, looked through your tears at those dear and loving hearts. You placed a warm kiss on your father’s rough and worn out hand, and kissed affectionately your mother’s tear stained face. If you were obliged to leave your wife and children, recall to yourself how sad and painful a departure it was. Your parents gave you no fortune or money for unforeseen wants, but your father made a sign of the cross on your forehead, your mother hung a scapular on your neck, and placed into you hand a medal, rosary, and a prayer book. Their last words were, “Son, daughter, remember God and His Blessed Mother. Be pious and honest. Preserve your faith, and God will help you. God will not forsake you.” This was your parent’s last will. You not only promised them to fulfill all, but also swore to it. Finally, you found yourself among strangers. You were not familiar with the language or the customs of the new country. You found work, remembered God and your parents. The Divine Providence watched over you. You acquired a small fortune. But the more you prospered, the more indifferent you were becoming to the needs of your soul, our faith, and your God. You were more inclined towards Baal.

Do you remember how at work in the factory, your co-laborers jeered at God and religion, and made fun of you because you prayed at work, attended Church, received the Holy Sacraments? What did you do then? You became faint-hearted. They said to you, “You are a fool to fast. Who has the right to forbid you to eat meat? Why do you go to confession? You a sensible man say prayers? You attend Church? Did the Church give you anything yet? What you possess you have earned it with the work of your ten fingers. And you, listening to all this, began to waver, and leaned more towards Baal. By some chance you received a newspaper full of filthy expressions and hatred against God, Church and faith; You read in it that there is no God; that the Church is a mysterious Babylon, which struggles with progress and learning; that it is an enemy to civilization and mankind; that religion is a superstition and man’s invention. Now, no doubt, after reading all this, you were convinced and knelt down before Baal. You ceased praying and fasting; neglected the duties of a practical Catholic; you probably married in court although your lawful wife waited for you in the old country. To quiet the voice of your conscience, which censured you day and night, you endeavored to make yourself believe that up till now you were a blind slave, and an ignorant reactionist, and only now you have made a progress, enlightened by the rays of twentieth century progress. Today you humble yourself before Baal.

Where dead bodies are lying, soon the ravens will be there. The same thing happens in the intellectual and spiritual field. Do you recall how sadly you looked at the church and your father and mother when you were leaving your native village. The Church was Roman Catholic. Your parents begged you to remain faithful to that Church, and to the religion of your ancestors. Now ask yourself, what did you do? You betrayed God; denied your faith; broke your oaths which you so solemnly promised your parents. A so-called apostle came to you, who under the cloak of patriotism and nationality argumented with you, almost literally as that serpent did with our first parents. He promised you deliverance, a certain learning and you allowed yourself to be led by him. You unhappy soul! Forsaking the Church and your religion, what have you gained by it? Perhaps a certain agent of a Bible Society came to your house. He converts the people and explains the Bible and gets a pay and commission for each new pupil. He spoke to you wisely, words of a speech which he memorized and translated from German or English. He told you that there is no hell, heaven and purgatory; that no one yet saw the immortal soul and therefore it doesn’t exist; that the Catholic Church is an institution invented by man; that Christ’s religion is no longer the one professed in the Catholic Church. And what did you answer to all these parrot-like arguments? Nothing, but listened attentively. You began to doubt, and finally slowed yourself to be led by him. You threw out from your house not only pictures of the saints, but also the cross of Christ. Do you feel better today? You had forsaken God and went over to Baal. You have no peace of conscience, no satisfaction, for only God, whom you have forsaken, can supply you with all. He said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, not let it be afraid.” (Jn. 14, 27).

Perhaps you peeped into an assembly, which known under a Christian name, throws mud against all that is holy and dear to Catholics; who try to correct our Lord and improve His holy teachings. In the Epistle of St. John, our Lord says, “Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained”. (Jn. 20, 23) Here they tell you that Our Lord didn’t institute the Sacrament of Penance, but that it is the invention of priests, and the conception of theologians, etc. St. Paul, the Apostle, speaking of Christian marriage says to the Ephesians, “This is a great mystery, but I speak to Christ and the Church.” (Eph. 5, 32). And here they say that marriage is only an agreement, a simple contract. Our Lord said to the Jews, “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God had joined together, no human being must separate.” (Mt. 19, 6). Here they teach that you may marry in the morning and get a divorce in the afternoon; or they may practice companionate marriage, and that even one may steal his neighbor’s wife, for free love has it own conditions and rights. All this satisfied you. You have torn yourself away from the arms of your Mother Church and fell into the arms of a stiff and cold stepmother. Does not your conscience remind you that you have given up the religion of your ancestors, who were willing to die for their religion under the whips of the persecutors and oppressors those ancestors who rotted in dark dungeons or chained to wheelbarrows in the cold Siberia, died of starvation rather than give up their religion. And you? Deserted God and prostrate yourself before Baal.

Not long ago, the American Lutheran Church held its Convention. There were 1400 delegates present. Among the speakers there was Walter A. Meier, professor of the Lutheran seminary, Concordia, in St. Louis Mo. He attacked the piratical-pulpiteers, who broke into the nave of the church, forcing travelers to enter on the plank, from which they throw into the sea those who do not which to join them. The professor reproached publicly, that there is a certain federation of churches, which uses all means to harm the church and mankind. He divided the fashionable churches into the following: political, sensational, financial, epileptic, racial, inactive and modern. The political churches have professional and paid lobbyists in the senates and legislatures, who insist upon bringing about resolutions profitable for them. In the sensational churches, children preach from the pulpits, the “jazz bands are playing in the choirs, and girls in ball costumes act as church ushers. Financial churches, which try by all means to get money. Epileptic churches, in which the preachers have marathon readings of Bible, preach the longest sermons, churches which have for their first duty the solution of racial interests etc. Inactive churches, whose aim is to exist but not work. Churches, which in the twinkle of an eye form Christianity and pulpiteers according to the present spirit. Professor Meier asserts that such churches are the main support of these piratical-pulpiteers, who lost even the idea of the fundamentals of faith, whose corner stone according to the Lutherans is Holy Scripture while according to the Catholic Church not only Holy Scripture but also tradition and good deeds. Thus people forget the true God and venerate Baal.

The same thing happens among our Poles. There are also among us certain Apostles of progress and teachers of learning. From time to time there pops out some false religious with a Bible under his arm, and Roman collar in his pocket who preaches to us, or he goes from house to house and throws his personal opinions and changes them into the teachings of Christ; others build churches, practice some of the teachings of the Catholic Church and observe its ceremonies and liturgy, but throw away the customs and practices which do not please them, quite often they help the poor financially in order to get them to join their sect, others pay five or ten dollars to those who bring them a new believer, and thus they set traps for their souls, priceless in value because redeemed with the blood of Christ, who Himself has said in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, verses 23-24. “If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect.” That is what the Son of God taught. The Apostle of the Nations wrote in the letter to the Colossians, chapter 2, verse 5. “See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world and not according to Christ.”

And now, my dear radio listeners, have we not the courage to openly and publicly defend our Church and Faith. Is it not painful to us, to hear our enemies turn into ridicule, the faith respected by our fathers? Is it not more painful that we allow them to blaspheme Christ Himself? Is it not high time to see that they do not disrespect us merely because we are Catholics? If we are ashamed of the Church and the teachings of Christ, let us return to Baal. His followers teach that there is no heaven or hell, that purgatory and confession is the invention of the priests, that the teaching of the Church concerning marriage is the prejudice of the Middle Ages, that divorce is a natural right and that birth control means the improvement of the poor.

Christ through authority of the Catholic Church teaches us to lead humble, industrious and temperate life and that prayer, and virtue is our duty. Let us now firmly resolve to adhere to the doctrines and cross of Christ and avoid all falsehoods and errors of the present days.

My dear radio audience, it is now Lent, a time assigned for the meditation on the life and death of the Son of God. Let us look on the Cross on which Christ is suspended. Let us examine our conscience and ask ourselves if the faith which we confess is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, who died for us on the cross. Did we not forsake the religion of Christ for a dish of lentil or for some material gain and embraced a religion more suitable for our purposed or in other words the religion of Baal. Do we not insist that in the eyes of suffering Christ there is no difference what religion we profess? Did we not deny the teachings of Christ because of weakness and ignorance? Let us return then, as soon as possible to the teaching of the cross and the doctrine of Christ. The time flies. “For what does a man profit if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?’ Let us recall then what King Henry VIII, who broke away from the Church with the whole kingdom, because the Church did not grant him a divorce said before his death. “I lost everything.” I ask why? Because he had forsaken the divine teaching and adopted the doctrine of Baal, and because he denied God and served Baal. Let us return then to God, to God’s teachings and the Catholic Church. Away with Baal, his teachings and his followers.