FEBRUARY 5, 1950

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

Some listeners probably find it curious that in this season there is more concern about faith, prayer, the goal of human life, the worth of time, and finally the mention of death. The last theme generally offends people. At the mention of the subject of death, people are disturbed because to them it is an unpleasant idea to think about. On the mention of death people become indignant because, of course, death is uncomfortable, repulsive, nasty, and cruel. I do not know if avoiding mention of death, will help anyone, anything, or whatever. But I do know that it will hurt. I do know that prayer helps, and that learning how to live helps because as one lives so one dies. Besides, looking at today's world at what is happening and how people live, and how they behave? Every reasoning person looks appallingly and wrings his hands asking what is happening with this world and its people? Nations are gobbling up each other, people hate each other; there is no peace in families! Among the youth there is boisterousness, disobedience, laziness, lack of respect to any authority, another's property, personal health and life. In families, disagreement flourish, suspicions, hatred and thus separations, divorces, suicides and murders. Businesses are rife with trickery, deception and use unethical means in their trades. In public life there are brutal attacks, theft, murders. On the social scene, workers seized to grips with the employer and struggle in a fierce battle like two struggling two powerhouses in the arena.

Wherever one turns, everywhere there is chaos, misunderstanding, confusion, dissatisfaction, lack of peace, rebellion! It is a well-known scene. It is talked about, it is written about, people constantly discuss it, argue about it, counsel about it, give various solutions to remedy the situation. It is all useless because it all does not go to the root of the problem where the problem begins. How can we expect wild bug-ridden trees bear fruit as do healthy trees. It all seems to be well-understood, so what? How can we expect peace, order, agreement and normal happiness unless the world does not acknowledge the existence of God and throws out religion as if it were dirt. What can be done is people do not admit the laws and commandments of God which teach Goodness, worth, meaning, and the ultimate goal of human life. They don't know where they came from and where they are meant to go. Children are not bought up in religious principles. Children are educated in institutions which are anti-religious and devoid of the mention of any Higher authority than originates from the created rather than the Creator. The elderly laugh at religious education and waste their lives engrossed in materialistic living. There is no wonder that some writer compared to people living in cages where animals fight and tear up each other. These thought processes forced me into putting into prominence the necessity of faith and religion and priorities which are born of faith and religion and the meaning of using time to make use of a honorable, noble beginning, on a worthy goal, and on the look at the unyielding end of life. And so to end the cycles of these urgent broadcasts under the title:

REMEMBER

Last week I mentioned a unusual Capuchin cemetery in Rome, consisting of four underground rooms of the Church of The Immaculate Conception. I completely forgot to mention the rave of Cardinal Barberini, the founder of this church. Cardinal Barberini belonged to the family of Roman princes. Despite the high and noble lineage despite the intellectual and material intellectual capacity, he soon discovered the emptiness of the material life, which then was the forte of the aristocratic life, and renouncing everything, he took on the Capuchin habit. A part of his treasure he gave to the poor and part for the building of a church at the side of the house of the Capuchin's. He expressed his will to be buried in this church with a one-sentence marker. The Apostolic See, in reward of his teaching talents and good works bestowed him with the Cardinal's hat. After his death the Capuchins buried him in the Church he financed. And with curious happenstance next to the coffin of Alexander Sobieski, the son of the famous king John. Alexander had died in Rome on the nineteenth of November, 1714. There beside Alexander, in the main nave of the Church, are the remains of the humble Cardinal Barberini, with a humble marker etched in marble, the words, "Here lie the dust, bones and nothing." In order that you may remember this sentence, I repeat it. "Here lie the dust, the ones, and nothing." This saying contains the naked truth and reality. The flesh of every human being without exception as to the intelligence, the honorable heart, the outward physical beauty what is it besides "dust, bones, and nothing". In other words how end the bodies of each and every human being? Dust, ashes, and nothing." But wait, something else survives! And what is that, you ask? That part survives, that spark that gave the body life - the soul. So what happens to the soul? You definitely know although you pretend otherwise, that you don't care. The soul is present before the Creator to give account from the time that it was given the graces to live life - all the preternatural, material and spiritual gifts with which the soul was clothed. And considering this accountability will come reward or punishment, happiness or unhappiness! Then it will be too late to be sorry for wasted time, for material goods misused, and the similar. Unless the advocate of good deeds be present, the jig will be up. A even more so, if the jury, a host of accusers as pride, playfulness, hatred, selfishness, laziness, drunkenness and others - a whole range of others! Again, I quote Fr. Feldheim: "Whoever can look at death look it in the face, with that same quiet and peace as it is spoken of; whoever can spurn treasure, money, possessions he has, as if he didn't have them; whoever is not sad that they lie in chests or in the neighbor's hands instead of yours; whoever does not unbalance himself over the loss of material goods; whoever does not covet his goods like a fool or hide them like a miser; whoever does not weigh his possessions constantly; having the glory of God on his mind, the good of his neighbor and his own personal soul, who is generous with his friends and forgiving of his enemies; who loves his country and gives glory to God. Who judges his life as virtuous. That is a judgment that neither children, idiots, or animals cannot effect. They are virtuous actions which matter before and after the grave. The day that we have accomplished something noble, that day in which we have give a helping hand to our neighbor, we can anticipate that the deeds will be a plus in our life as were the fifteen years added to the days of Ezekiel's life. Listen to this interesting history. I read from the book of Isaiah: Hezechiah was sick to death and Isaiah son of Amosa, the prophet, and said to him: The Lord said: "Settle your accounts for you are to die. Hezechiah turned his features toward a wall and said: "I beg you Lord, look upon me mercifully for I have walked your way in truth and good heart, and I did good before your eyes." And Hezechiah wept great tears. And it happened that the Lord spoke to Isaiah, saying" "Go and tell Hezechiah: "So says the Lord, the God of David, your father: "I heard your prayer and saw your tears; I will extend your life fifteen years, and from the hand of the Assyrian king and I will protect the city." - In a similar way God will deal with us in regard to all our good deeds. Just as human life is short, so to it is also stormy and often very unhappy. God in his endless mercy deliberately shortened the misery, poverty, and suffering of people. Earth is not the place of a long rest. You just about get settled and you have to get up and go. You spend and struggle to build a house to live in. It stands finished. You furnish it and decorate it. In a short time you're being moved. You may live it for a short number of years but they go by fast. Death comes by and in a blink of an eye you are on the doorstep of eternity. Look around at this seemingly civilized world. What do you see? An uncountable number of prisoners, exiles, immigrants from your fatherland, thrown to a time of hunger, cold, and endless misery. Millions perish in prisons and concentration camps. What does human life mean in the eyes of such jackals and hyenas - the Communists. Who can count the legions of hungry, wasted in every corner of the world. Groans, tears, complaints, sad stories circulate everywhere. And don't tarry there! They are at the foot of the throne of God, begging for justice and heaven's vengeance. Is not this present world of ours flooded with a ton of blood and tears in people's lives; there is no less misery then in a dog eat dog animal world. Why did that happen and still happens - Because God, the Creator of man needed the human for families, for schools, for the pulpit, for the courts. for constructing the constitution of nations, for international proceedings. Because in the minds, hearts and souls of people the behavior, being, goodness, worth and dignity of the human being needed bringing forth. People forgot and forget that mankind is not only an ordinary animal which will someday die - which will be the end the absolute end. But - the flesh will rot and the soul will live because it is eternal, it has no end and it will live on in happiness or distress. It is worthwhile to think this over, it is worth to note in order that live should be examine along those lines - that though the body dies, the soul lives on and is accountable. Do you know where the best school for understanding what human life is all about? In a hospital! The hospital is a veritable map of the world and the general and a statement of the whole of human misery. There you will see the outcome of original sin in greater clarity by seeing human nature in its corrupted state. Broken bodies lie like the pillars of a building that have been broken by a storm. Some sort of hurricane ran over them and tossed them of the bed of suffering and pain. There you will see miserable emaciated skeletons which lost the human outlook; they live on borrowed time and kept alive by discoveries in the medical field. There you will see people who live in the pursuit of a worldly Mamon without the slightest recognition of ways and means and their neighbors. They managed to have little time to think of God, the soul, or prayer. Day and night they pursued feverishly becoming rich in either the right way or the bad way. And that heated fever did not give them any peace, any rest, while draining their energy and weakening the heart and threw them into a bed. And the time to die hastened quickly. Now they lay lonely, abandoned by God and neighbor. Their closest friends hesitate to visit them, in order not to distress them, in reality, so that the sight might change the way they approach their personal lives. There is plenty unhappiness in this world. It is well known by far. Even those into and envy them, they have their moments of anxiety and sadness, which tear the heart and squeeze tears. Because not only is winter full of winds and frosts, but the beautiful spring has its fill of inclement weather. Summer has its heat waves, lightning and thunder and autumn is filled with flu, colds and coughing. All of these things worry, burden and sadden people. A certain sociologist writes," : Prosperity of this world is so infinitely sour flood of evil that this man must be considered the happiest man that has this prosperity as little as possible. The normal measure of joy, peace and human contentment is absence, is the lack of any degree of sadness. So who has, who feels the least of this sadness is the more happy person on earth should not seek happiness in palaces, in entertainments, in bottles, shot glasses, or lowering human experiences. Often we discover happiness in the homes and huts of the poor, plain people; those who have faith and believe and whose heads are not haughty, who have not gone behind their means, who have prayed. Whatever is the status of a human being - high or low - that is the measure of the state's happiness. Those who have higher statuses have greater responsibilities and have the greater obligations and will have to respond to that degree before God. Accordingly, the loss of the poor man, possessing little, responsible for little, is sought after more than the loss of the millionaire, the magnate, the very rich man. The merciful and wise God, put enough misery into the task of amassing great riches to fence in understanding, and pride and madness in the processes of acquisition, which will scare away the rich from losing their souls, The sufferings and sorrows of this life help sweeten the bitter cup of certain death. Even though we have the tremendous strength of an ox and nerves as strong as the roots of an oak, we all must die once. After we die, people will say of us...How? Well? or Badly? depending how we merited the reward or punishment. All material matters will still come to an end; it is a fact! We should not take that too seriously or worry about it. There are no great comforts here or lasting peace. There is very little peace in the last twenty five years of our century with wars and disquieting events. There is plenty of disregard of God's law, Natural law, and man-made law. Confused by the pangs of conscience, frightened with uncertainty and fear, concerned with the future and of just being - abused by politicians, diplomats, and countless other crooks, who thoughtlessly shuffle lavish sweat, tears and blood on the people, -laughed at by foolish antics of children, adolescents, adults and the elderly - oppressed by disasters and diseases - threatened with danger and misery at every step, from the cradle to the coffin. Some are stuffed with delights; others drink of the cup of entertainments and play that they taste sourness and stomach aches and paralysis. Others walk half-consciously burdened with needs, personal lacks, family problems, thanklessness of their children, insincerity of their friends, the hard rod of the cross of the Polish people in wartime. And do the life of every man is filled with evil to the degree that even death is not bad for them, is not bad to those who were made familiar with so many crosses and are happy with the hope of a coming to better existence. Such healthy view at life's processes makes for patience to face life. Where rationality, were good judgment and sobriety exist, there exists the patience to deal with needs and disappointment. Unhappy are the people, who themselves with their own hands, can put up with the thorns of life. Tell them that they will lose their treasure, their possessions and they will despair and even face self-destructive tendencies. They can't eat or sleep and cannot work because of their depression; they become ill, and are paralyzed in life's journey. But bring it to the attention of such people in a easy, good-hearted way that their life is not in agreement with the God's commandments, that their behaviors hurt their family life, harm their health they will return to their religion and better their lives; point our their shortcomings and you get, "Mind your own business!" "I have the right to live my life as I want to." "I know what I am doing! And if you dare to call their attention that they live in mortal sin, and this is very dangerous thing, it's hard to lose God and the right to heaven is lost, as well, whereupon it's not only the roof falls on the head, but it will overwhelms you, waves imaginations, and insults ! You've made yourself an enemy who will not give leeway or leave the road, and hence it will not lead to the way of salvation. There are plenty of weeds and thorns on our earth. The weave a way of great troubles, doubt, and broken promises, many t ears various kinds of evils and nonstop misfortunes. The god-fearing, faithful man understands this very well, and so in his life he places hope in his God, and is not unsettled at the change of fortune and life's events, but looks forward with hope to the future. I remember from past years this interesting event. It happened during the great depression, which endlessly went on for a long time from January of 1920 until December of 1933. The prohibition gave birth to a caste of citizens called "boot-legers." - which on an illegal supply and illegal sale of liquor some lost millions of dollars. It happened that one of our countrymen who was a seller encountered this problem. The process and the selling ate up his whole treasure. He was left with nothing and looked like a Turkish saint. He took everything so seriously that he sickened himself to death. I went to visit him on several occasions. He shed tears and complained about the fate he found himself in despair and close to giving up his life. Sadness was eating away his insides as the government took his savings. I had know that he had abandoned God, faith and his Church. However he avoided mentioning that fact. When I advised him about the necessity of bringing his conscience into his daily activities, he replied with some degree of anger: "I'll take care of that when I am about to die." That very night I was called to visit him. I found him in agony, unconscious. I just had finished giving him conditional, the poor man died. The fact hit me then that he had saddened himself so much at his losses that he died because of them. Every great sadness when encountered because of the loss of great fortune or possession ends up badly. This great sadness leads to irritability, anger, bitterness and lack of communication with people, hopelessness with regard to od; often it leads to badmouthing God, and even blaspheming. The results of bad depression are terrible. It undermines health and prematurely leads to the grave. It weakens the soul, heart and manliness, robs the soul of peace, prevents our closeness to God. It renders the soul grim and closed within itself, prevents social intercourse, and hopelessness in God. Sorrow robs the soul of warmth in prayer with a certain aridity, a love of work, readiness to fight, and readily leads to sin. The Holy Spirit calls out: Many people are slain by depression; there is no meaningfulness in it. The finger of faith points to the beginning, goal, meaning and end of man, and points out through the eyes of reason shows the quick passage of life and it material qualities and underlines the word "REMEMBER". Faith and nature declares the worth of time, good works, man's goodness, so much so that it shouts, "REMEMBER." Let us keep in mind that to live well, is to die well!"



Formal

Informal