January 24, 1937

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

All moral virtues of man flow from a common source, namely from the four basic virtues; prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. The bear the name “Cardinal Virtues” derives from the Latin word “cardo” because they similar to hinges to a door; moral life hinges on these doorways, the roads to a moral life. Someone once wrote that these four virtues are like mothers; all other virtues are their children. Today I intend to speak about justice, or about relates to giving everyone what is properly due to them, whether it is related to fame, a good name, reward for their labor. The just man is one who gives God what is his do and his fellow human being what is his due. Parents, father and mother are just of they give their children what is due them in spirituality and corporal need; children are just in relationship with their parents if they are obedient and care when they parents reach old age. Management is just when it gives a just wage to workers for their labor, which is in consonance with Christian ethic: “a worker is due a just wage for the efforts exerted by the worker; the worker is just who does not look with one eye on the machine and the other focused always on the clock; he is not worried about the nature of his work but worried more about only the exact amount of time he is getting paid for and not about the relationship to his efforts and his output. As scripture says in the words of Tobias to his sons: “Do unto others as you would want to be done to you.” Egoism is contrary to justice. Everything revolves around the “I”. It cares only about the self. One who loves himself cares about himself and his comfort only. He has a heart of stone. He has no feeling for the other. The egotist has no interest for the law pertaining to others, their complaints, or tears of others. His neighbor is seen as a tool for his own progress and benefiting from the work of others. “I’ll help another as long as it benefits me”. Everyone complains that there is little justice in this world. Parents complain about their children; children about their parents, management complain against their workers, and workers about those in charge. Hopefully today the talk will strike the intelligence and feelings of the hearts of egoist.

 MORE JUST PEOPLE; LESS PILATES

The historical Pilate is one of the best examples of an unjust person. Despite the fact that he was convinced of the innocence of Christ, he was reticent at the beginning to commit himself and hesitated in his judgment since the crowd took on mob characteristics and bitterly responded. “Unless you condemn him to death, you are not a friend of Caesar.” He gave into the fear that he would fall into the favor or Caesar and careful to offend the high priests. In order to find Christ not guilty he washed his hands symbolically of any guilt in the matter? He cleaned his hands but did he actually heal his conscience, his heart and soul. It seems that, in our times, there are many people who imitate Pilate and absolve themselves from their guilt of injustice. From their own self loved, for their own comfort in view of contemporary thought, which makes people with less feeling, without and heart and without a conscience. This is evidenced by letters which I have in my hand which I shall share with you.

Dear Father Justin:

I listen faithfully to your beautiful Rosary Hour every Sunday, and I sincerely ask that you take the time to take a few minutes to read this letter. I am the oldest of four girls and I am 18 years old. Four years ago I finished a Polish academy. How I work with my parent’s store for two years, because I had a bit more than 16 years old when I finished schooling. From about 8 year ago I have a second father and all these years were difficult and unhappy because he hates me. He gets along ok with the other children but he does not talk well of me. I have no idea why this is so. I help him as much as I can and I wish to be nice to him but of no avail. When I was going to the Academy he criticized me because he side I was wasting my time in learning from nuns and priests. He always berates them and me. My mother wanted me to finish school and helped me to do so. I am now dating a young man whom I have known from my youth. He is 24 years old. He attends the sacraments regularly; he is a good and stable worker and a loyal and obedient son of his parents and does not drink at all. I probably would not be going on now except that my second father would not let me go out with my girlfriends or invite them into my house and generally he did not want to let me to go out of the house. I generally come home before 12 and not late often. Last month my Polish friend and I got engaged. My second father calls me a smart alec because I am going out with a much older man. It is a point of argument all of the time; he uses bad language all the time. I always behave myself and we go out once or twice a week. My father is jealous and egotistic. Whoever praises him and tell him idiocies and lies, that the one he has as a friend, however he is angry when my boyfriend honors him as a father. Every evening he starts a quarrel, and starts cursing at which time I walk out of the room. I cannot do anything that pleases him. He never goes to church or to the sacraments. He is the master of the house but I need to fix everything. House wiring, radio; like man. Please read my letter on the radio. Am I too old to be marries? I know my responsibility, and I know what awaits me in marriage. I am prepared to take this step. I do not go to dances; I don’t drink, I don’t smoke and I sit at home and work for 15 to 18 hours. My father does not like the idea that I go every two weeks to confession and says that the church neither feeds me nor clothes me. What should I do? I pray for my first father all the time.

My Dear Child, listen to the advice of an old soldier in Life’s battles. My holy obligation is to cheer, temper, unify and get people together. Therefore I try to make peace in families and understanding between one individual and another, because my motto is “Peace and All Good. Constantly I urge parents to give their children proper care both material and spiritual. I explain to the children that their obligation is to obey and honor their parents, and care for them in in their old age. And I understand only too well that there are conscienceless parents, stubborn, not understanding and those who make their children worse; on the other hand there are children who are disobedient, and bring shame to the family. Certain parents, when their children come of age urge them on to marry or they will throw them out of the house. Early marriages are taken prematurely and then? They result into a premature purgatory and then hell. There is the problem of parents dealing with neglected children. There are parents who so pester their children that it contributes greatly to loss of love and dissatisfaction with life. Now, as to the situation with the young lady, composer of her dilemma. I quote a famous writer without naming the people involved and having in mind the love of neighbor, the behavior of the atheist father who is an egotist. This is what she writes: A woman should not get married a bit too early. Marriage is a serious undertaking and demands, before its undertaking a mature outlook and an understanding of the obligations about to be taken. A young woman may take on marriage in the first unfolding of her life in which she is a virgin, and one can count on the man on further relationship, will take care of her and will be not only her husband but a teacher; considering the lowering of masculine moral lowering at the present time, and one cannot count on further relationships of good order. Therefore it is not a good idea considering the present times, to marry, as if it were to marry a Christian with a Pagan. Women in the present time rarely have enough education before the reach twenty and need to devote themselves to that kind of education. There are other factors to be considered when one takes on responsibilities which have such obligation that a young person has difficulty to handle before reaching a proper state of maturity. Homemaking, taking care of children, and there practical matters that demand patience, seriousness and good use of time.

But now let us listen to the arguments of the complaining father, because there are not a small number of those in the present times. ”Reverend Father Justin: ‘It has been some time since I have wanted to write to you but family troubles have kept me from it. My head is spinning. What is good is less demanded and a father’s advice is received with disdain and misunderstood. I have a wife and four children, three who are living. Two labors for few years now and the third has just begun. They finished their education in Catholic Polish schools and went to high school. They spent a year there. And what did they learn? How to throw their father out of the house because he could take care of himself and his wife, their mother, can’t stand him. We had a small home when we started and some bit of money put away on retirement. They convinced me to get a larger and more convenient living space. They then made themselves comfortable and contented. However, as to me, who worked for eighteen years on one job or another and brought checks of 6o to 100 dollars, they thanked me and asked me to leave the house. And so, after twenty years of married life, I am forced to live among strangers in sorrowful tears.

My dear father, if your family has done this to you, you at least must agree that God will not forget this. Let me give you an example. In the time of the depression we gave out dinners to the people who could not find a job. At that time, I met various characters and heard the sadness of people who were down and out. Among these characters I saw a man with a long beard. He caught my attention because his face showed serenity and his eyes glistened with some kind of brightness seldom seen. He told me a history. Once he had it better. He had a wife, three children and a home. He worked and was thrifty. When the children were getting older, they were disobedient and even ignored him. They wouldn’t even eat with him because, they said, he didn’t observe the rules of etiquette.

Once his son-in-laws came home from partying. When the father criticized them, they beat him up and in the end threw him out on the porch. His wife did not respond to the incident. The father called the police department and told them his story. The incident went to court and because of perjuries, the father could not return to his home. The judge however had the family give him a certain amount of money. He left his town and came to Buffalo. He worked as long as he could. After 60 years he was retired. In the meantime, what happened to the family that shut him out? The hand of the just God touched them with sadness. The mother let the sons do whatever they wanted. The spent all the money on drink. The sheriff expelled the whole family from the home. The mother went to the “poor house and there is no news of her survival. The oldest son fell from a roof top and broke his hand and legs. He ended up selling pencils on the streets of a big city. Another son lost his live in an automobile accident maimed beyond recognition. The third sails the seas blindly working on freight ships. The entire family will perish without a trace and forgotten in memory. The Providence of God touched the hands and feet that kicked the father. We have another example of injustice and conscienceless people. Please listen: “Five years ago our Father loaned certain members of our family six hundred dollars. If it wasn’t for that loan, they would have lost their home. Father did not make any stipulation in a contract. Before the year was over, Father died. We asked for a return of the loan. They claimed that they need not return the money because there was no contract and that they did not receive the money from the family but from the father and so the father’s demise erased the debt. Another writes thus: “Through the years, we ran a business, a grocery store. We used to let them use a book to write down what they owed. Some used the system but relocated without reimbursement. Some laughed at the practice of the debt book. Father, do people no longer have a sense of justice, a heart to give back what they owe? They complain about others who are heartless, yet they cheat and steal themselves. They make fun of our mercy, because they say we have enough anyway. Another woman complains this way: “Please tell me what I should do. After the death of my husband, I received three thousand dollars of insurance. May married son asked me to give him a loan of two thousand dollars at 30 % interest. Like a child, I agreed. Three years passed by and he didn’t give me back a cent, even though he worked and was paid well. Now I have no peace because I have two daughters at home.” Here is another example: “I am a widow of three years and I didn’t get married for feared that a second husband would not take care of them well. I worked myself. I cleaned and scrubbed at office work. Two years ago I loaned a neighbor a hundred fifty dollars because she was almost starving. A month ago, saying nothing to me, she moved out. She had promised that she would repay me, and now she did not keep her promise. The Lord God wrote Ten Commandments on tablets and gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai. Until this time, He never erased any of them. What does that mean? You don’t have to concern yourself with theft, robbery, cheating, ruin of public property, finding money, purchasing stolen goods, or failing to pay unpaid taxes. THIEVERY, or secretly take someone’s goods. ROBBERY, or by hook or crook take someone’s treasure. CHEATING, or cleverly depriving someone of their possessions, or usury. Certainly you understand what it means to hold the things of others and withholding taxes. Here I caution about lending never lending money without a contract. Most at fault is lending money to the children without a contract. Most guilty of this practice is the mother who secretly lends money to her children without the knowledge of her husband. A debtor could talk himself out of payment before people or law, but it is not valid before God and his own conscience. It is nothing other than cheating and thievery. The prophet Ezekiel claims that an honest husband “will disappoint another, pay back others what is their due, or take somebody’s property with force, will give some of his earning to one starving, and clothe the naked! Ecclesiastes calls for: “Give the poor your ear, and forgive debt that is owed to you.” The apostle in his letter to the Romans reminds us: “Do not owe anything to anyone but love each other mutually for whoever loves his neighbor fulfills the law.” The book of Proverbs:”Do not associate with those who give with the hand. In the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians: “No thief, drunkard, miser, or those who curse, will attain the Kingdom of Heaven .If you have e stolen something from someone, cheated someone who no long lives, you are still obligated; it does not free you from your obligation of restitution. You need to give back what you owe. If you do not know whom you should restitute, you should restitute by contributing to charity. If you don’t restitute fully, restitute what you are able to. You cannot restitute, be careful not to put yourself into further debt. Better to have less and live in peace than to bear less and live in peace than to bear the burden of guilt. A leach lives on human blood and after too much blood it bursts. Justice is the underpinning of Nations and the foundation of human happiness. The District of Columbia which bears the Capital of the Nation has the motto, “Justitia omnibus” Justice for all. One of the Roman emperors stated, “Let there be justice even if heaven passes away. Let this be a motto for all. If we are ever tempted, remember the commandment of God: Do not steal!