January 10, 1943

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

In last Sunday's talk, I spoke of the multifaceted aid given to the polish people by the presently reigning Pope. I spoke of monetary gifts as well of clothing and food for the outcasts of the war, civilian and military, the educated and plain people, women and children. I stated facts. I stated places and persons. They are incontrovertible. These talks brought me false and hateful attacks, aimed and done against the Apostolic See and the Pope, that up to this time nothing was done. "The pope gives the Poles benediction but gives real help to others." I gave facts and figures to retort to these unwarranted attacks. Today, there are those, who maintain that the Pope is disinterested in the problems of the Polish people, that he is unfeeling toward the suffering of the Poles, that he ignores the thieves and murderers - I proffer the papal activities and pronouncements, which shine more than the rays of the sun, and speak of his empathy for the Poles. At first I will read the writing of the American reporter, John T. Whitaker from the 2nd of October, 1939, which was close to the month of the fall of Poland: "During and audience given to a group of Poles in the Consistorial hall of the Papal villa, during the summer, the Pope spoke words of spiritual consolation. Pale and worried and hurting from the events which confronted the polish members of his flock, the Pope with trembling voice, interspersed with tears, read his talk in the French language. The entire tone of his talk was pessimistic. He spoke generally of his own pain about the suffering people, specifically of the physical sufferings of the civil population and soldiers who wish so that Poland may not be lost. During his entire talk many of the audience cried, and especially when the Pope praised the bravery of the Polish soldiers and gave honor to the ten centuries of the glorious history of Poland, given to the service of Christ and its being a bulwark of Christianity. Humbly looking on a dark future, he was faced with expressing only a spiritual joy. The pope said that current times cannot demand that they wipe their tears, since "someday Christ will reward those tears spilled for the fallen in battle." The Pope urged the Poles to persevere in their faith, reminding them that Poland in its history was never without its faith and that "God in his Goodness will let them to continue their religiosity. The pope almost broke up and with a trembling voice said with emotion: “before our eyes pass by scenes of atrocities and great despair when I look upon the throngs of displaced persons and nomads who lost their country and their domestic hearths. Now, for our talk:

 The Pope Warns - the Pole pleads - the Pope Threatens

On March 3, 1939, one the second day of his papacy, Pope Pius XII broadcast this talk, from the Vatican Radio: "to this our fatherly proclamation greetings and a call to keeping the peace; that particular peace, which our predecessor wished his people, and of which he prayed to fervently and which

God wished us; that peace which is the gift of the heavens, which is the wish of all good peace and the fruit of love and justice. We ask all to keep the peace of conscience, derived from the love of God; keep the peace in their families, joined with the love of Christ; peace between nations through brotherly help, friendly cooperation and sincere understanding, for the purpose of protection in the interest of the great Christian family, which is under the care of God. In these uncertain and heavily laden moments, when so much stands in the way of obtaining this peace; which is the deepest wish of the heart, we send to God prayers for all those on whom rests the highest and greatest duty to bring nations on the road to creative and peaceful existence.

Afterwards, the pope did not miss any of the diplomatic traditions. He spoke with the representatives of the various nations, Nuncios from the many countries who took part in the occasion. He hugged them in the talk to the Cardinals on June 2, 1939.

Despite the usual but false accusations of the diplomats of certain countries, the Pop did not let himself be misled. That is why he decided to go directly the people of the world with the help of the Vatican media. On the 24th of June, the Pope broadcast this appeal: “Let them hear our resolve, so that they do not think we are weak confronted with their inequities. Let the powerful hear us, if they wish, in order that their power not be deleterious to us, but a bulwark to the nations and a protector of peace, order and work. We beg them through the blood of Christ, whose winning strength was peacefulness in life and in death. We beg them, we know that we all have feeling hearts; we commiserate with all those who are hungry for food and justice; all who because of life’s bad fortune, already suffer greatly. With disquiet of our own hearts, we have in mind, the hearts of mothers, the hearts of fathers, who had to leave their homes; common people , who daily work hard; the innocent upon whom hangs a doom, the youth who have high and noble aspirations and ideals. With us is the soul of the aging Europe, which was full of faith and the genius of Christianity. With us is the entire people, who await justice, bread and peace and not unfeeling iron which destroys and kills. With us is Christ who out of love for mankind who left us his commandment, the essence of his religion, the promise of salvation for the individual as well as for nations. His message wrought a great impression on nations, without regard to their religious persuasion. The words of the Pope were greeted with a deaf ear on the leaders of the German and Italian countries. They were not moved; and didn’t intend to be moved.

The 31st of August 1939 arrived. German troops stood in readiness on water, land and in the air. On that day in the afternoon hours, the secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione, at the request of the Pope call to his bureaus in France, Germany, Poland and Italy as well as the minister of Great Britain. To each of them he issued the following papal message:

“The Vatican on the 31st day of August 1939 – The Holy Father, does not wish to hinder hope, in the present circumstances, that they may dome to some just and peaceful negotiations, which the whole world asks for ceaselessly. And so His Holiness in the name of God reprimands the Governments of Germany and Poland, and asks that they exhaust every possible means that they avoid confrontation and use every means to avoid conflict. From the Governments of England, France, and Italy he asks that they back in in his efforts.” The German insatiable demon snickered at the words of the Pope. The same was true of Italy.

To this somewhat inaccurate communique, Whitaker cited first I will add some sentences taken from the Popes talk from September 30, 1939: “that fatherly heart which hides its love for the downtrodden and whom he would suffer with – and which today you have convincing proof, is not the only good that is left! In the midst of God and his deputy, in the midst of all sincere people, there are left other treasures….the strength of warring manhood…our stall worth faith, with its enduring quality... In this life it has known the hour of death and downfall but also believed in the resurrection. Only one thing was not seen in our history –and your presence here, assures us, and which we will not see and that is an unbelieving Poland, torn from Christ and his church. I do not say to you, “wipe away your tears.” – This Christ, who cried at the death of Lazarus will reward these tears, which you shed for the death of your loved ones and for Poland which will never be lost.

The Pope in his first Encyclical of October 20, 1939, wrote sincerely and openly, “I must assure you that our fatherly and empathetic love is close to all you sons, especially those who are worried, imposed upon and persecuted. The blood of countless human lives even those taking part in the war, as it is with our dear Poland for its faith to the Church and in defense of Christian civilization, in the written annals of history has a right to a soulful and brotherly empathy of the world at the moment when, in the intercession of Mary, helper of the faithful, awaits the hour of resurrection and true peace”. So much for the encyclical.

In his vigil talks in the years, 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942, the Pope comes out significantly in defense of the smaller nations and warns against might and demands justice for the downtrodden nations. In the vigil talk of 1939 in his talk about the crucified Poland and the bruised Finland, he underlined the necessary of a just peace: “the basic need for an honest and honorable peace is the protection of the right to life and the independence of all, large and small, powerful and weak nations. The wish for life of one nation should not be achieved by the destruction of another nation. If that right is usurped or put into danger, the right order demands restitution and should not be imposed by the sword or self- aggrandizement but by the norms of justice and right reason.

In his talk in 1940 at the vigil of Christmas, the Pope points out that he is well informed of the destruction which does not spare venerable holy places, grand tombstones and statues and marks of mercy and love, which after a neglect and forgetfulness extends into the future that the deeds represented for them will be written the saddest and darkest pages of history.

On the Christmas Vigil of 1941, the pope condemned the “new order”, which was forced upon the world without joy, without peace, without goodness or worth. Victory at any cost, that the worth and underpinning of the law is that might makes right, does a lot of harm especially to those nations whose background is the Christian Faith and are not prone to defend without great physical harm but armed with traditions of faith find it hard to use force as a means of making peace.

In the papal announcements of 1941, we read: “May the blessings of the Lord come upon you…spread out and homeless outcasts, who lost home and land, the mainstays of your existence. We sympathize with your lot. To you, Powers of War, disregarding the rights of other nations – we say: your conscience and your feelings of goodness should pave your ways, so that you treat the peoples of the earth in a just and human way. Do not place burdens upon their shoulders, which you yourselves in similar circumstances have found unfair. Prudence and readiness to give aid to humanity is the honor and pride of wise leaders. Think of this also –that the blessing or the condemnation of the Lord for your own fatherland will depend upon the way you treat others whose loss of the war will lay at your hands.

What prophetic words, carrying with themselves the just judgment of God, nature and humanity.

In 1942 the Pope cried: “Let our blessing with exceptional feeling on those who suffer in sadness, in heavy suffering of the present moment. Let it be of protection for all who battle defensively with arms; medicine for the ill and wounded; protection for outcasts, for those chased from their home land, displaced from the hearths of their homes, those driven to other countries, the millions of unfortunates who are suffering from great hunger. May it be a salve to all in pain and misfortune? Let it be crutch and joy for all the poor and needy who await a friendly word, which would offer their hear strength, right reason, the sweetness of empathy and brotherly aid.”

The Vatican holds a broadcasting station as well as daily paper, “L’Osservatore Romano”. On Vatican Radio, audiences are held in the polish tongue twice a week for Poles living outside of Poland and once for the Poles in the United States. Already from “September 1939 the radio station published in other languages the persecution of the Poles in the German occupation, telling of the terrible atrocities perpetrated on the Poles by the Germans. Many occurrences were so gross and shameful that the announcer acknowledged they were not fit for broadcasting.

The Vatican daily often, despite the protestations of the fascist leaders and the Italian Press, prints articles on the losses of the Poles, in the occupied land as well as of those in countries outside of Poland. It mentions the Polish culture and speaks of the learned Poles. It write the biographies of President Raczkiewicz, the premier and the famous leader, Sikorski, and the Polish ministers as well as of the members of the “Rady Narodowej!”

I will translate all of this so that you would not believe those teachers and sowers of lies, who especially in current times, claim that the Pope does not care about the polish people, doesn’t help them nor protect them. The claim cynically “The Pope can pray for the polish people he can bless them”. 33 Why doesn’t he help them? Why does he not protect them?”

A couple of words about the activity of the War Committee of Aid. Again in response to the appeal of the Pope in November 1939, the Ordinaries in the United States arranged collections. As a result, they brought 750 thousand dollars. These monies were gathered for the Poles in Poland and for those poles dispersed throughout other countries. Bishop Steven Woznicki sent the monies to Pius XII. The pope then sent part of the money to Poland to purchase the needed thinks, food, clothing and medicines. As the monies continued, the committee sent money to the expatriated in England, France, and Spain. A portion was sent to Portugal. The rest was sent to Italy, Romania and to Hungary. The committee of Bishops, wanting to help two million of the displaced sent items by ship in “April of 1942. For all of this help Ambassador Ciechanowski in November of 1942 in the name of the Premier gave public thanks to Archbishop Mooney, the president of the Committee of Bishops.

In March of 1940 “the New York Times under the headline, “Vatican Lends Aid to Poland’s Cause” wrote two columns issued by its Roman Correspondent, Herbert L. Matthews. Listen: “The Vatican made one of its rare moves in the “European conflict during the last ten days, and the effect on history, it is believed in Vatican circles, will be unforgettable. For the Nazi regime, it is held, will never erase the blot if its persecutions in Poland, because now the world knows the truth and believes it; and the belief comes precisely, because it was the Vatican that said so. One might say there was nothing new in the statements made about German occupied Poland. The Polish embassies in Rumania, Hungary, Italy and France, have been saying the same things. So has the Polish government in Angers. So did innumerable Polish refugees who fled across the Hungarian and Romanian frontiers. Millions of people must have believed what they said, and yet there always would be that lingering doubt that in many cases would lead people to refuse credence. After all, this was the interested party, and one cannot help fearing bias, of that dreaded product – propaganda. It was of no use that the French and British seconded everything the Poles said. They too were suspected. There was only one neutral source in the whole world that was completely above suspicion. So the Vatican moved – subtly, cautiously but with deadly effect for the Germans. The Reich protested feebly through its ambassador to the Vatican, not that the charges were untrue, but that the Papacy should have been as unfriendly as to permit the Vatican radio attack them. The Pope himself cautiously reconsidered the matter even reading the text of the next broadcast scheduled to help the persecuted Catholics in Poland! Had Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland, stayed in Posen or Warsaw, it is agreed that he could have done little or nothing to alleviate the suffering of his compatriots. He preferred deliberately to exile himself so as to remain the active spiritual leader of the Poles. Every priest who comes out of Poland sooner or later finds his way into Cardinal Hlond’s office, to which he makes a careful report of what he did, saw and heard. Inside Poland, thousands of other priests try and often succeed, to pass out messages about their flocks that eventually reach the Cardinal. Gradually a damning mass of evidence was gathered whose authenticity was unquestionable. Then the Polish Primate made up his report, which was submitted to Cardinal Maglione, Papal secretary of State. There his role ended and the Secretariat of State took up the task. One copy of Cardinal Hlond’s report was turned over to Father Soccorse of the Vatican Radio with the passages which were to be broadcast marked by no less authority than Cardinal Maglione himself. The talks were made in English, French and German!” Despite that there are some who maintain that the Pole does nothing.

Let me remind our listeners the visit of the German foreign affairs minister Ribbentrop to Pope Pius XII. The Pope invited the minister at the request of the Italian government. In the course of the conversation, the Pope complained about the destruction of Poland and annexing the Polish lands to Germany. Ribbentrop assured the Pope that the Germans are ready to open a “Polish Government of twelve hundred million. The Pope informed him that Poland lists around 35 million not 12 million. The ambassador proposed hanging up the weaponry with the battle with the Church on the condition that the Vatican stops talking about the atrocities perpetrated on the Poles. . In the end he proposed the signing of a new concordat with talks between the two nations. At that the Pope retorted in a bitterly cynical question: “For what?” “What would that do when the current was broken a thousand times by the German Government?” Ribbentrop was disconcerted by the Popes surly question that he fainted. And he forgot his diplomatic coat and entered into one of the cars of the Cardinals.

Why do these all, which in the name of patriotism, come out with pretenses, with unheard of pretenses, unjust and untruthful, to the Pope and don’t mention historical fact. Because it would not jive with their evil intent. Besides truth, sincerity and justice are virtues which are not know to them at all. The love to wallow in mudslinging and rot.

I conclude with the words of Sikorski, Premier and National Polish leader who spoke in Washington at the occasion of his reception of the honorary doctorate at the Catholic University in Washington: “I am deeply convinced that the role of the Catholic Church will be great in the rebuilding of the world. Christ’s Church, standing among the daily life with its reasoned theological thought and morality is in the forefront calling to demand penance of the Germans, for the insanity they fell into.

The role of the Church and so the role of the Pope will be great and marvelous in promoting peace and times of peace. In those movements Poland will have in its pope – a wise planner, a hard protector and a very feeling father.