**January 17, 1932**

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

In one of the novels of our famous Henryk Sienkiewicz, we read about how the Christians tried to convince the Apostle Peter to save his life by escaping from the vicious persecution of Nero. Saint Peter himself was doubtful about what to do, as uncertainty and even fear had crept into his soul. Here his flock was scattered, his work destroyed – the Church, which he had founded and which had blossomed like an impressive tree before the city’s burning, had been turned into ashes by the power of the “Beast”. Nothing was left except for tears, nothing except for memories, suffering and death! The seed sown had yielded an abundant crop, but Satan had crushed it into the ground. The legions of angels had not come to save the dying and here Nero sits in glory over the world, awful, more potent than before, the lord of all the seas and all the lands. Often God’s fisherman stretched his hands out toward heaven and asked: Lord, what shall I do? How am I to survive? How is an old, helpless man like me to fight with this unlimited force of evil, which you have allowed to rule and conquer? “About dawn [one day] two dark figures were moving along the Appian Way toward the Campania. One of them was Nazarius; the other the Apostle Peter, who was leaving Rome and his martyred co-religionists. […] The light was reflected in trembling leaves of trees, in the dew-drops. The haze grew thinner, opening wider and wider views on the plain, on the houses dotting it, on the cemeteries, on the towns, and on groups of trees, among which stood white columns of temples. The road was empty. The villagers who took vegetables to the city had not succeeded yet, evidently, in harnessing beasts to their vehicles. From the stone blocks with which the road was paved as far as the mountains, there came a low sound from the bark shoes on the feet of the two travelers. Then the sun appeared over the line of hills; but at once a wonderful vision struck the Apostle's eyes. It seemed to him that the golden circle, instead of rising in the sky, moved down from the heights and was advancing on the road. Peter stopped, and asked: "Do you see that brightness approaching us?" "I see nothing," replied Nazarius. But Peter shaded his eyes with his hand, and said after a while, "Some figure is coming in the gleam of the sun." But not the slightest sound of steps reached their ears. It was perfectly still all around. Nazarius saw only that the trees were quivering in the distance, as if some one were shaking them, and the light was spreading more broadly over the plain. He looked with wonder at the Apostle. "Rabbi! What ails you?" cried he, with alarm. The pilgrim's staff fell from Peter's hands to the earth; his eyes were looking forward, motionless; his mouth was open; on his face were depicted astonishment, delight, rapture. Then he threw himself on his knees, his arms stretched forward; and thiscry left his lips,--"O Christ! O Christ!" He fell with his face to the earth, as if kissing some one's feet. The silence continued long; then were heard the words of the aged man, broken by sobs,--"Quo vadis, Domine?" Nazarius did not hear the answer; but to Peter's ears came a sad and sweet voice, which said,--"If you desert my people, I am going to Rome to be crucified a second time." The Apostle lay on the ground, his face in the dust, without motion or speech. It seemed to Nazarius that he had fainted or was dead; but he rose at last, seized the staff with trembling hands, and turned without a word toward the seven hills of the city. The boy, seeing this, repeated as an echo,--"Quo vadis, Domine?" "To Rome," said the Apostle, in a low voice. And he returned!”

Dear radio listeners! In today’s talk I will dare to ask all of you collectively and individually:

**Where are You Going?**

At the beginning I would like to emphasize openly and honestly that Christ’s teachings concern not only the soul, but the body as well; that Christ’s religion not only teaches us about eternity, but sets forth the rules of earthly happiness; so that the Catholic Church is to care only for the spiritual side of mankind and not touch upon or even mention misfortunes, suffering, sorrows and hurts of mankind; that is, if it only taught and did not follow in the footsteps of our Divine Teacher, Master and Founder, it wouldn’t deserve to be called the true Church. Jesus Christ did good, he cured, he healed, he revived people, he fed them, he give them drink, he advised, comforted, taught and soothed! And when the need arose he reprimanded, threatened, scolded and punished! – And now to apply this to our times! For years we were told that education, progress, culture, prosperity and civilization will work miracles for the world and mankind, to the point that misery, poverty and sorrows will become history. And here suddenly, like a soap bubble, the acclaimed torch of education has not only dimmed, but even almost entirely done out – the seeming progress has stopped in its tracks like a blind horse – culture somehow has become extremely uncultured – prosperity has fallen from its high altar onto the shoulders of mankind, especially its working class with such weight and momentum that for well upon three years, civilization has been racking its brains, prescribing advice and cures, and instead of getting better, it’s getting worse, it is getting sadder and darker! And seeing all of this I ask, and along with me ask millions of other people: “World, where are you going?” Through the clouds of darkness, of suffering, of uncertainty and poverty beams the bright figure of Christ, crying out: “I am the way, the truth and the life…”

Furthermore, mankind is not only going through a material breakdown, but also a moral breakdown. Physically: economic, financial distress in almost every single part of the world, which results in unemployment, that is, an awful and merciless poverty, especially among workers’ families! In China, statistics show that more than four million peoples have died of hunger; in the Soviet Union workers are dying of poverty; and here in America privation, hunger and the cold creep in through the doors and windows! Many meetings, conferences and councils of learned men, specialists, and professors take place, during which they further study and try to solve problems; they suggest sowing less, cultivating and planting less ground; they sink whole shiploads of coffee, wheat and fruit to keep the prices up, while nations ask for bread and there is no one to give it to them! On one hand are billionaire associations, companies and corporations who look mercilessly at the millions of unemployed, honest, virtuous and peaceful citizens whose stomachs writhe with hunger and whose minds are rattled by despair! This is what Our Holy Father Pius XI wrote October 2, 1931 on the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels: “A new scourge threatens - indeed, it has already in large measure smitten - the flock entrusted to us. It strikes most heavily at those who are the most tender and are our most dearly beloved; upon the children, the proletariat, the artisans and the "have-nots." We are speaking of the grave financial crisis which weighs down the peoples and is accelerating in every land the frightful increase of Unemployment. We behold multitudes of honest workers condemned to idleness and want, when all they desire is opportunity to earn for themselves and their families that daily bread which the divine command bids them ask of their Father Who is in heaven.” And again through all of these worries, poverty and privations shines the figure of He who said to his Apostles upon seeing the crowds surrounding him: “My heart is moved with pity for the crowd.” (Mark 8: 2).

Looking at international relations, I ask “States and Nations, where are you going?” The government banks are empty; citizens have the weight of excessive taxes on their shoulders; an out-of-control arms race and preparations for war; agreements and settlements between nations are broken; tariffs are unjustly and excessively raised; suspicion, lack of trust, envy, breaking vows and dishonesty, falseness and lies, all of this is explained by way of diplomacy and patriotism. Through these ill-boding clouds and international misunderstandings, again appears the sorrowful and pained face of Him who taught: “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5: 44).

The world is going through a moral bankruptcy. In a sound body, a sound mind, and vice versa! Some new and strange principles, weird teachings, mindless theories replace or try to replace the simple, true and Godly teachings! Under the motto: “One religion is as good as another” hides a rattlesnake who feeds human minds with his poisonous venom. For some, Christ Jesus is only a person, not God; for others, the Blessed Mother is a simple woman; for some Sacred Scripture is only some collection of human documents, and not God’s word! For others it is a made-up story, without sense or importance; some accept what they like in the Bible and reject the rest; these explain their behavior according to their own views and will; and in their pride and arrogance they claim that it is truly Christ’s teachings! And though this mental darkness, once again we see the figure of the Heavenly Teacher, who cries out: “And if someone would say to you, here is Christ, no, over there, then do not believe him. Because there will be false Christs and false prophets, and they will make signs and do miracles to deceive the chosen people.”

However, let me go back to the statement that “One religion is as good as another.” If it’s true, than the Son of God became man, suffered and was nailed to the cross for naught; but he himself cried out: “My teaching is not my own but is from the one who sent me.” (John 7: 16). So the religion of Christ Jesus equals the religion of Buddha, Mahomet, Luther, Calvin, Huss and Henry the VIII? And so the Christian religion is the same as the Indians’ religion, which obliged them to offer up each year a sacrifice of a human being in the shape of girl who was put into a canoe and went over Niagara Falls; or according to which the duty of an Indian was to scalp the white people, no better than Mahomet’s faith, which taught that the more Christians a Turk kills or takes hostage, the happier he will be after death; no better than the faith of cannibal tribes, which obliges them to boil white people and make feasts of their bodies?

Every robber and burglar firmly believes that society owes him life and up-keep and so he steals other people’s property and possessions! The killer and murderer believe that they have a right to the life of another person and so they take it from him! An employer believes that the least remuneration is enough for the worker, and that is why he treats him without pity and without mercy! Some doctors, in spite of God’s commandment “Thou shall not kill” believe that an unborn baby can be killed, and that old people should be swept off the face of the earth. Are all these people right, and is it true that one religion is as good as another? Over all of these dim and murky ideas of human minds rises the figure of Him who publicly cried out: “Have faith in God.” (Saint Mark 11: 22).

In the economic field today - a global crisis.

In the financial field - general bankruptcy.

In the moral field – false principles and villainy.

In the political field – carelessness and negligence.

In the social field – slavery and injustice.

In the religious field – falsehood, lies and the tower of Babel.

Wherever you look, you will see fields covered with victims, who writhe in pain and suffering, in sorrows and pain, who weep, curse, and plan revenge! Two armies are forming for some sort of battle or showdown. On one side, unlimited wealth, class and racial hatred, one hundred percent chauvinism, the capitalist system, although helpless and merciless, does not want to give up – and on the other side, poverty and hunger and a strange and perverse doctrine which makes great promises, but will give nothing good, because it simple cannot! Between these two armies is Christ’s Church, which in the name of the King of peace and love cries out loudly and bravely: “Where are you going, where are you going?”

Those who are in ruling positions, those who are in power, those whose minds are to solve today’s problems and to lead mankind out of a vicious circle, everybody who is responsible for caring for the good of their subjects, these people should be the first to look into their own consciences, their own hearts, their own souls. They should expel, beyond the furthest borders, hatred, obduracy and injustice; and in their own consciences, hearts and souls they should sow the seeds of love of God, love of neighbor and a devotion to justice. How can we expect an improvement of circumstances, how can we even think of world peace or happiness in life if everything is based on hatred and the struggle between states and social classes, on devious diplomacy, on unjust and deceitful policies and on a complete separation from God, who is the Lord of life and death of each person individually, and the director and guardian of the whole world. Yes, the whole wisdom of our century is epitomized in some type of natural religion, that is, in materialism and paganism.

Today’s world is the Rome from the times of the Apostle Peter, with Nero’s palace, its pagan amphitheater, the arena of which was abundantly soaked not only in the bitter tears, but also in the hot blood of thousands of victims. “Cesar was swimming in blood, Rome and the whole pagan world was mad. But those who had had enough of transgression and madness, those who were trampled upon, those whose lives were misery and oppression, all the weighed down, all the sad, all the unfortunate, came to hear the wonderful tidings of God, who out of love for men had given Himself to be crucified and redeem their sins. When they found a God whom they could love, they had found that which the society of the time could not give any one,--happiness and love.” (Sienkiewicz “Quo Vadis”)

Dear listeners! In this moment, I see before me a world which is tired, hurting, pained and covered in wounds, broken in body and soul, searching in vain for comfort, for solace, for suitable and effective advice. Before this world stands Christ and sadly asks the question: “World, where are you going?” …. I hear the response: “I return to you, Christ, to you I come, because you are the Light and the Truth.” And once again I hear the kind-hearted words of our Savior: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves.”