**January 31, 1932**

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

History is the teacher of life. So I open before you the pages of the history of Rome. I read about the greatness and might of the Romans; I see the legions of Caesars who conquer the whole world; I see the masses of the conquered, used as slaves, lead to the arches of triumph, among the curses and swearing of the victorious soldiers and proud Romans; before our eyes moves a panorama of feasts, banquets and parties given in honor of leaders, and their triumphs over barbaric nations. The banquets in the palaces of emperors on Palatine. Senators, wise men – poets, government officials sit down to tables bending under the weight of silver and golden plates. They are surrounded by singers, musicians, dancers, jesters and fools. We see here luxury and riches which boggle the human mind. Luxuries which even today people still write about. Let me turn the next page. What do we see? In the streets of the city, thousands of people with no work or other occupation; a crowd with no home or bread; prisoners of war, or old slaves, who are not even worth throwing into the pond as food for fish, as the tradition would have it. There are groups of children, thrown out into the streets by their inhuman parents to serve as food for dogs. Moral dirt and material poverty on the Roman streets! The Tribune Philip wrote that in Rome there were not even 2 thousand inhabitants who held property, the rest, about a million people, were workers and slaves. They waited for the time of giving out wheat and wine. They went in crowds to the palaces of the ruling class, demanding “Bread and circuses”. The affluent and rich hated and despised them. The pagan wise men were repulsed by the working class. Aristotle taught that work cannot go hand in hand with virtue; Cicero cried out, that work debases and sullies man; Horace sang: “I hate the rabble”. The Roman law compared work to goods. Such great and learned men, rich men and employers hated the rabble, and yet were frightened by it! Because this mass of the unemployed was not only a burden, but also a danger, since they were many and they had a voice. In any given moment, they could respond to the call of the first leader who would bid them turn against the ruling class and destroy the hierarchy of the country. Whoever gave them bread was the one they served. He then became their master and could shake the emperor and his capital city. Not a single person took care of this army, cared for it, protected it. Rome had 420 pagan temples, 30, 000 gods and goddesses, 900 marble baths, more than 2, 000 palaces of rich men and a circus for 480, 000 spectators; Rome abounded in marriages of underage girls; abounded in the suicides and murders committed in ways which prove how depraved and bankrupt were the human minds of the time; women counted their age not in years but in the number of divorces and new husbands; rich men gave sumptuous feasts in which they wasted up to 60 million sesterces; banquets were attended by Roman matrons, decked out in jewels for the price of which whole provinces could be fed. “A small number of Romans lived in the lap of unimaginable luxury, and the masses? The masses suffered from privation and poverty. The emperors, consuls, senators, knights, poets, philosophers, patricians, matrons, they all understand that Rome must die, that Rome had already started to die; that it was still alive, but it was unbridled, soulless, already dying. Let us drop a curtain on these last sad days of the omnipotent emperors of luxurious Rome and the proud Roman civilization, and let us look at our century, the twentieth century. Are our times not the true reflection of the Roman times? Today, is not the history of ancient Rome repeating itself? Today’s talk bears the title:

**Nero’s Rome and the Twentieth Century.**

Pagan Rome had its heartless rich men, numbering 2 thousand; in their hands was all the wealth; the fate of the whole country depended on them; poverty and hunger or wellbeing and contentment of the subjects depended on them! Rome had its unemployed workmen; they were more than a million. These people had nothing! Hungry and poor, they wandered in search of bread. Rome had its slaves; prisoners of war were taken from vanquished armies; inhabitants of conquered countries were brought to Rome. Both the life and death of the slave depended on his master. The streets of Rome swarmed with hordes of dealers in human flesh. The nation lost its ideas of virtue, honesty and morality. In Rome too there were to be found many marriages of the underage; divorces were praised; hordes of thugs wandered the streets, lying in wait for the goods of their neighbors. And finally, there was also a small group of believers in Christ, who by their faith and their life filled the pagan minds with wonder!

This is where I stop. I look at the twentieth century. I have no intention of begging pardon of my listeners, for I will speak freely and maybe even roughly. This is my duty. The twentieth century, if we tear off its mask of hypocrisy, falseness and insincerity is a faithful copy of pagan Rome, from A to Z! At the beginning of last year, that is 1931, there were around 40 thousand millionaires in America! Among them, three whose fortunes reach only 5 billion dollars! According to the most recent statistics, at the end of 1931 in the United States we had twenty-four billion-dollar corporations. There are seven rail companies; five banks; five utility companies; four insurance companies and three industrial organizations! The magazine “Monthly Survey of Business” published by the American Federation of Labor in its November issue shows that although the pay of workers in 1931 has fallen by a dozen or so billion dollars as compared to the year ’29, yet the income of employers and corporations were not only equal to, but sometimes even exceeded those of ’29. In the eleven months of 1931, that is only until December the same amount was paid in dividends as in the favorable year of 1929. At the same time workers lost the third part of their earnings, which fell to the salary level of 1922, and in our country there were 149 multi-millionaires whose general income in 1930 was 350 million dollars. Until November 1, 1931, only 1927 companies lowered or held back the payment of dividends, and in the same time 2600 corporations cut the salaries of their workers; in these same eleven months, 3, 300 corporations paid full dividends, and 675 even gave additional ones! So the profit of millionaires was greater, and the income of workers was diminished. He who had a lot was given even more; he who had little received even less. In pagan Rome there were two thousand millionaires, and a million poor people; in the twentieth century, here among us, we have 40 thousand who hold tremendous riches in their hands, while over a hundred million poor men depend on their will; forty thousand govern a hundred million; a handful holds in their hands the happiness or unhappiness, the wellbeing or poverty and destitution of the millions-strong masses! Today’s proportions are the same as those of pagan Rome!

Rome had thousands of slaves. We have them today too. A few months ago, representatives of the American Federation of Labor returned from a tour of inspection in the region of Vicksburg, near Mississippi. They claim that the working conditions in public works remind them of the times of slavery and probably are as nasty as those in the Soviet Union where forced labor takes place, which has caused products imported from Russia to be branded as “products of slave labor.” The committee stated that there black workers are subjected to corporal punishment, meted out in a most cruel manner. Work takes from 12 to 18 hours a day. The earnings of a worker do not exceed 75 cents a day; a qualified worker earning about two dollars. From these earnings are deducted fees on the products supplied by the employers. In these lamentable conditions live about four thousand workers, both white and black! – In South Carolina, certain companies pay workers $9.56 for fifty-five hours of labor, and in New England for the sweat and efforts of workers a royal payday awaits the poor men at the end of the week, all of sixteen dollars! Someone here steals and is a thief! Who? Not the worker! I repeat, pagan Rome had its slaves. The twentieth century has many more of them! –

At the end of the past year a very interesting book written by Mr. Rogers, a professor at Yale University, was published. The professor demonstrates how American industry leaders build factories abroad from capital earned in our country, thus unjustly treating the American worker. At the end of 1929, American companies invested two billion dollars in this cause. Out of this sum, 45 percent in Canada, where there are around 1, 500 factories built out of American capital; 24 percent in Europe, where there are 453 branches of American factories; the remaining 31 percent in the republics of Middle and South America.

I am not interested in their explanations and arguments, but I am concerned about the increasingly large and painful harm done to the worker and his family. In December 1931, Edward F. McGrady, a representative of the AFL, told a Senate subcommittee that American workers lost 18 to 20 billion dollars in lost pay in the year 1931. Mr. McGrady condemned the pay cuts done by employers. He used as an example a certain weaving company in Georgia. It is a 25 million corporation which in seventeen years has paid its shareholders 148 percent of dividends in cash, and 370 percent in shares, and paid out constant dividends during the Depression, meanwhile during the last year it cut the pay of workers three times, so that the earnings were smaller by half than what the workers had initially earned. Oh yes, pagan Rome had its slaves, and do not we have them today! – As to what concerns the marriages of minors, and the dealers in human flesh, let us bring down the curtain on this corruption of our times; every sensible man must blush when he takes into hand just any newspaper and reads of events so sad and painful that frequently what comes to mind is the idea of comparing a rational being with an irrational beast! Disgrace touched the inhabitants of Rome – the twentieth century brings upon itself shame and dishonor! Pagan Rome had divorces: and in the United States according to the statistics of the Census Bureau in 1929 there were

1, 232, 559 marriages, and 201, 475 court divorces, so for every hundred marriages there were 16, 3 divorces, or for every six marriages one divorce! Let us add to this 4, 400 annulled marriages. In the state of Nevada every second marriage ended in divorce. This same statistic shows that over a hundred thousand children, every year, are left without father or mother, due to divorces! These are the results of a fine sort of liberty, development, and equality! Yes, faced with these and other signs, civilization should clothe itself in mourning – justice should drop a thick curtain over her eyes, and liberty should voluntarily let itself by handcuffed and chains put on its legs!...

Pagan Romans threw their own children out into the street and the city refuse heaps, left to be eaten by dogs! We should be surprised even at the behavior of pagans. Because even an irrational animal defends its young ones, and rational people, with no pity or mercy, abandon their own blood and their own body! Are our times any better? Sadly we must admit that they are worse, and the people… nastier! Because who takes care of children today? Who wants children? I see both men and women who cynically smile at my question! Today stately matrons and false scholars spread the teachings and instill in the hearts of the young and simple such rules which are even opposite to God’s commandment: Thou shall not kill, thou shall not kill! – Only the Catholic Church has the courage to cry out loud and clear: You cannot, you cannot break God’s law!

On the streets of pagan Rome wandered groups of robbers, murderers and other social outcasts. And today? The columns of newspapers are filled to the brim with descriptions of muggings, robberies, frauds, corruption, brutal murders, suicides; which are committed already by use of dynamite bombs and machine guns. Really, our civilization may not only boldly hold out its hand to the civilization of pagan Rome, but they should even embrace and kiss, because they are like two sisters, who after twenty centuries of separation, have found each other at last!

Pagan Rome had 30, 000 gods and goddesses. And today? In the United States itself there are close to 500 sects whose followers believe in whatever they want, from the theory that humans come from some African orangutan to the belief that after death the human soul undergoes certain changes and finally enters the body of animals such as dogs or cats! Everybody has come up with his own god, and sacrifices himself to it. They explain this by way of some kind of tolerance or liberty; all religions are equal they cry; there are even those who teach that not only God, but even the thought of God is completely useless and unnecessary!

Pagan Rome did not want to submit to laws even for its own good! Today, due to the excess of learning and development, everyone with no exception, and especially those who have the trust of fellow citizens and have been elevated to government posts, regard laws as a piece of paper! Do you think this is only a hollow statement? In November 1931, the federal judge George M. Bouirquin from Butte, Montana, said: “The United States are the most lawless country in the world, with laws which are the most leniently put into practice and the worst application of justice…” And this in the twentieth century.

Pagan Rome went crazy! And in our times? Go down the streets of the first city you come upon! Look at the theaters and the dance rooms, at the halls of various so-called entertainments! Go to private homes, everywhere they play, dance and recklessly get drunk! The slogan of the twentieth century is: use and abuse, while your life lasts! And so when some die of hunger, others waste and squander their hard-earned money! And people are going crazy today!

You will ask me, dear radio-listeners, when will this all end? Only when the world and people return to the rules and teachings of our Heavenly teacher, Christ, who taught the love of God and of neighbor, for which love he died on the cross! In this cross, on this cross, and in the teaching of the cross is the hope for today’s world.