**MAY 9, 1937**

Up until now, on our radio programs, we have had various speakers, very well known, not only in the Buffalo area but in far-away corners of our land, in Canada, and even in Europe. He is a Priest whose voice, throughout these past years booms on the air waves by a figure beloved by the Polish people on the Rosary Hour Program.

I have the great pleasure to present to you the Very Rev. Justin, Provincial of the Franciscan Fathers.

Announcer: In order to answer the curiosity of our listeners, we will interview Fr. Justin:

Announcer: Father Provincial how old are you:

Fr. Justin: I am 51 years – young!

Announcer: Where were you born, Father?

Fr. Justin: McClure, a village in Pennsylvania. Later, my father bought a small farm in Everson, Pennsylvania where we lived.

Announcer: Where were you educated?

Fr. Justin: My elementary education was in a Parochial School in Everson Pennsylvania. My high education took place in St. Francis College in Trenton New Jersey, my philosophy and theology in Rome, Italy.

Announcer: When were you ordained to the priesthood?

Fr. Justin: July 17, 1910

Announcer: In America?

Fr. Justin: I was ordained in Rome by Cardinal Mary del Val.

Announcer: Father, when were you elected Provincial?

Fr. Justin: In 1923.

Announcer: How long did you hold that office?

Fr. Justin: For three years.

Announcer: In what manner is the Provincial elected?

Fr. Justin: The election of the Provincial is done according to the directives of the Constitutions, secretly, in a Chapter called together by the General of our Order every three years. Then the Guardians of the various houses and others having the privilege of voting secretly write the name of the father whom they wish to have their superior i.e. Provincial. The father who received the largest vote is announced by the General and confirmed as the provincial – unless the Fathers wish the same person to take the office of the Provincial for the third, fourth, or fifth time, then the majority of the votes is sufficient to vote in that person for that particular office, but it requires two thirds of the votes.

Announcer: How long has the Order of Franciscans been in existence?

Fr. Justin: The Franciscan Order has been in existence for 700 years. St. Francis created three orders: The first is known as The Order of Friars Minor, the second for women is called The Poor Clares, and the third is for lay people and they are called Tertiaries. Belonging to the First Order are: Conventuals, Bernardines, Reformed, and Capuchins.

Announcer: As far as I know, the order to which you belong, Father, is the Order of Friars Minor Conventuals. What does the term “Conventuals” mean?

Fr. Justin: Immediately after the death of St. Francis, the people of Assisi, lovingly attached the love of the Beggar from Assisi, met in the Basilica of St. Francis, called Sacro Convento. Meanwhile the Parish Churches and even the Cathedral were empty. So the Bishop of Assisi and the Pastors of the churches looked with askance at the Franciscans and it came to be that on Sundays and Feast days of obligation in the Basilica of St. Francis were forbidden. In addition the Holy Sacrament was not to be held. The people of Assisi took their complaint to Pope Innocent IV who ended the affair by giving the Basilica the title of “Conventuals” or dispensed from the jurisdiction of Pastors and the Bishop of Assisi. That is why the Fathers living aside this Basilica generally were called “Conventuals” and that name has been given to us as a jurisdiction.

Announcer: Was the Franciscan Order close to the Church?

Fr. Justin: Yes, Our Order has given the Church 9 popes, 12 patriarchs, 70 archbishops, over 1000 bishops and an innumerable people of great learning, martyrs and great saints.

Announcer: When did the first Franciscans arrive in the United States?

Fr. Justin: One hundred years ago. Eighty years later the first German Province was formed to which belong several Polish parishes and sever Polish priests. Among them was Fr. Leopold Moczygęba who first had the idea of collecting funds for the building of a Polish seminary in Detroit, currently in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

Announcer: How many Conventual Franciscans are there in the world?

Fr. Justin: According to statistics taken in 1933 there were 4219.

Announcer: When was the Polish Province established to which you belong, Father?

Fr. Justin: In 1905.

Announcer: Who was the founder?

Fr. Justin: The founder of our province was the former Fr. Hyacinth Fudzinski who before was from the German Province in the United States. Our Polish province had its beginning before separating from the German Province.

Announcer: Who was the first Provincial of the Polish Province?

Fr. Justin: The first Provincial was Fr. Hyacinth Fudzinski.

Announcer: What was the membership of the Polish Province at its institution?

Fr. Justin: 6 priests, 11 clerics, and 5 brothers.

Announcer: What is the membership at this time?

Fr. Justin: Around 300.

Announcer: How many parishes were there in the province at that time?

Fr. Justin: Five.

Announcer: In what way were these parishes obtained.

Fr. Justin: Mainly through negotiations with the Bishops; when they were strapped with financial difficulties or amidst controversy with the people.

Announcer: How many parishes does the province have now and in what states are they located?

Fr. Justin: In Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, in Canada and Maryland.

Announcer: Where were the students educated in the beginning in the Polish province?

Fr. Justin: At St. Francis College in Trenton, NJ; entry into Novitiate was at Syracuse, NY. Both of these educational institutions were owned by the Province. Further studies were carried on in Rome.

Announcer: Which year was the Polish school built?

Fr. Justin: Its construction began in 1925 and finished the next year. The land for the school had already been bought for that purpose by Fr. Hyacinth Fudzinski in 1916. The land area was 25 acres in Athol Springs on Lake Erie.

Announcer: How did the building of the new school come to be?

Fr. Justin: At the end of 1924, a group of young Polish professionals decided to seek a wider public forum and get their opinion as to the building of a new school. On the first meeting of about 30 of the best Poles noting how slowly the progress was being made, I took it upon myself and went to Bishop Turner, and told him of the plan. He readily agreed and gave permission to begin a funding project among the Parishes in Buffalo. At the second meeting the members learned that I had already started the process with the Franciscan Fathers and that the collections were to be taken at the parishes, they organized a Society of Drivers and set themselves to vigorously proceed the work night and day with such dedication that the collections etc. were organized that the fund grew quickly and in six months we began the process of building the school.

Announcer: How long did the building of the school last:

Fr. Justin: Fourteen months.

Announcer: When was the school opened for student registration?

Fr. Justin: In August of 1927.

Announcer: How many students were there at the outset?

Fr. Justin: Eight nine.

Announcer: How many students are currently enrolled?

Fr. Justin: Fifty-four

Announcer: Is the college when it was first built the same as initially destined?

Fr. Justin: When the college was first built in 1928 or the year school started, the building showed itself too small and two wings were added.

Announcer: How many priests teach in the present school?

Fr. Justin: eight

Announcer: Who takes care of the maintenance?

Fr. Justin: Three Franciscan brothers and a few women.

Announcer: What is the nature of the curriculum?

Fr. Justin: The same curriculum is taught as in the public schools. With the addition of Religion and Polish literature.

Announcer: How many years do the studies last?

Fr. Justin: There are four years of studies and the tuition is $250.00 per year.

Announcer: How many students receive free tuition?

Fr. Justin: Currently there are two students who received free tuition, others pay as they can since the depression has affected everyone. Some pay weekly; some pay $100 yearly, others $150, some $130 or even $60...

Announcer: Who can register to enroll?

Fr. Justin: Every capable and healthy boy can enroll once he has finished Parochial or Public Elementary School...

Announcer: Is there an opening currently for entry?

Fr. Justin: There is room for 300 students; however finances do not permit filling the entire quota.

Announcer: Is the school open for only those students who aim for the priesthood?

Fr. Justin: The school is for those who aim for the priesthood, but it also is open for those who wish to pursue other professions. Those who are interested in becoming Franciscans may continue on to the Novitiate located in Ellicott City, Maryland or the Seminary in Granby Mass.

Announcer: How do you subsidize the operation of your school?

Fr. Justin: By tuition, through charitable donations of patrons. We have a ball annually.

Announcer: Will there be another annual Ball this year.

Fr. Justin: It will take place the day before Thanksgiving; our beloved Drivers will be visiting in a short while; please support them.

Announcer: On that note we will conclude our interview for which we, the Firm of Rosinski Furniture Co. thank Fr. Justin and wish him well. At this time Fr. Justin will say a few words on the theme “Mothers’ Day”.

Twenty four years ago, in 1913, the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson marked the second Sunday of May to celebrate mothers. From that time on this date was chosen to honor mothers by calling it “Mother’s Day”. In 1907, Anna Jarvis from Grafton, West Virginia, on the annual date of her mother, whom she not only cherished, invited her friends to her home. Every invited person had to come with a white flower to serve the memory of Jarvis’ deceased mother, and to celebrate annually a tribute to mothers in America. On the following year, 1908, the entire city of Philadelphia celebrated a day to pay tribute to mothers and in five hears the day became a national holiday. We Catholics took it to celebrate this day very heartwarmingly also the day for our living mothers. We offer Masses, go to confession and Communion and give gifts. If we are away from our mot hers we send cards and offer prayers for them.

Here in Buffalo, the ladies from the Club, with those who belong to the Society of Our Lady as well as the children of the school publically honor their mothers because a mother is a socially special person to honor. The image of a guardian angel is applied to mothers who care for their children. Marshall Pilsudski said it well when he said, “When I am perplexed, when I feel that all are against me, when I’m in the midst of accusation, I ask myself. What would my mother advise me to do? The best solution.

The Italians have a beautiful tradition. After eating they say a prayer thanking God for graces. Then then all the children without exception, the old and the young kiss the hands of their parents in thankfulness for providing the daily food. If only we had that tradition. Let us love, honor and show our parents thankfulness for their care and let us not forget them when they go to the Father.

**When people give one grief**

**When thorns abound to wound**

**In the womb of mother**

**Great goodness creates a storm**

**Polish Mother, Polish womb**

**Be blessed!**

**In the times**

**When trouble rears its head**

**And in the world**

**The tempest rages**

**Then in faith-filled womb**

**Mother, be blessed!**