21-Marca, 1943

MOWA JEGO EKSCELENCJI BISKUPA STEFANA WOZNICKIEGO

Dear Listeners of the Rosary Hour:

When the current cataclysm shook the world, and new methods of destroying people and their property have been exposed in all its horror before the astonished inhabitants of the globe, then almost simultaneously the American big heart, as it always was sensitive to the suffering people, stimulated the activity of many existing organizations, and where it was needed, brought new organizations into existence, to hurry and come to the rescue. American bishops, coming together for their annual meeting in public statement in Washington, shortly after the attack on Poland, expressed their sympathy for the people of the nation of Poland, and backed up their statement by monetary collections in order to carry out works of mercy. Other nations who also were attacked asked the Catholic bishops for aid.

The further the Nazi's extended their occupation of European countries, the more appeals came to America and to the Catholic hierarchy for aid. As time went on, the realization came that these appeals had to be answered for some time to come otherwise those oppressed poor would not have any help in their extreme difficulties. Up to this time there have been three such collections, and a fourth will take place in two weeks.

At the beginning, there was much helpful action and as a result a bit of confusion also. It was difficult to be oriented and find out who was doing what so it's appropriate here, I think, to mention the help through the intercession of the Committee of Bishops in their care of helping which was to the tune of a million and 400 thousand dollars in aid. That aid extended through many channels and many methods, and so the Apostolic See had the capability of helping even there where American Red Cross could not reach, and so our people received it even when other channels were closed. So we are able to get information at least in a general way. The committee cooperated with Bishop Gawlina, whose voice you will presently hear. His Excellency came to America with the purpose of thanking you and the Catholics for the help you have given so far.

Certainly, anyone hearing my words will say: "Wouldn't it be better if instead of many, just one organization was collecting funds for aid?? Not really. It now appears at it would be better in more than one agency was helping. First of all, because the appeals are so many and so great and secondly one can help the other in the process. It is worth to pay attention to the Catholic chaplains who are also helping the soldiers thanks to your help. True the government pays the chaplains more than in the previous war but it still is not sufficient for their needs to help. Our chaplains need further resources to obtain monies for their religious coals. There are needs that the Chaplains have even in war besides the government help.

With all of this in mind when the Bishops have their drives this coming Sunday, please be generous for it is for our countrymen. For this purpose you will hear it from the lips of our upcoming guest.

POZDROWIENIE KS. BISKUPA JÓZEFA GAWLINY

Ave Maria!

 Niech Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

I am very grateful for the ability to address our dear countrymen on the radio waves of the Fr. Justin's Rosary Hour.

When in February 1940, I was invited to a special audience by Pope St. Pius XIII; I mentioned the rosary devotion which in our day became one mystical unifying force throughout the world.

Daily at 8 o'clock in the evening the Polish Nation unites itself in common rosary devotion. It is, as it were, a Concordat of Polish hearts. And so, in these times of war, in Warsaw, Cracow, Wilno and Lwow it threads itself through the prisons and concentration camps in Germany, through the displaced Poles in France and is received by the armed forces in Scotland, and to the pilots in England and across the ocean to Polonia in the United States. From there it reaches to Siberia and Kazakstan, where hundreds of thousands of our displaced Poles are located, to Iraq, to the Lord's Grave in Jerusalem to heaven where the rain of grace and salvation flow to our poor and pain filled country.

The Holy Father mentioned that he joins us in this heavenly quest. The nation, the church, the army and all Poles join with a living chain of the rosary devotions at 8:00 in the evening.

The current world conflict reminds us of the history of Biblical wars. I am reminded of a bas-relief which depicts the march of the Assyrian nation after victory. Each of them were free to take with themselves a package and those who did not wish to leave the country were chained to the ground.

It is precisely this kind of thing that is transpiring during the current war concerning the Polish people. Even worse because today our Polish youth is being removed from Poland to Germany to brainwash them. I know a Polish major whose daughter, a student, who was taken from a streetcar in Warsaw and shipped to Germany in order to be a servant to be abused by the German soldiers. When she refused, they threatened her with death. A few weeks later they send her cremated ashes to her mother.

We are reminded of St. Agnes who paid with her death in order not to be sexually abused.

Who will liberate these Polish children from the Germans who have been deported to Poland? The Polish soldier will accomplish that when he stands with his sword on enemy grounds.

In the eastern regions of Poland our people were deported to the interior regions of Russia. I ventured to see our countrymen in Africa, Palestine, Iran and with the Help of General Sikorski to Russia where I was able to visit our dear displaced people. I saw the Polish soldiers which were then sent to Iran. They were God fearing, well trained and serious men. I said Mass there and baptized soldiers since I had the privilege and religious freedom to do that. I was not free to do that with the civilian people. The civilian populace is spread throughout the Soviet region in Europe and Asia.

Around 2 ½ million Poles were shipped out to Russia. A hundred and ten thousand were evacuated to Iran, both soldiers and civilians. A greater part stayed in Russia with about 400,000 dead. Of the children, 25% survived that is around 130,000 have a mother and a father. So we have about 400,000 orphans.

How are our children faring there? When I was still in Teheran, I spotted two boys recently come from Russia who were begging for bread. Their eyes reflected hunger and death. Today we had our portion of bread. Tomorrow, who knows? These children were used to two years of breadless days. They hid their bread in the camp so no one would take it from them.

I saw a youngster in Russia. She came frequently from many miles away to join with the army. Her way was littered with thousands of graves. The army shared their portions with the hungry in order to prolong their lives. They were children shabbily dressed and emaciated.

It was a large hospital. I was lead to healthy children also. About 30 of them came to greet me and sang:

 “From our difficulty and sorrow

 Poland will rise; it will live!

I was not ashamed to shed tears. I was so moved.

When I left Russia, I went to see the displaced children in Teheran. There, in a camp of about 1200 children, I baptized and confirmed the children. After Mass, a delegation came to say that they offered the mass for the children who were still in jail and suffering.

WHO WILL LIBERATE THE CHILDREN TO FREEDOM?

When I was in Washington, in NCWC I saw a curious method how American children, being taught religion also study Geography. Oh! My children also are studying geography and experiencing it directly by being there and seeing it. Whether its desert or places where they were displaced, they see it with their own eyes.

Other children were deported to Siberia, where they experienced how to chop wood. Others went to Arctic countries. A young man having 12 years, learned early the way to maturity. Some discovered new territories and remembered them because they buried a parent there.

This indeed is how my children learn geography.

My dear friends. I have seen children here in America, amiable, intelligent, and pious.

Your children have a father and a mother, - my children are orphans. Your children have breakfast and lunch – mine call for a crumb of bread. Your children are well dressed, mine are in rags. These are our children.

We grew up in the same land and we are of one faith. And I pray that the American children will pray for our deported and hungry children. And let them pray daily. Let there be a prayer crusade. American children pray for the deported children of Poland. Let that source of prayer flow immediately. Let the prayerful voices of your children rise to heaven to the Heart of Jesus so that that prayer may rain from the Heart of God on the deported children in Germany and Russia. And let those graces flow upon you and your families.

We are all part of the mystical body of Christ. If one part suffers all parts feel the pain. The prayers of your children will lead to the liberation of the polish deported children. God will reward you for your mercy.

And now something further. In the Old Testament we read that Hagar, evicted from the home of Abraham was lost in the desert with her son. Exhausted, she was close to death. “I will leave the child here and go away because I could not stand to see it die.” Then, she heard the voice of an angel: “Hagar, look, beside you is a spring. Rescue yourself and your son.

The present day Hagar is the Polish nation. They now are like nomads in the desert, looking at the death of their children. Will the angel of God visit the modern Hagar? Will they be offered a spring of life? Such a spring of rescue exists. It exists in our prayers to God. May God bless your children for their pious prayers, and may he bless you for your Catholic gift.