NOVEMBER 17, 1946

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

 I read from a letter, postmarked from Paterson, New Jersey. Please listen: “At one time, I was deeply religious, believing. Today, however, I do not believe people or anything else. I first lost faith in people because they cheated me and used me for their own purposes. They did similarly to my friends and relatives; they feigned religiosity and attended church regularly on a Sunday. If people pray and attend church, and have no regard for their neighbor, they destroy faith in those who suffer because of them. I lost my belief in God, because I prayed to God to bring me relief but it didn’t bring any relief; it brought me more suffering instead. It got better for my detractors. My prayers were left unanswered. Finally difficult and bloody circumstances occurred for my relatives in September of 1939. I could never understand that the Polish nation, which had been so faithful to the Church in piety and showed so much faith throughout the ages, was abandoned and forgotten. There were so many churches and chapels by the roadsides dedicated to so many saints. There were so many portraits of saints and miracles by them. What of it? Why didn’t these saints perform miracles today? Our Compatriots suffer, go hungry, sicken, and die. Why does not God or these saints come with help? God is supposed to be almighty and the saints our protectors. Did I abandon the teaching? I repeat: I have no reason to believe in people or the Church.”

 And so I dedicate my talk today to the objections to belief in the preceeding letter. I entitle my response:

“DEAR LADY, I BEG TO DIFFER…”

 Yes, I beg to differ with the Lady, and dare to reject her assertions and demonstrate the illogical nature and falsehood of the arguments she makes. I do so without a trace of any anger, or the slightest animosity. I stand in defense of people, the saints and God. Nothing more. I do not condemn the lady or judge her in any way. I am not in any position to do that. I permit myself to call attention that all the arguments the Lady makes come from a false supposition, since you Lady maintain that there are no longer any good and sincere people in the world, that the highest being, the Creator-God, always is deaf to prayers and that the Saints either sleep or on vacation so as not to hear the pleas. If the premise the Lady makes is false then all subsequent statements are false. For example: Bart is a person. Bart is a thief, therefore, all persons are thieves. The deduction is wrong. Bart may be a thief but not all persons are thieves. Your argument that you lost your faith in God, because he did not listen to your prayers, or your loss of faith in the saints who in your estimation are blind and deaf to the misfortune of the poor: that is empty, naïve and not to the point. This is more amplified at the end of this talk. At the present time I treat faith in its broader and general definition. Faith, dear Lady, has many meanings and definitions. Faith is spoken and written about as faith in our government, or out faith that citizens have in the federal courts, supreme courts or local courts; or faith which people have in others. Soldiers believe their leaders; the sick believe their doctors, businessmen believe in the economic system. The basis upon which earthly life of human beings is nothing else than belief. We breathe and live in faith. Every time we take the train we believe in the capability of the machinery which drives the engine. When we sit into our cars, we believe that the motor of our car will run. When we take a script to our pharmacist we believe in his professionalism and knowledge. When we read the writings of newspaper reporters or histories of the past, we believe in their truthfulness. When we hear the voices of famous historians, we believe in their sincerity and conviction. If we rooted our faith from our daily lives we would become inert pillars, unable to move. The person who takes everything as a given, does not convince himself of truth, and does not understand and never will see the worth of how much of his life relies on faith. Children believe their parents; students believe their teachers; politicos believe their leaders; workers believe their organizers.

 Besides this, faith which we have in others, our equals or our leaders, may be inappropriate. It may disappoint us. It can cheat us. It can hurt us, for to err is human. The most perfect human institution, the best government can bankrupt and be treacherous and can betray those who trust it. And it has happened more than once. History records many such treacherous and harmful events. Perhaps the Second World War demonstrated and patently showed the truth through its events. And yet, we did not lose faith in our fellow human beings or in the things we believe in. And so we must live on and believe to live a normal and right life. If we want to live a ***human*** life.

 When we believe in God, all our hope is put into His hands who cannot betray us. God cannot cheat us and we cannot cheat Him. We term it godly faith. It means that relying on boundless goodness of God and the limitless and enduring promises of God, we will lead our live according to the ten commandments written on the tablets of Moses which he received from the Creator. We call these truths the eternal truths because they are based on the Creator of all things. If we believe in another human being, we believe in what is said by word. To believe in God means to believe totally, firmly and deeply in the Word of God, not because God is good to us but because it is God speaking to us and commanding his truths. The Word comes from the lips of God and is a festive assurance and unbroken guarantee of truth and rectitude.

 The word of a professor, whether an astronomer, geologist or geographer, is accepted not only as a probability but as the truth, whether it is neither convincing nor properly demonstrated. Perhaps a very small portion of a thousand persons has the knowledge in the various branches of science but because of the faith in the ability and creditability of their expertise they are accepted as reliable. Faith in the truths of God is in believing that which God has revealed because He is God. The Evangelist John wrote: “If human testimony is accepted – the testimony of God exceeds it.”

 It is obvious that believing in God means to believe the Word of God and what God demonstrated; not that He made everything pleasant for us but in order that He who is truth itself gave us the Way. When we begin to ask God for reasons, in that moment we look at God who is the Supreme Good and begin to see our hope which is the basis of our belief, wane. We can easily seek reasons from our fellow humans for support because they are weak, inconsistent, changeable and erring people like we are. They are equal to us. But with God we are not equals. He is our Creator and in addition the Eternal Truth.

 All and good, one might say – everything is good and rationally explained. None would be able to deny God’s truth as right. Would God be able to contradict Himself by changing the laws He had already established? Sacred Scripture already has given us some answers. We find answers in the letter of the Apostle of the Nations to the Jewish people: “Through various ways as He spoke to our fathers through the Prophets. In the end times He spoke to us through his Son Whom He created heir to all things and through Whom he created the world.

 In order that the world recognized Christ as the true Son of God, the creator performed acts which only God could perform. And so he performed miracles. He understood only too well that claiming that He was the Son of God, he said something not understandable by human intellect. For the first time in human history someone made that astounding claim. His acts on earth were backed up by acts that no human could perform. With one word the made the blind see; with one word he cleansed a leper; with one word he made the crippled walk; with one word he made the healed the lame. It was similar to creation when God said, “Let there be light.” In the same way the Son of God spoke to the man born blind from birth: “Go and wash in waters of Siloe.” He went, washed and came back able to see. Similarly to the leper: “Do you wish to be cured?” and he was cured.” Standing by the bed of a cripple He said “Get up, take you pallet and go home. He rose and went to his home. And so the blind saw, the crippled was cured, the leper was cleansed. Jesus stopped a funeral and said to the young man: “Young man, I say to you arise. The dead youth rose and began to speak. He gave the boy to the widowed mother. Does not a similar theme echo the voice of the creator: “Let there be light.” And “Let us create a man in Our image. –The beloved teaching says to us: “There are a lot of other signs by Jesus before the eyes of his Apostles which are not related in these books. Those that are recorded are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is Christ the Son of God; and believing, that you may have eternal life.” –The same Christ teaches us that: “The word was made flesh and lived among us.” This kind of Word was never spoken through the prophets. In the end God spoke to us through his Son, Whom he appointed the heir to all creation – all the worlds.

 So Jesus is the Son of God who took on a human nature. He is God in the full meaning of the word. And so faith in Jesus is faith in God. When Jesus speaks – God speaks. What Christ revealed, God revealed. Jesus is the Son of God in the trappings of a human nature. He is God in the full sense of the word. That is why we constantly thank God that in having the word we spoke to you, you also received God, who dwells in you all. In reality the Apostles did not announce their own teaching but the teaching of Christ, teaching of God.

 Again in Galatians we read: “It proves to us, brothers that the gospel which I proclaimed to you is not our own. I did not receive it from a man but as a revelation of Jesus Christ.” And so it is the word of God. Our obligation is to secure in our hearts that Jesus Christ is really the true God. Every time we profess our faith in Christ we are forced to believe that when He speaks, he speaks as God. Certainly we can abandon the idea that Christ is God; however, we cannot believe that Christ is God, and at the same time deny that God has spoken to us.

 Every Christian and all Christians believe that Christ is God. All Christians therefore believe that God spoke only once to man, but many times. Christians believe not because they wonder at the word or that the word appeals to them, no. Christians believe because in their eyes, Christ is God and the teaching of Christ is the truth. Christian faith does not allow us choose a faith because it appeals to us. Christians believe because in their eyes Jesus Christ has a divine nature. We are induced to receive this faith in its entirety, otherwise discard its totality. God cannot be partly the truth and partly falsehood. Faith in God does not permit us to choose only part of Christ’s teaching and not only the parts that we find pleasant. For example, people willingly hear any word whose topic is happiness, peace, heaven and close their ears when the topic is of suffering, honesty, temporal or eternal punishment. That is not true faith in Christ God, only a faith in self. In a word, Faith is not a personal feeling nor a personal impression, nor a personal choice. Faith is the acceptance of everything in its entirety that is taught by Christ only because He teaches it. Many Christians believe deeply in certain truths of the Gospel and make openly make fun of other prescriptions. We have many such Christians who cite Christian principles and quote Apostles but they themselves from time to time bless themselves or maybe utter some words because of human reaction to them, or they come to church to be seen. Their daily life is so far away from the commandments of God as the North Pole from the South Pole. Such people create their own religion – a human religion which smacks of egoism and presumptuousness.

 Whether Christ-God taught a certain set of truths; no doubt that he was aware that people would either believe Him or not. He did not intend His truth to be accepted or rejected on personal opinion. To think that God would deal with each intellect and each will personally with what each person should believe when He already established an unchangeable law would be an insult to God’s wisdom. Christ gave one teaching to the world, established in such limitations as to be indisputable truth. Christ gave the world a teaching with certain bounds that the Apostle felt free to write: “If I or an angel from heaven proposed a doctrine different from that which I have already taught you, let him be anathema.

 In this world, one may say without the slightest restriction, day after day, new faiths. It happens among Christians: These new and contemporary religions are the work of man. They are fabricated in the brains of man. There is only one – singularly truth “Credo” on earth, God’s word – Christ’s word. It is not different than the creed given to the Apostles by the Son of Gd. Who has Christ’s and the Apostles Creed on their lips has it not only on their lips but on their souls and has the true faith. That Faith is not hidden under a bushel basket but speaks it in action and lives by it, and keeps it throughout the vicissitudes of life. I have hope that through this talk, the Lady understands the meaning of faith, its necessity and worth which flows from it. Everything depends on Faith. The human without faith is lost, a corpse in the higher sense of the meaning.

 The second criticism the good Lady has against humanity: everyone is looked upon as not good, unjust, offenders etc. In the eyes of the Lady, there isn’t a human being on this earth who is good. I am greatly afraid that in this case, the Lady has taken on more than she could chew. You will not be able to chew it or digest it. The Lady does not sin in regard to love of neighbor or mercy on your fellow human being. Besides the few people that did you harm, you, Lady you incriminate the whole human race indiscriminately. The earth is filled with good, noble, virtuous and even saintly people. Don’t base you thinking on only what you read in the current media which roils itself in mud and sensationalism. The press details its work in divorces, robbery, murders, and suicides. It uncovers moral turpitude in society; not only for the purpose of improving social ills but to profit by leeching out the worst behaviors. Go out among the people but don’t shut your ears or close your eyes. Be not and egoist or one sided or prejudiced. Then you will begin to know people the way they are and be convinced that humans are not only deficient and filled with vices. You will be surprised and the goodness, helpfulness and mercy of these people. You will be edified at the sacrifices and the ways of real heroes. They live quietly, hidden, peacefully living in humble dwellings as well as in palaces. You will meet them at every step, in every place and every state of being. In bureaus and stores; in factories and workshops. Look at their sincere and peaceful and smiling countenances. Look at how many good people the Lord has created? Perhaps it will help to change your view of the human person. No? So, listen further. Walk with me into this house. True, it is small but well arranged. A young laborer sits at the table. He just had returned from his daily labor. He seems to be about thirty five years old. On his knees he holds a three year old tiny babe. The little one has both hands around papa’s neck and kisses him on the forehead, nose, lips and cheeks. He kisses him with such fervor and childlike sincerity that he sweats. On the other side of the table, a young mother holds a two year old baby who had scurried around the home, was tired and ready to go to sleep. At another table in another room, in a rocking chair, rest an eighty year old man. He puts on his glasses and lights his pipe, takes a newspaper in hand and reads in order to find out what is going on in the world. Now, looking at that scene, is the Lady still cynical and convinced that there are no good people in this world? And please do not think that this scene isn’t real but thought up. I have taken it from my real life experience. It is a general real life view. Such fathers, mothers and grandfathers do not number hundreds or thousands but number in millions.

 Perhaps all of this disturbs you? Please take a few minutes of patience. Please step into a house. The family is well-known to me. A fifty-two year old woman lies in bed. For twenty three years her feet have not touched a floor. In the first year of her sickness two daughters watched and nursed her. When the daughters were married they stayed with their husbands. He was an ordinary working man. At the beginning he changed his shift. He works in a foundry. When the owner of the factory learned of the sickness at home, he called the man into his office and offered to let him change his hours at the factory to adjust his schedule to take can of his wife. The worker took a shift from four o’clock in the afternoon to midnight. This noble man took the morning job of washing, cooking and taking care of his wife. He cleaned and scrubbed. One time when I was marveling at his patience and forbearance, I asked him, “Why don’t you put your wife in a hospital. Life will be a great deal easier for you? This ordinary man looked at me with intent eyes and said to me as a real Christian: “Father, I would not have a conscience to do such a thing! I promised when married to stick with her until death. She is my wife, I promised her by oath that I would stick with her till death do us part. She is the mother of my children. She watched over them and cared for them. I am obliged to take care of her. I had her by my side when she was healthy; she’ll be by my side when she is ill. Perhaps, Lady, that you think that that kind of care is rare. Not really! It’s a typical situation, often encountered. Perhaps you will look upon such people with your attitude. How many women take care of their invalid husbands? How many daughters work at the sides of their fathers. These people are not only good, noble, and sacrificial but also true and hidden heroes and quiet heroines. Perhaps it will open your eyes that the ordinary human being is a good noble, and loving person. And why is that? It’s belief in self, faith in your fellow man which ideas flow from faith in God. This talk will be continued in two weeks. In the coming Sunday the talk will be entitled: “Thanksgiving Day.”