**November 15, 1953**

**A TALK BY MOST REVEREND PETER ADAMSKI, PASTOR OF ST STANISLAUS B.M.**

VERY REV. FR. JUSTIN – DEAR RADIO LISTENERS

It is truly a pleasure for me to speak on the Fr. Justin Rosary Hour which broadcasts Polish talks as well as Polish songs to our towns and cities where thousands of our countrymen and women receive encouragement teaches, and reminds, and paints the road to a better road to tomorrow. I take thought of the difficulty Fr. Justin undergoes in presenting such a mission – in producing one hour programs on 48 radio station – it is not an easy task. And Fr. Justin has done this for 23 years. And it wasn’t done to seek fame because today white hair covers his head. For many years he works for the Order of Franciscans, first as a parochial assistant, sometimes a pastor, and then a Provincial of the Province. Now after work in the vineyard for year, he is dedicated in the work of radio evangelization on many radio stations, a work dedicated to all of us of Polish descent in America. Many questions and problems come to the program. Sad stories of family life, tragedies of youthful families in domestic life. Sadness and despair characterizes the plea for help and a cheering up. To untangle these human problems is no easy task. Especially if the priest wishes to give good, honest, and conscientious aid. It is nothing curious, my dear folks, that in the studios of the Rosary Hour of Fr. Justin Figas sit religious, stenographers and at time religious sisters. All poke through books seeking statistics and translations. It is really a good work, a worthy undertaking for our community of Country men and women. Fr. Justin can’t expect to satisfy all of his listeners. But even though his teaching is based on the love of God and neighbor, he fosters the good and rejects evil, in our times; people want him to say only the things that are nice and not controversial. But that is neither the goal nor place for the Rosary Hour pulpit. Occasionally we have heard the sad and painful stories geared to alcoholism. How much pain and problems does alcoholism cause in families. How many tears are shed! Often we brag that we succeeded in business, in industry, or in politics, but my dear listeners, we would be two times stronger if we would us less alcohol and more learning. Fr. Justin often reminds you and teaches, often warn you about that great trouble. And neither Fr. Justin, nor I, nor any priest is jealous of that escape, and that you not avoid the joy of a relaxing moment, drink at celebrations, but by the love of God, today many young men on week-ends get under the weather, as well as the young ladies, perhaps even those who are engaged returning home late or in the early morning. My dear friends, I am a priest more than forty years and have not seen so many disturbing scenes as today. More than once, on sees a baby carriage with a child in it and a mother while the mother, in shopping dropped into a bar for a drink. It is no wonder that Fr. Justin, with heavy heart, reminds: Let us return to a saner way of life, to family life, to a sober, God-fearing life. Often mothers, wives or young ladies ask him if it is a sin to smoke cigarettes. Fr. Justin replies that it is no more a sin than drinking responsibly for relaxation, but, my dear friends, if a young husband comes home from works and finds that his wife is smoking twenty or thirty cigarettes daily, more than he does, surely that’s a sad state of affairs. Surely, that’s a shame that hard earned money goes up in smoke and that a mother and wife cuddles a baby while it is enveloped in irritating smoke. And so, my friends, who speaks of such things and who explains the dire situation? Thank God, we have Fr. Justin! Even priests who preach from the pulpit haven’t the time or energy to speak of these things. We priests, even if we wanted to talk about these problems, we do not have the time. A few days ago there was a young family visiting me and they asked: “Father Pastor why is everything so fast in America. The mass is said quickly and the sermons are very short and everything is very hectic in the factories to produce as much as possible. Life swiftly passes by.” I ask them: How was it in your parish? – O, well in our parish there three priests, and on Sunday we had three Masses. The sermon was about half hour or longer. - I reply that in our church the Masses start at 6 and last until twelve. In 45 minutes the priest needs to reach the Gospel, preach a sermon, do the announcement in regard to church societies and to finances and so it has to be done quickly. I thank God that we have Fr. Justin, who talks to the community of moral matters as well as dogmatic matters. I remember that he was talking about the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and it took two to three hours to cover the topic appropriately. And so, my friends, Fr. Justin truly dedicate his time and effort to illustrate the topic effectively which we could not manage. Fr. Justin reprimands through the medium of the radio, a serious sin or a national fault like jealousy. It is easy to expound on the faults of a neighbor, business, the doctor, and even false gossip about a priest. How often someone brags because they are self-employed and have the capability – there is often a jealousy, the national sin of those who will say: What, he is better than I am? Why should he dictate to me? Is he my leader? I am as good as he is. There is a thankful joy that this is a subject of national tendency with the idea of furthering self by education. It is a joy for Fr. Justin to expound in this National characteristic when he remind the young generation to get rid of this national sin and calls for more education. It took a lot of energy and work to build the school on the shores of Lake Erie in which are educated our Polish American youth and who graduated for further professions. But, my friends, that is insufficient. Fr. Justin calls his radio audience to send their children to be competitive in the work place. Ask our physicians – often people in hospitals need Polish nurses in order to take care of people who have serious illnesses. Our teachers teach in school teach diligently in public schools. Our secretaries in law offices get to be private secretaries who can manage the entire bureau like the lawyers. They are well credited for their efforts. We hear that in the factories the numbers of Polish engineers is increasing. Some time ago our worker was rewarded with twenty five or fifty dollars for giving something that a young Polish engineer can do the same with a higher education. My dear friends let us be thankful that we are strong, healthy capable nation. Not only in sports have our Polish boys excelled. And thanks to Fr. Justin who strove to improve their lot. Let me introduce another delicate subject – the matter of mentioning another topic. The Rosary Hour is broadcast in the Polish language. Fr. Justin speaks broadcasting in the Polish language which is not in a high style but simply and to the point in order that he be better understood and remembered. But the point is that I wanted to underscore the joy of the Polish hymns and carols that are traditionally sung at Christmas time – songs to Our Lady and the Lenten Lamentations, and the hymns of Easter. It is a festive thing for the elderly and of interest to the youth.

Not too long ago a young university student who was raised in a small town, while he was in a polish parish met a girl from Buffalo from a Polish home and stayed there for Christmas. He witnessed the breaking of the wafer, went to Church for the midnight mass, and saw with joy produced by the carols and tradition. When he returned home he was sad to say to his mother of the beauty which traditions she had not kept. That poor mother in the small town where there were only a handful of Polish families had failed to keep the traditions. My friends, who of you is not delighted to hear Fr. Justin tell of the joy of the celebrations and traditions of Christmas as a young boy in a Polish family, of which there are thousands of examples in America; kudos to him! My friends, as to the matter of language, it seems that many are of the opinion that language doesn’t matter, that we should abandon the language because it interferes with learning the English language. Let me say that as an elderly priest, let me call your attention to the explanations of Father Justin. You know my listeners that in the higher schools in America, children learn, besides English, Spanish, German and French. They receive two credits for their efforts. It’s the same in regard to the Polish language. In Buffalo, in the State of New York, Wisconsin, Illinois where there are a larger number of Polish people, there the state acknowledges, like the other languages the cultural benefits of tradition. It is easy to pick up another language. Don’t you expect you children to be fluent in their own language and hear its fluency and grammatical structure and listen to their grandpas and grandmas and correspond with them? Here in Buffalo, about a year ago a young polish lad who was eight years old in a parish school, after finishing High School, was in a contest with two million other students, girls and boys was in the company of four other students who was received by President Truman for their efforts; the Buffalo community shared his joy. Whoever wishes to work had can learn to be fluent to two languages. And this lad speaks in fluent Polish. And we have to admit his mastery of language in both tongues. I was in Florida vacationing for a while and a fellow patriot took me for a car tour of the various institutions, churches clubs etc. And he came across a large Jewish synagogue, around which were expensive cares, Lincolns and Cadillacs; I asked him what was going on. “Father Pastor,” he said, “The rich Jews, once a week, bring their children to the synagogue, to this religious building, where the children learn to sing and to recognize religious life and traditions of their people. And I say that it’s no wonder that they benefit from their efforts, and for two thousand years carry on well in upholding their traditions. So, my dear listeners do not be ashamed of your beautiful traditions, language and Polish hymns. There are other teachings on the Rosary Hour but I do not have the time to deal with them sufficiently. I hesitate take too much time to comment on this program to express my opinions. But I certainly will be grateful for the time allowed me and wish to express my gratitude. I wish to tell Fr. Justin in the saying, “Bóg zapłać”, May God Bless you for your media evangelization”. I need to express my thanks by sending a check to continue the good work. I am glad that the more than six million people who are of Polish descent can hear the good word in broadcasting in word and song. And so I say God Bless your work of evangelization and leave an envelope to support your endeavors at the Rosary Hour.