November 4, 1934

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

In July of this year in Buffalo, NY we guested hero-lieutenants Bohomolca and Swiechowski. On day the noted Father Mellerski, chaplain of the Attica, NY prison asked that I bring our guests to see the new established prison which holds about five hundred prisoners. I gladly received the invitation. We left for Attica by car. We met the head of the prison, Mr. Hunt. He graciously pointed out three prisoners, a Pole, Irishman, and Frenchman. We proceed through a long corridor: We visit the chapel, classrooms, the pharmacy and hospital. At last they bring us to the clothing factory. It was the first time I encountered something like it. Looking ahead, one sees gigantic and small machines, huge wheels, a variety of rollers, spindles of various sizes and forms. Not only thousands but millions of threads, came out of the mouth of a giant machine, and moved slowly through the rollers, amid which were threaded the lines of threads with such speed that the eye could not follow its course. One could hardly hear above the racket and loud mechanisms. The prisoners are faced with the dusty atmosphere. It is hard to breathe. Lunch was approaching. The main engineer touches an electric key and in a moment, all of the complicated machinery groans to a halt. It seemed like some magician took out his wand and the iron giants were silenced, but it was only a human might over the machine. We thanked them all for the visit and were on our way. The scene at the prison remained in my memory. Is not the whole world a similar machine, metaphorically speaking? Are not the nations of the world small and large machines? It seems that people and the spools, wheels, and spindles around which spin the threads of life, through the weeks and months and years? Behind all of this stands the Divine Engineer who with the motion of a finger moved and creates, holds or holds back all of creation. And so our title:

The World’s Caretaker

Godless men and non-believers explain everything as an accident. Lacking in the Divine dictionary is that phrase, “accident”, because one does not have such an occurrence unless by the Divine intervention. Christ himself exclaimed, “Two sparrows are not sold for money, but not one of them falls to the earth without your Father’s knowledge. All the hairs on your head are numbered. Do not be afraid then for you are worth more than many sparrows.” Take an example from our times. From the beginning of the twentieth century there spread among other especially one perverse teaching: birth control. Although the Church and the Catholic faith teach a reasonable control through abstinence and mortification, nevertheless it is absolutely averse to the pagan teaching regarding childbirth. The main argument for birth control by atheists was the fact that the population of the world is growing exponentially great and in a short while there will not be enough good to sustain the population. This is the naiveté of the human mind. It was 1914. Above the Balkans arose a small black cloud. In the blink of an eye it turned into an immense cloud, filled with thunder and lightning. It covered not only Europe but the whole world. After four years of the worldwide storm, the peaceful sun appeared, an unwise world – filled with corpses: more that thirteen million, and the crippled and disabled twenty two million. The wounded and the lost, seven million seven hundred thousand. In addition to the war in 1918 the so called influenza killed more than 300 for every one-hundred thousand in the United States. An accident? The hand of God? People broke the commandments of God, left and right. God patiently waited. Ultimately God’s wrath flooded the earth. With the guilty suffered the innocent. True, the ways of the Lord and not known but the Providence of God hovers over us.

We have a good example in the events of the current year. Despite the depression God gave us in these years extraordinary abundance. We had surpluses of wheat, oats, corn, etc. A cap was put on the production because of the surplus. Costs went sky high. Some other intellectual wisely calculated that there was also an abundance of pigs, cows, and calves. And again in 1933, in two months 6,200,000 pigs were slaughtered. They say that the government dictated the slaughter of 3,500,000 oxen, cows, calves, pigs and almost 1,000,000 sheep. Necessary? People say yes. I doubt it. Why? Those are artificial ways which never remove the source of evil. When the farmers cut the production with smaller yields or got rid of already seeded crops, while cattle were slaughtered by enormous sums, God sent a natural response: the sun beat down mercilessly on the wheat fields, cattle died on the fields because of lack of water. Prices went through the roof again. Again the humans miscounted but the Lord Creator and God hovered over His creation. I am not saying that there was a lack of good will. Economic system is just as greedy profit as the largest merciless capitalist. The economic system is the sister of the capitalist system, the system, one and the same, all for yourself for others, nothing.

Years ago, I read the story of a certain villager: After a day of hard work, he was resting. He sat in his chair smoking a pipe and thinking. He was musing and wrapped in thought. He lived through a lot, and he suffered more. He thought, “So many years I am living on this earth, and I cannot understand how everything that is happening is happening according the will and providence of God.” The poor man was so deep in thought that he fell asleep. He had a curious dream. It seemed to him that he heard the command: “Get up, go into the world, I wish to show you the will of God. A command is a command. The villager hesitated, took a cane. He went forth. The road led through the forest. He got lost. After a few hours, not able to find a road out, he shouted for help. Suddenly an unknown man stood in front of him – “Follow me for you will not find a way out by yourself. After a long hike, in the evening, they came across house whose owner greeted them graciously, “I count this day the luckiest in my life for my greatest enemy settled with me and sent me a golden trophy.” – After a comfortable night’s rest we were on our way. The villager, surprised, noted that his guide stole the expensive trophy and hid it under his coat. He was about to call attention to this thievery when he said quickly:   
Forgive him for that is the will of God.” Shortly they came across the dwelling of a rich man but a miser. His goal in life was to hoard his money. He was skimpy with his own self. He laughed at those approaching him for alms. In the end, angry at them, he told them to leave. Again the villager was surprised when he noted that his guide left the stolen golden trophy under the table of the old miser. The villager was about to berate the guide for what he had done when the guide whispered: “Quiet, it is the will of God. They proceeded onward. At sunset they spotted from afar ad fairly large house. They hurried and soon were at the doorstep. After knocking for quite some time, the owner came out and welcomed them into his house. When they sat down for dinner, the owner started to complain about his state of affairs. He had bad fortune all along the way. He labored as best he could, but it did not go well. One time there was a drought; at another, a flood, and at another disease. Now recently he had to sell his cattle and even his grain to survive from his sales. The larder was empty at home. Nothing was left for him to do but to leave with a bum’s bag over his shoulder. The guide cheered the poor guy. Leaving, he said, “God will cheer you up, good man, don’t you worry.” Leaving the house, the guide lit the thatched roof on fire.” The villager, highly disturbed began to berate the guide, but he said peacefully, “It’s the will of God.” On the evening of the third day, the came to the mansion of a wealthy farmer. He welcomed them as if they were his own. He told them his story. His sole treasure was his small son – his only son. He was willing to sacrifice his entire wealth in order to assure his son’s success. He would not want to live without him. He continued into midnight. The next morning, after breakfast, he asked his son to show a shortcut through the forest by a stream. The boy successfully showed the guests the way but on his way back, tripped on a narrow bridge and fell into the water. The villager was ready to jump into the water to save the young lad. The guide held him back saying: “Let it be, it is the will of God.” The villager could not hold himself back. Impatiently he cried out, “Surely in these instances, it is not the will of God.” The pauper lost his trophy. You stole it. You left it for the rich man. You burned the unfortunate man’s home. Always you said that it was the will of God. Certainly God does not wish misfortunes and sufferings on people. As he spoke, he did not notice that the Guide slowly changed from the form of a human being to that of an Angel. He spoke: “Sir, you want to understand how the Providence of God works? You see and understand in a human way, like a man. God, however, rules over mankind and conducts his affairs according to an eternal justice, like God. Human being cannot understand this for their power is limited and weak. The judgments of God appear to be not only unjust but ever brutal. You were witness to some event in the recent days. You have seen things that scandalized you. Let me explain all of that to you. That golden trophy which I took from the first owner was poisoned. His enemy sent it to him not as a sign of making up but to kill him. I left that trophy under the table of the rich miser. It was his just reward for his miserliness with his neighbors, and for a whole string of injustices affiliated with his hoarding. It is an example for the overly concern with wealth exemplified when gold or silver, ownership and wealth, does not insure health or lengthen life or assure peace and contentment. – I lit the poor farmers straw roof and it burnt his hut. To you it seemed an abomination, but from my viewpoint, it was the greatest good. No one knew but from many years ago, under the floor of the hut, was a treasure. The poor farmer will dig it up when he goes through the rubble of his burnt house. He will not only have money for rebuilding his house but he will have more to replace his inventory. – Lastly, you despaired at the death of the young boy in the waters of the stream. Neither you nor others had the knowledge that the father was one of the biggest criminal on earth. He hid from the eyes of people and he outwitted worldly justice. However he did not elude the knowledge of his Creator who judges him for his deeds. His son would have gone his path when he grew up. He would become a thief and a murderer. His death therefore was premature and he will be able to intercede before God for his father. Up till now even though you daily recited the Lord’s prayer and repeatedly prayed, “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, you could not understand that the will of God circulates in the midst of humanity, that it can be seen in the events of human beings despite what seems to be reality in our minds. Know better in the future. Remember that the Creator God watches over the events of mankind and directs their ways according to an eternal wisdom and not to the changing ways of man.” After the explanation, the angel disappeared and the villager awoke. He no longer complained. He curiously looked at the perversions of man but he admired the Providence of God; even human anger ultimately comes out for the good and happiness of man.

A Sunday Paper was published in Lwów. In 1906 it related the following story: “To John Sobczyk from Marawice came Borek, a trader in grain from Brzezin, to order a cartload of grain. Night was near and so he decided to stay at the Sobczyks. In order to safeguard his money he gave his host three hundred rubles which he had on himself. He situated himself on the floor for a night’s rest. However, something about the Sobczyks disquieted him and so he asked to spend the night in the shed. They prepared the shed for him. The trader went in the shed but instead of the place they prepared for him, he went into the loft. In the meantime, the son of the Sobczyks came from a drinking bout at the bar and saw the prepared place for the trader, laid down to sleep it off. The startled trader sat in the corner listening to the snoring of the drunkard. After some time, the snoring came back It unsettled the buyer. The trader spotted two figures. It was the owner and his wife. They were consulting each other. The owner spoke: “He is fast asleep. Take the ax and hit him in the head and if he is still moving, I will finish him off. Amid the rays of the moon, the woman took the ax in hand. The sound of the strike echoed. The sleeping figure groaned one and twice - the–body rose and fell and was still. Sounds indicated the murderers had gone. Having avoided the Sobczyk’s plan to kill him, he escaped through the straw roof of the shed and journeyed to the mayor of Morawiec. The mayor in the company of guards went to the Sobczyk’s residence. After a long rapping on the door, they opened the door. – “Where is the trader?” asked the mayor? “What trader? I haven’t seen any trader” Sobczyk yawned as if to say he had just gotten up. The mayor answered, “The one who gave you the three hundred rubbles and who slept in your shed.” The husband wanted to give excuses but then admitted to the crime. The husband claimed that his wife talked him into it and the wife put the blame on the husband. By the bright light of torches the husband and wife acknowledged that they had murdered their own child. An accident? I rather believe that it was the just hand of the Providence of God.

Several months ago I was in Wilkes-Barre on parish help. Many poor people came to me with complaints about their misfortunes. The area was suffering a great bout with unemployment. Add to those personal problems of conscience and other spiritual matters and the situation was sad and foreboding. Among those was one who came with tears in his eyes claiming that he was the eldest in the family and with his death the name will cease to exist because he failed to have any children. I quoted to him the words of the leader Czarnecki: “The most just God is unerring in his judgment; he knows very well what he is doing. Is it possible that every son can worthily carry on the name. Most of the time, the sons are indolent on passing the name. It is possible that it would be not a good idea. I demonstrated that may fathers curse their sons, that they ruined the family name which up to that time was good. How many mothers bewail their daughters thankfulness and disobedience, which traveling the crooked road, break their hearts. He calmed himself saying, “God’s will be done.”

In the book of Ecclesiastic us in chapter 15, we read: “If you will want to keep the commandments, behave and keep the faith. Put before you water and fire, make your choice. There exists for man life and death, good and evil; whatever the choice, it will be given. The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him and He knows all the exigencies of man. He commanded no one to do evil and he gave no time for sinning for he desires not many unbelieving and useless sons. In the above sentences we have presented examples of the will of God and the free will of man. Unless we put in order our weak and vacillating will – the will of God will always be one and the same, powerful, unbreakable and consistent, and then all will be well. If however the will of man stands contrary to the will of God a problem is created. With the cross are sufferings, tears and complaints. Demonstration of this truth is present in today’s nations of the world. Russia, Germany, and Mexico stand at the foreground, once and for all, wishing to rid themselves of the will of God. Persecutions without mercy, tortures, prisons, spilling brotherly love and death. Suspicion, hatred, revenge, disagreement and war in minds and hearts. It seems that it cannot be like that always. Helpless and miserable people try to change. They wish to break the bonds between heaven and earth. Fruitless is their striving and empty their effort because “who is there like our God who is in his heaven and looks upon the things of earth.

To all recalcitrant we quote Joseph of Egypt: “Not by your counsel but by God’s will that I am sent here in order that the Will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven.”