November 5, 1950

Dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, I greet you with the words: Praised is Jesus Christ

Today we begin, thanks be to God, the twentieth season of broadcasting of our radio under the name of “Fr. Justin’s Rosary Hour. From 1930 to the current year, regularly and without a break, on the first Sunday in November, on your radios, the well-known Polish greeting: “Niech Będzie Pochwalony!” That greeting known to you all, echoed in your homes for twenty six Sundays. Will it survive this season? I myself don’t know. I hope with the help of the Lord, and the help and support of our listeners, it will! Looking back at the passing years, the Rosary Hour it made it without a break and didn’t fall by the wayside. Difficulties, glitches, and doubt and fears from many directions; sometimes from angry people or from people with a smile on their faces and digging a grave for the Rosary hour with pen and suspicious press criticism of various kinds. But looking at the broadcasting seasons, the Rosary Hour endured it all but kept seeding the Catholic faith, American and Catholic. I have hope that the same will hold true with our current season always under the aegis of God’s Providence and the great support of our listeners. As you well know our program is for our people, a good people precious as gold. Not too long ago, a seemingly learned person claimed that the program spoke to the common man. I smiled at the comment, for whom else should I have geared it to? I myself come from a common family and a honest family not corrupted by fame. I am a Franciscan; I entered an order to work for all, but above all, for the common man, whom God created a lot of, the common man but down to earth and as good as gold. Besides this is our intelligence, our sons and daughters of Ffor all to understand. The talks will concern themselves around life’s themes, actual and real. It will be down to earth and not among the stars. Fear not, I will not throw lightning bolts and blast thunder, but will come to you with humility, gentleness and a Franciscan goodness, always with the wisdom of St. Augustine: “in things needing unity; in things with freedom in the doubtful, and in all things – love. After this introduction on to our talk, under the title:

“LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?”

The Lord, in his ministry seeking souls, went to the people, and did not expect people to come to Him. After all, he was a Shephard and a Good Shephard at that. And so not minding troubles and discomfort, He travelled from place to place, in order to teach, to comfort, to heal and to uplift. One day He found himself in a tiny hamlet near Lake Genesaret. He went into a people filled temple and began to teach them. He began with the words: “I am the Word of Life.” And he explained the phrase. The audience however did not understand this new teaching, up to this time, unheard of. There were people who had a weak faith. They whispered one to another: “This is a hard teaching; who can understand it? Many listeners left Christ, and no long walked with Him. At the sight of this, tears came to the countenance of the Lord; He turned to his twelve apostles and asked sorrowfully: “And you, you also, will you to leave me?” Simon Peter then asked: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words to eternal life? We believe and have come to know that you are the Christ, the Son of God!” Do these words written with the pen of the evangelist, John, two thousand years ago not write about the thoughts and behavior of mankind in this twentieth century? A sage wrote: “There is nothing new under the sun!” Further: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!” Generation after generation passes away! The sun rises and the sun sets, and returns to its place and then rises tends to noon. It makes its way again to the sea. The eye does not exhaust its seeing or the ear with orbits. All rivers glow to the sea and the sea does not empty itself but goes into the land and flows back sound. What was, will be! And no one can say: “Behold, this is new!” We repeat the centuries that were and still come. No one remember the first things or the last things to come. I have seen everything under the sun and all is vanity and worrisome to the soul! I have done great works, I built my house and planted the vine yard , began gardens and planted various orchards; I had many servants, had herds of sheep, more than anyone else who were before me in Jerusalem. I gathered silver and gold and had treasures of kings and nations. I had possession of everything that I saw and wanted, desired; I had great pleasure in my possession; I delighted what my hands had wrought, I had experienced the vanity. Nothing endures on earth; all is vanity of vanities. I looked upon wisdom and idiocy. What is man, I said, if he could imitate being a King, his creator. I saw under the sun in judgements way – Godlessness. I thought to myself God will judge the just and the unjust. I said to the sons of men: in order that God may enlighten them, because all are subject to vanity and all things go to one place; from earth the come and into earth they shall return. – I turned to other things and I saw again, which are of the earth. The tears of the innocent have no one to help; they have no helper to complain to. I praised the dead rather than the living and as the most fortune the one who still was not born and did not see the evil which is accomplished under the sun. Be aware of your feet when you head to the house of God; come closer so that you may hear; far better is obedience rather than the sacrifices of the idiot who knows not that he does evil. There is another evil which I have seen under the sun and under the human domain; a husband to whom God has given riches, treasures, and fame; so that he lacks none of the things he wanted; yet God does not grant him over to partake of them, but a stranger devours them. This is vanity and a dire plague. What does it profit a man to seek great things above him since he does not know what is useful for his life, in the days for he journey in life as time passes by like a shadow. Do not say “what is the reason that days of yore were better than they are now, because that is foolish to ask such a question. Look at the affairs of God; no one can fix the wrong which the Lord disdains. On a good day partake of the good things, and beware of the evil day for God made both so that justice would prevail. For He saw the days of my travail; the just is lost in his own justice and the wise man and the godless lives in his own anger. Do not be overly just, or give more than necessary in order not to go crazy. Do not do evil and don’t be foolish in order that you do not die before your time. Whoever obeys the commandments, will not participate in the wrong doing. There is a right time, an appropriate moment; and great is the trouble of the man who isn’t aware of the past and the future he does not know yet. In time a man rules over another to his error. I have seen the godless buried on holy ground those who, while they lived, were praised in the place as just in their deeds. But that is a vanity also. God does not often give judgment against evil; the sons of men still, romp in their anger. There is still another futility which occurs on earth: the just who are enveloped in evil, and as if they were acting wrongly are acting wrongly but make it appear as if they were doing good. I regarded all of this in my heart, in order that I might understand its import. There are the just and the wise, but their actions are in the hands of God and surely man does not know whether he is worthy of love or hate. But all of the things coming in the future is not known, and doubtful since it all comes upon him, the just and the unjust, on the good as well as the evil, the clean and the unclean, on those who sacrifice themselves or look down upon it.; on the liar as well as on one who tells the truth. That is what the worst of it is: that everything that all men are drawn to cynicism in life. Even if man lives a hundred years and was happy with all the events, he remembers dark and lengthy days in his life. The truth of the creator’s words is proven by the history of the world and the history of mankind. The borders of nations are altered, cultures change, governments change, and man’s teachings change, religions change; the works of the Lord do not change; the Word is eternal. Christ and His teachings do not change; the soul is and will be. There is nothing new under the sun. Christ came into a world of hate and “eye for an eye” and “tooth for a tooth” to build a religion of love, man for man. It is why he preached the love of God and neighbor, a new teaching, not known and not understood. Christ backed up his teaching by his deeds. In spite of this, Christs teaching was regarded by people as revolutionary, harsh and misunderstood. The people abandoned Him. They refused to believe him; some shook their heads and said, “He doesn’t know what He is saying!” Others were taken aback by his words, laughed and accused Him of blaspheming. Bored disappointed they returned to their trades and trouble, sighing to traditional pots of garlic and onions! They refused to believe that Christ is the life, the truth, and a physician of souls. Only Peter had the courage to speak publicly, "Lord, to whom shall we go; You have the words of eternal life, and we believe in you.” - There is nothing new under the sun. History repeats itself! In the annals of mankind, in the lives of private persons, the sad scene was repeated in Capernaum and is repeated in contemporary times! Often an entire nation either under the pretext of patriotism or better and more specifically, in the name of archpatriotism or some other banner, which in the minds of perverted humanity from misdirected nobility calls out, “These are hard teachings of the Nazarean to believe in; we do not believe them and we will not believe them. Then these and similar nations abandon Christ’s teachings, or water them down, make fun of them, and remove Christ from their souls. As a result of this, many generations are brought up without God, religion, or His teaching. The become jungles of animals. Cruising throughout they faithless kingdoms they are bereft of honor, bandits, barbarians in the view of whom human beings are simply animals, often worthless than a mule or horse. One can cite the example of the Goth or Visigoths and Vandals who filled Europe ruining completely nations and dragging their citizens into slavery. The vastness of these kingdoms need not be touched upon. We need not comment on this. It is sufficient to look into letters written about the events of the Second World War. A set of Siamese Twins, like the third Reich at the end of the First World War, in the manner of Hitler and the Russians mobilized their efforts against Christ. Germany. They substituted the German cross into the swastika. And the broken cross became the symbol of the German nation. The Communists replaced Christ with Judas and cross with the hammer and sickle. Both claimed that the teachings of Christ made people, weak, bankrupt and more significantly made them peace loving, just and merciful. And that didn’t jive with their program and national goals. They took energetically to eradicating the teachings of Christ from their underlings. They supplanted the teachings of Christ with principles of hatred, revenge and terrorism. They brought up legions of neo-pagan, barbarians, and non-believers. And those graduated into those teachings, the teachings of the swastika and the hammer and sickle – so-called saviors of mankind, brought acts of destruction, as yet not seen by mankind from the beginnings of the earth. They constructed concentration camps, gas chambers, labor camps, and crematoria. In such area of execution were played out scenes which chilled the blood the blood in human beings. These were places which were changed into not only purgatories but into hell on earth on whose gateways were written the words, “There is no hope here, no liberation!” And in these camps, arbitrarily and independently they circulated and crazed as vultures and jackals in forms arch-people who lost human features. No tongue could properly describe the aimless, horrific, terrible the barbarism of the henchmen on the offerings of the camps. Luckily the tyrannical officials and the brutal activity of the henchmen ceased. The slaughter ended in slaughter and defeat. However Communism still haunted the world. This disgusting, smelly reptile, presses itself into every nook. This fertile father of various lies and deception maims the people minds. This reptile who wars with the teaching of Engel, Marx, and Osypa Dżugaszwila. This ungodly triumvirate shames and lowers the human being and kills his worthiness. It destroys within him in his worth and honor as a being of God. Who knows, if there was ever on earth so much doubt, so much confusion, so much sorrow and worry, so much dissatisfaction, so much lack of peace as we have in our day. Wherever we look we see peaceful people, smiling, satisfied. Instead wherever on turns, wherever the eye sees, people look like manikins or robots. Lined forehead, lips crooked with pain, saddened faces, convulsive mannerisms, nervous behavior, noisy and grating speech. Speak to any good person and you will be convinced that all seek happiness, peace and satisfaction. You will be convinced as you seek that everyone complains about suffering, worries, sadness and anxiety. How can we explain this mysterious riddle? With this plain fact that people forget that they are children of God, that the creator is near them, but they are far from God! God help us, I do not judge anyone of ill will. However, we should remember that the human is a weak creature and for whatever reason falls into carelessness, and lets one’s self be taken up by the world’s tide and he is driven by impulses of the mind and the heart, and often, for a variety of reasons, falls into indifference, and is carried away by the speeding current World. It all ends in a catastrophe and difficulties. It is also the reason people are drawn to bury their talents and important time and are occupied with things which do not give them peace of time; they do not build gifted ways but ruin their precious lives. Believe and battle! Christianity posits the goal of our lives: a goal which we ought to strive for. We ought to work and bear our difficulties through noble lives, dedicating them through noble efforts following noble ideals, conquering evil, laziness, lack of initiatives given to us by God.” In order to succeed we ought to pray to God, becoming a hymn to our Creator. We should stop dictating to God and ask “Lord where are we to go? You have the words of eternal life! We believe you are the Son of God!” Let us remember that Christ is the physician, the Way, the Truth and the Life.