

# Text of Pontiff's Appeal For Spiritual Crusade To Avert 'Road To Ruin'

(Radio-NCWO News Service)

Vatican City — Following is an English translation of the Pope's radio address to the faithful of Rome calling for a "mighty reawakening" of Christians throughout the world.

This fatherly exhortation, beloved sons and daughters of Rome, comes to you from Our heart—from Our heart which is troubled on the one hand over the prolongation, without any definite clarification, of the danger-

ous situation of the world around us, and on the other, by a far too widespread listlessness which prevents many from undertaking that return to Jesus Christ, the Church, and the Christian way of life, which We have often singled out as the decisive remedy for the universal crisis which is agitating the world. But the confidence that We shall find in you the comfort of understanding as well as determined readiness for action has moved Us to open Our heart to you.

Today, give heed to a rousing call from the lips of your Father and Shepherd, from Us who cannot remain mute and inert before a world which is unconsciously walking paths which sweep on to ruin both souls and bodies, the good and the wicked, civilizations and peoples. The realization of Our responsibility before God obliges Us to attempt everything, to undertake everything, in order to spare the human race so frightful a disaster.

TO SHARE with you these anxieties of Ours, We have chosen the eve of tomorrow's Feast of the Virgin of Lourdes (February 11), because it commemorates the miraculous apparition which, almost 100 years ago, in that century of rationalistic aberration and religious depression, were the merciful answer of God and His Heavenly Mother to the rebellion of men, an irresistible summons back to the supernatural, and the first step towards a progressive religious renaissance.

And what Christian heart, no matter how lukewarm and thoughtless, could resist the voice of Mary? Certainly not the hearts of Romans, not the hearts of you who, along with the faith of the martyrs, have inherited, as a legacy handed down through long centuries, a spirit of filial affection for Mary, invoked under venerable images inscribed in stone bearing such eloquent and loving titles as "Salus Populi Romani" (Salvation of the Roman People), "Virtus Romanae Securitas" (Strength of Roman Security), and the more recent one of "Mother of Divine Love."

All of these titles are monuments to a constant devotion to Mary and, in an even truer sense, are sweet echoes of a history of proven interventions of the Virgin in public calamities which shook the ancient walls of this city of Rome, always preserved intact through her power.

NOW YOU ARE aware that the dangers at present threatening this generation are much more widespread and grave than pestilence and the convulsions of nature, even though their continuing threat has begun to make the nations almost insensible and apathetic.

Might not this, perhaps, be the most unfortunate symptom of the interminable and undiminished crisis which strikes fear into minds which face reality? Therefore, having had recourse once again to the goodness of God and the mercy of Mary, each one of the faithful and every man of good will must re-examine, with a courage worthy of the great moments of human history, what he can and must do personally as his own contribution to the saving power of God, in order to help a world which is started, as it is today, on the road to ruin.

religious lukewarmness of so many, in the low moral tone of public and private life, in systematic efforts to poison simple minds, to which poison is given after their understanding of true liberty has, so to speak, been drugged. All this cannot leave good men motionless where they are, listless spectators of an onrushing future.

Even the Holy Year, which brought on a prodigious flowering of Christian life, unfolding first in your midst and then spreading out over the entire world, should not be regarded merely as a brilliant but fleeting meteor, nor as a momentary obligation long since fulfilled. Rather should it be viewed as a first promising step towards the complete restoration of the spirit of the Gospel which, in addition to smothering millions of souls from eternal ruin, is the thing which can assure the peaceful co-existence and fruitful collaboration of peoples.

NOW IS THE TIME, beloved children! Now is the time to take decisive steps and shake off this fatal lethargy! It is time for all good men, for all who are concerned over the destinies of the world, to recognize one another and tighten their ranks. It is time to repeat with the Apostle: "Hora est jam nos de somno surgere" (Rom. 13, 11). "It is now the hour for us to rise from sleep, because now our salvation is near!"

It is an entire world which must be rebuilt from its foundations, transformed from savage to human, from human to divine, that is to say, according to the heart of God. Millions of men are pleading for a change of course as they look towards the Church of Christ who, with all due respect for human liberty, can take the lead in so vast an undertaking. Her guidance is asked with explicit words and, even more, through tears which have been shed, through wounds which smart, through men pointing to the endless cemeteries which organized and militant hate has spread over the continents.

How could We, placed by God, despite Our unworthiness, as a torch in the darkness, as the salt of the earth, and as shepherd of the Christian flock, refuse to accept this saving mission? Just as, on a day now long passed, and because such was God's will, We accepted the heavy cross of the pontificate, so also We now bow to the arduous duty of being, in so far as Our weak strength permits, the herald of a better world willed by God, and whose standard We yearn to pass on first of all to you, beloved children of Rome, to you who are nearest to Us, who are entrusted in a more special manner to Our care, and who by that very fact are also set up as flaming lights on candelabra, as a heaven among your brethren, and a city built on a mountain — to you, from whom others rightfully expect greater courage

and more generous readiness for action.

RECEIVE WITH a noble spirit of dedication, recognizing it as a call from God and as a worthy rule of life, the holy charge which your shepherd and Father today entrusts to you: to launch a mighty reawakening of thought and action.

This reawakening is a duty for everyone without exception — clergy and people, those in authority, families, groups, individuals — along the entire front of the complete renewal of Christian life along the line of the defense of moral values, in the realization of social justice, in the reconstruction of the Christian order, in such a way that the outward face of the city of Rome, which since the apostolic times has been the center of the Church, may soon shine forth brilliant with holiness and beauty.

May this city, upon which every age has imprinted its mark of glorious achievements, since become the heritage of all peoples, receive from this age and from her own inhabitants the crowning glory of being the promoter of the common salvation at a time when opposing forces are contending for the world. Such is what Christian peoples look for from her, and above all they await action.

OF WHAT USE would it be to study the ways of God and of the spirit, if in practice one were to choose the way of perdition and to submit supinely to the god of the flesh? What would it avail to know and to proclaim that God is Our Father and that men are brothers, if every intervention of God in private and public affairs were to be feared? Of what value would be disputes on justice, on charity, on peace, if the will were already resolved to flee sacrifice, if the heart were determined to remain in icy solitude and if none were to dare to be the first to break through the barrier of dividing hate to hasten to offer a sincere embrace? All this would but render more guilty the sons of light to whom less

will be forgiven, if they have loved less.

It was not with such disunity and inertia that the Church in its very beginning changed the face of the earth, spread rapidly, ennobled beneficently down the centuries and gained the admiration and trust of all peoples.

Let it be very clear, beloved sons, that the root of modern evils and of their baneful consequences is not, as in pre-Christian times or in regions yet pagan, invincible ignorance of the eternal destiny of man and of the principal means of attaining it. Rather is it lethargy of the spirit, weakness of the will, and coldness of the heart.

Men, infected by such contagion, try as if in justification to cloak themselves with the darkness of the past and seek an excuse in error, both old and new. It is necessary, therefore, to act upon their wills.

May the action, to which We call the pastors and the faithful today, reflect that of God. May it be illuminating and unifying, generous and loving.

FOR THIS purpose, then, facing up to the actual state of your and Our city, make sure that the needs are well defined, that the objectives are clear, that the available forces are well calculated, so that the present initial resources are not neglected because unknown, nor squandered in secondary activities. Let those of good will be invited. Let them offer themselves spontaneously.

Let their law be that of unconditional fealty to the person of Jesus Christ and to His teachings. Let their offering of themselves be humble and obedient. Let their labor enter as an active element into the great current, which God shall set in motion and direct through His ministers.

For this purpose We invite Our Venerable Brother, the Cardinal Vicar, to assume the supreme direction of this regenerating and saving action in the Diocese of Rome. We are certain that there will not be lacking, either in numbers or quality, generous hearts who shall hasten to Our call and put into action Our earnest desire.

called to a suitable assignment, to an appropriate service, to a measure of work corresponding to the urgent necessity of defense, of victory, of positive construction.

Thus Rome shall relive her centuries-old mission of spiritual teacher of peoples, not merely as it was and is, by reason of the Chair of Truth, which God has established in her midst, but by the example of her people; once again fervent in faith, exemplary in morals, one in the fulfillment of religious and civil duties and, if it please the Lord, prosperous and happy.

WE SINCERELY hope that this mighty awakening, to which We today exhort you, fostered without delay and tenaciously executed according to the pattern marked out, which others can develop in detail, shall be immediately imitated in other dioceses, near and far, so that Our eyes shall see not only cities, but nations, continents, the entire human race return to Christ.

Let the hand, then, be put to the plow. May God, Who desires it so much, move you, may the nobility of the undertaking attract you. May its urgency stimulate you. May the justifiable fear of the terrible future, which would result from a culpable indolence, vanquish every hesitation and determine every will.

The prayers of the humble and the little ones, objects of

your most tender solicitude, the sufferings accepted and offered by the afflicted shall support you. The example and the intercession of the martyrs and saints, who consecrated his soil, shall fortify your endeavors.

THE MOST HOLY Virgin will bless and multiply the happy results for which We ardently pray. We have no doubt but that she, who at all times was ever ready to extend a protective hand over her people of Rome, will in these days, make felt her maternal protection for the sons, who showed such affectionate devotion during her recent glorification and whose loud Hosannas still resound in this sky of Rome.

Finally, may the paternal Apostle Benediction be a comfort and a support to you—a blessing, which We impart with overflowing tenderness of soul to all of you who bear Us, to your families, to your labors and to this Eternal City, whose faith, from the time of the Apostle, has been proclaimed in the whole world (cf. Rom. 18) and whose Christian greatness, beacon of truth, of love and of peace shines through the centuries, Amen.

Friary For Portugal Oporto, Portugal (NC)—The newly-formed Portuguese province of the Dominicans has announced that a friary will be built there at a cost of \$25,000. The State will contribute \$18,000 from the Unemployment Fund towards the project.

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**FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH. A DOLLAR FOR THE MISSIONS BRINGS YOU OUR INTERESTING PAMPHLETS.**

**JUST A LEGEND?**

Was St. Dismas, the Good Thief, once the leprous baby cured by the Christ Child? Write for "TWO FACES", which we gladly send to all who add a mite to our DAMIEN LEPEL FUND. The Sisters of St. Joseph at Shively, Ind., depend on us for the monthly support of their outcast leper. Christ healed the leper.

**GOD'S WANT AD—CLASSIFIED:** From Said, the poorest section of Lebanon, come two touching appeals—SARADA, with 300 Catholics in area almost entirely Moslem, begs for its humble chapel \$500 for chapel furnishings, among them the ciborium holding the Communion host, costing \$10, a crucifix and candlesticks costing \$30, and sacred vestments, every color, costing \$18—MARDJAYOUNE, with 400 souls in the same Moslem density, asks \$500 for the same sacred purpose. Among the sacred articles needed are altar linens \$15, sanctuary lamp \$15, altar \$75. **WONT YOU ANSWER, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, GOD'S WANT AD?**

**THERESITA AND THERESINA**

Both these Indian girls are novices with the Poor Clares at Kalloorinlam, Travancore. Each needs \$300 for her two years' training. Can you make one your adopted daughter? Their names both mean "Little Theresia" and when you write, ask for our poem-prayer on the Little Flower, "The Unpetalled Rose".

**WONT YOU HELP TO MAKE THE BIGGEST HEADLINES ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN? WE SEND "HEADLINES IN HEAVEN" TO ALL WHO GIVE TOWARDS THE NEW SHRINE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, WHICH WE HOPE TO BUILD FOR THE SISTERS OF THE DESSTITUTE AT ALWAYE, INDIA.**

**"EMINENT DIGNITY"**

The humble preacher once preached before a King of France on the eminent dignity of Christ's poor. We are worried that we shall not have much for the priests and Sisters of Palestine for our Easter distribution. Please help us. For \$10 we can provide a food package. Any gift helps.

**A STRINGLESS GIFT HAS STRINGS ATTACHED FOR DEVOTED MISSIONARIES MUST PRAY FOR YOU EVERY DAY.**

**"OLD FRIENDS ARE THE BEST FRIENDS"**

There is FATHER HENRY AYROUT, S.J., who runs 150 schools for the abandoned children of Egypt. We can never grow tired of asking \$5 for the galabeyas, the little white uniforms in which he clothes his little tots.

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