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## **Jasna Góra - A Brief History**

- 1382, August 9th - Władysław Duke of Opole founded Pauline Monastery in Częstochowa.
- 1384, August 31st - first documented note about the Image of Our Lady in the Pauline church in Częstochowa.
- 1388 - the name Jasna Góra (Latin - *Clarus Mons*) appeared for the first time in a document issued by the starost of the Olsztyn district.
- 1393 - the property of the monastery was enlarged by a funding document issued by King Władysław Jagiełło
- 1430 - robbery and iconoclastic attack on Jasna Góra. The Icon was severely damaged.
- 1430 - 1434 - by an order of King Jagiełło the Icon was renovated in Cracow and then ceremoniously returned to Jasna Góra.
- 1466 - the army of Czech king - George from Pobierady robbed the town and the monastery, but the Icon remained undamaged.
- 1474 - King Kazimierz Jagiellończyk, admitted to the membership in Pauline confraternity in Skalka (the famous Pauline church in Cracow) in 1472, made a pilgrimage to Jasna Góra with his son Kazimierz - later saint - and his whole family.
- 1496 - the sanctuary on Jasna Góra received the privilege of "apostolic confessors" from Pope Alexander VI - four Paulines received a wider range of jurisdiction for the Sacrament of Penance.

- 1514 - King Zygmunt Stary thanked Our Lady on Jasna Góra for his victory at Orsza.
- 1550 (circa) - a musical group (choir and orchestra) began its performances; it formed an important centre of Polish musical culture for four centuries.
- 1577 - Bishop Stanisław Karnkowski ordered the construction of fortifications around the monastery.
- 1582 - Antonio Possevino, the legate of Pope Gregory XIII sent to King Stefan Batory, impressed by the number of pilgrims called Jasna Góra - the Polish Loretto.
- 1621 - King Zygmunt III Waza surrounded the sanctuary with fortifications, Jasna Góra became a fortress.
- 1638 - King Władysław IV laid the foundation for further defences of the fortress.
- 1655 - the siege of Jasna Góra by the Swedish army. The defence of the fortress, under the command of Father Augustyn Kordecki, had little military importance but played significant role in uniting the Polish nation against the enemy. Jasna Góra became a symbol of Polish invincibility and independence of spirit.
- 1656 - King Jan Kazimierz took a ceremonial vow in Lvov's Cathedral, calling the Mother of God - the Queen of the Polish Crown.
- 1657 - King Jan Kazimierz came to Jasna Góra for thanksgiving services for the salvation of the country. Since then Jasna Góra has been called "the Mountain of Victory".
- 1682, September 8th - Jasna Góra celebrated the 300 year anniversary of its service to the Church and Poland, about 140 thousand pilgrims took part in it.
- 1683 - King Jan III Sobieski prayed at Jasna Góra before and after his victory at Vienna, he brought his battle trophies there.
- 1702 - the Swedish army (8 hundred soldiers) besieged Jasna Góra for ten days without result.
- 1704 - next unsuccessful siege of Jasna Góra by the Swedish army.
- 1705 - next siege of Jasna Góra by the Swedes.

- 1711 - the first walking pilgrimage started from the Warsaw Pauline Church of the Holy Spirit. It was organised by Paulines and the Confraternity of Jesus with Five Wounds. It has been organised continuously since then.
- 1717, September 8th - the coronation of the Icon with papal crowns (sent by Pope Clement XI). The coronation was performed by, Bishop of Chełm, Krzysztof Szembek. About 200 thousand pilgrims took part.
- 1718 - Pope Clement XI confirmed the Archiconfraternity of the Coronation of the Mother of God created at Jasna Góra.
- 1764 - the Sejm approved the document confirming that Poland "*is devoted to Our Lady of the Miraculous Image in Częstochowa and gains Her protection in its needs*".
- 1771 - Kazimierz Pułaski with Bar Confederates repelled the attack of the Moscow army under General Drewicz.
- 1772 - the Jasna Góra fortress was surrendered to the Moscow army by order of King Stanisław August Poniatowski.
- 1793 - the controversy at Sejm Grodzieński whether the Icon should stay at Jasna Góra (in the Prussian sector of Polish territory) or be removed to free Cracow. Finally, the Icon remained in Częstochowa.
- 1806 - Colonel Miaskowski (sent by General Jan Henryk Dąbrowski) captured the fortress, occupied by the Prussians, by ruse.
- 1809 - the Austrian corps unsuccessfully besieged Jasna Góra defended by a Polish company.
- 1813 - Józef Poniatowski with the rest of his army left Jasna Góra, Moscow soldiers entered the fortress. By an order of Tsar Alexander I bastions were destroyed.
- 1817 - celebration of the centenary of the Icon's coronation, over 125 hundred pilgrims came from all parts of Poland.
- 1830 - Jasna Góra offered financial and help and prayers to the November Uprising.
- 1834 - Tsar Nikolas I, to show Europe his tolerance, permitted the rebuilding of the bastions which remain to this day.

- 1859 - the monument of Father Augustyn Kordecki - the heroic defender of “*independent spirit and conscience*” was built on Jasna Góra.
- 1863 - the image of the Queen from Jasna Góra appeared on Uprising banners, the Paulines gave financial and moral support to the January Uprising, few of them even took part in the fight.
- 1882 - the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the Icon at Jasna Góra. Despite repression, about 400 thousand pilgrims gathered in Częstochowa.
- 1906, August 15<sup>th</sup> - Polish people came to Jasna Góra in the National Pilgrimage (about 500 thousand people), they brought the Queen of Poland “the highest votive offering” - the rebuilt and modernised church tower (1902 - 1906).
- August 29<sup>th</sup> - the first celebration of the Feast of Our Lady from Jasna Góra confirmed by Pope Pius X (4/13/1904).
- 1910, May 22<sup>nd</sup> - the second coronation of the Icon, after the robbery of the crowns in 1909, with the diadems donated by Pope Pius X; about 500 thousand pilgrims gathered for the Feast.
- 1913 - the consecration of monumental Way of the Cross around Jasna Góra.
- 1920 - Cardinals Edmund Dalbor and Aleksander Kakowski from Polish Episcopate thanked at Jasna Góra for the rebirth of Poland and they again chose Virgin Mary as the Queen of Poland.
- 1925 -1926 - conservation of the Icon.
- 1932 - the jubilee of 550<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of the installation of the Icon at Jasna Góra in the presence of the President of Polish Republic, Ignacy Mościcki.
- 1936, May 24<sup>th</sup> - All - Polish Pilgrimage of Academic Youth in which about 20 thousand students took part (52% of Polish students). They promised to form Polish social and political life following the spirit of the *Gospel*. It started other All - Polish Pilgrimages organised for different groups (according to sex, age and occupation).
- August 24 - 26 - the First Plenary Synod of the Polish Church on Jasna Góra - the meeting of Pope's Legate Cardinal F. Marmaggi, the whole Polish Episcopate and bishops of three Confessions.

- 1939 - on the fourth day of the Second World War the Nazis demanded that the monastery authorities should deny reports of devastation of Jasna Góra. Attacks against the worship of the "Black Madonna" appeared in Germany in 1937.
- 1940 - Hans Frank, the chief of German-occupied Poland, wrote in his diary on March 2nd: "*When all the lights that shined for Poland went out, there was still the Saint from Częstochowa and the Church*". During the war Jasna Góra was a shelter for all those in need. Everything in the monastery escaped destruction: the Image (which was hidden during the war), the treasury and the archives. And although collective pilgrimages were forbidden, individual pilgrims still reached Jasna Góra.
- 1944 - the Nazis tried to remove treasures of Jasna Góra and important records from the Warsaw National Archives to Wrocław.
- 1946 - Cardinal August Hlond together with the Polish Episcopate dedicated the Polish Church to the Immaculate Heart of Virgin Mary (1000 thousand pilgrims).
- 1948 - conservation and scientific examination of the Icon.
- 1956, August 26th - National Vows on Jasna Góra made by thousands of pilgrims according to the text written in prison by Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. The vows became the priestly program of the so-called Great Novena which was preparing Polish believers for the Thousandth Anniversary of the Baptism of Poland.
- 1957, August 26th - in the presence of Primate of Poland Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, an inauguration of the Peregrination of the Icon Copy through all Polish parishes took place.
- 1962 - 1965 - Jasna Góra became the centre of Polish Church prayers for the benefit of the Second Vatican Council.
- 1966, May 3rd - Main Ceremonies of Thousandth Anniversary of the Baptism of Poland, Primate of Poland Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and the Polish Episcopate made ceremonial vows in the Act of Submission to the Maternal Servitude of Mary, the Mother of the Church, for freedom of the Christian Church.
- 1969, July 26th - Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński inaugurated apostolic movement "Assistants of the Church's Mother".

1971 - the Polish Episcopate prayed for the entire world. Act of Committing the World to the Virgin Mary - the Mother of the Church.

1976, January 1st - Jasna Góra and Polish Church began preparations for the 600<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, six years of gratitude for six centuries of the presence of Virgin Mary of Jasna Góra among the Polish nation.

1979 - the first pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II confirmed the strong connection between Polish worship of the Virgin Mary and Jasna Góra. The Pope made Act of Dedicating the Church and his service to the Virgin Mary.

1980, August 26th - Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland preached a sermon on the bastions of Jasna Góra - "Responsibility, duties, rights in the life of the Nation". In the meantime, tense dialogue between striking workers and representatives of the authorities took place in Gdańsk - Solidarity was emerging.

1980, September 12 - 15 - the last visit of the Primate of the Millennium at Jasna Góra connected with the Conference of Polish Episcopate in which the Delegation of the German Bishops Conference participated (with three cardinals from West Germany).

1981, August 13 - 15 - Feast of the Assumption at Jasna Góra under command of the Primate of Poland, Archbishop Józef Glemp. Over 150 thousand pilgrims arrived on foot, worrying and praying for the life of Pope John Paul II and the future of Poland. For the first time all pilgrimages received permission from the authorities.

December 13th - the country was put under Martial Law. Intensive prayer for the country started at the sanctuary, Polish Primate Archbishop Józef Glemp participated in it.

1982, January 3rd - Pope John Paul II inaugurated the difficult and painful year of the 600<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the installation of the Icon of Virgin Mary on Jasna Góra with his Apostolic Letter (8/12/1981).

May 2/3 - Polish women (about 300 thousand), representatives of all parishes, offered a jubilee votive offering - "Chalice of Life and Transformation of the Nation". They also offered the fund of for the protection of life.

May 5th - The Second Pilgrimage of West German Episcopate led by Cardinal Josef Hoeffner showing solidarity for the Church in Poland and the nation that had suffered severely under Martial Law.

August 26th - Main Feast of the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary was supposed to be celebrated by Pope John Paul II. About 500 thousand pilgrims listened with affection and gratitude to his homily from Castel Gandolfo.

September 5th - the first All - Polish Pilgrimage of Farmers: the Harvest - Home Festival at the Queen and Mother of the Nation, 300 thousand farmers brought votive offerings made artistically from grain. They were illustrating the present sufferings and worries of the Poles.

1983, June 18 - 19 - Second Pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II. Due to his presence the 600<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year of Jasna Góra gained ecclesiastical character. During the main Mass the Pope defined the main aim of the National Sanctuary - service of evangelic freedom. He also showed the way to reach it - "defeat the evil with the right".

August 4th - Mother Teresa from Calcutta, Nobel Prize Winner for Peace, prayed before the Icon of the Mother of Church from Jasna Góra.

October 14th - the first All - Polish Congress for Revival in the Holy Spirit, Cardinal Leon Suenens participated in it.

December 13th - Nobel Prize Winner for Peace, Lech Wałęsa offered, his award as a votive offering and he repeated Act of Committing to the Virgin Mary.

1984, August 15th - Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady - the feast of walking pilgrimages (about 160 thousand pilgrims). Episcopal representatives of many countries arrived, such as Cardinal Josef Bernardin, Bishops Alfred Abramowicz and Daniel Ryan from the United States, Archbishop Peter Schirayanagi from Tokyo, Bishop Jerone Hastic from Mexico, Bishop Stefan Laszlo from Austria. In their speeches they all showed solidarity of their Churches with Polish Church and nation.

October 21 - 22 - Second All - Polish Pilgrimage of Creative organizations with over 2 thousand Poles involved in creative professions.

1985, May 3 - 4 - Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Poland. The day before it, Primate of Poland Cardinal Józef Glemp opened an exhibition in Marian Hall entitled: "*Mother of God from Jasna Góra - her portraits and copies in the 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries*".

Main Mass at Jasna Góra Mountain celebrated by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski inaugurated the Second Peregrination of the Icon Copy through Po-

land. It was meant as a great preparation of the country for 2000 year anniversary of Christ's coming into the world.

September 12th - 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Pilgrimage of Priests from the Opole diocese with over 200 clerics led by Bishop Alfons Nosol, the Ordinary.

September 18th - the first All - Polish Pilgrimage of Novices - 2300 from all congregations led by Archbishop Bronisław Dąbrowski.

1986, February 3 - 6 - 140 priests ministering among the working class spent four days on a retreat under the leadership of Cardinal Henryk Gulbinowicz from Wrocław and Bishop Ignacy Tokarczuk from Przemyśl.

May 4th - Cardinal H. Gulbinowicz led the Golden Jubilee of the vows taken by Academic Youth in 1936 at Jasna Góra. Over 40 thousand participants - students and graduates listened to the testimony given by two members of organising committee of that pilgrimage. Pope John Paul II sent his greetings: *"I pray together with you in order that the academic ministry may help today's man in founding and understanding his new vocation and in being a man of conscience."*

August 15th - Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, over 250 thousand pilgrims prayed together with Cardinal Primate of Poland, who sacrificed the highest parts of the renovated sanctuary tower - the symbol of invincible fortress and the invincible Polish spirit. The main Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Bernard Law from Boston with two auxiliary bishops.

August 26th - Feast of the Mother of God from Jasna Góra with the delegation of fourteen people from the Conference of West Germany Episcopate under the leadership of Cardinal Josef Hoeffner, who brought a paschal candle as a votive offering. Jasna Góra bestowed a copy of the Icon showing in gratitude for help received during the renovation of the altar and the chapel.

October 4th - Members of Committee Council of European Episcopates, 21 archbishops with Cardinal George Basil Hume from London came to Jasna Góra after finishing their discussions in Warsaw.

December 8th - Dedication Feast of the National Altar at Jasna Góra, after its renovation after 336 years, led by Cardinal Józef Glemp with several bishops. In the evening the National Philharmonic Orchestra from Wrocław played the famous work of Wojciech Kilar "Angelus". The composition, inspired by the Jasna Góra Sanctuary, became a great artistic prayer to the Mother of God.

1987, March 7th - Pilgrimage of 600 Lithuanians living in Poland, they joined their prayers with preparations for 600<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Baptism of Lithuania.

May 3rd - Celebration of the Queen of Poland, dominated by the opening of an exhibition "Votive Offerings of the Jasna Góra Sanctuary" and dedication of the statue of the Mother of God the Queen of Poland on Pilgrims Square. It was raised to commemorate the Marian Year and also because Pope John Paul II listed Jasna Góra among world sanctuaries in his encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* ("I must mention Jasna Góra of my country").

June 6th - official opening of the Marian Year, Jasna Góra connected with the Pope and famous sanctuaries of the world thanks to television link-up. About 50 thousand pilgrims came to watch the program, among them Mother Teresa from Calcutta.

June 12 - 13 - Third Pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland and Jasna Góra. He said: "*I am coming as man of trust and I want to entrust to Our Mother all our Polish matters that are enlightened by the mystery of the Eucharist*".

June 18th - Archbishop Edmund Szoka from Detroit, USA came with pilgrims to dedicate three large Images of Mother of God from Jasna Góra and to commemorate in this way the Marian Year in his diocese.

August 15th - Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady - main Mass celebrated by Cardinal Luigi Dadalio, Chief of the Central Committee for the Marian Year Celebration. Prefect of the Congregation for Evangelisation of Nations, Cardinal Józef Tomko spoke of the role played by Virgin Mary in life of the Poles and Slovaks.

1988, March 25th - Day of Prayers in unity with Pope John Paul II for the benefit of Russia and the Ukraine which were celebrating the thousandth anniversary of their Baptism. An unusual celebration, according to the Byzantine Confession, took place (gr. *Akathistos*).

June 11th - the first All - Polish Walking Pilgrimage of the Light - Life Movement at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commitment of the movement to the Mother of the Church, which was done by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła in Krościenko. Four bishops, 400 priests and about 100 thousand young people participated.

July 21st - Bishop Americo Henriques, born in Fatima, came with 23 priests and 180 laymen.

August 2nd - Cardinal Jaime L. Sin from Manila, the Primate of Philippines, came with a few companions in a thankful pilgrimage for the marvelous peaceful liberation of his country from dictatorship and for Pope John Paul II.

September 9 - 11 - The Thousandth Anniversary of the Baptism of Russia and the Ukraine. Jasna Góra was covered with icons painted by Jerzy Nowosielski. Ceremonious liturgy according to the Byzantine - Ukrainian Confession led by Cardinal Mirosław Lubaczivski, the Archbishop of Lvov and archbishops and bishops who serve Ukrainian emigrants. The Polish Episcopate was represented by three cardinals with the Primate among them and 14 bishops. About 40 thousand believers from both Confessions participated in the ceremony. The celebration's importance was more than just religious, it was a significant beginning of breaking the long lasting hostility between Poland and the Ukraine.

1989, February 25th - the meeting of Secretary's Office of the International Commission for Catholic - Lutheran Dialogue in Opole gave its members the occasion to come to Jasna Góra. Archbishop Hans L. Mertens from Copenhagen, Doctor Inge Lonng, Rector of Oslo University and Professor Dorothea Wandenburg from Munich came to the sanctuary.

April 10th - Bishop Sofron Dmyterko from the Byzantine - Ukrainian Church came to the sanctuary, after 45 years of working in secrecy.

May 11th - Visit and pilgrimage of President of Italian Republic, Francesco Cossiga, (with about 80 accompanying guests) and representatives of the Polish government.

May 23rd - Journalists united in the International Catholic Group (UCIP) took part in a Mass celebrated by the Primate of Poland, Cardinal J. Glemp (100 people).

August 15th - Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady became again a day off from work. Over 250 thousand pilgrims gathered at the sanctuary - almost 140 thousand came on foot together with 1192 priests, 159 seminarists. Three cardinals and 62 archbishops and bishops served them along their way.

August 26th - Feast of the Mother of God from Jasna Góra (200 thousand pilgrims). For the first time since the end of the Second World War Polish the Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, participated in the feast. This was understood as a sign of the fulfilment of Solidarity's hopes.

November 12th - Visit and pilgrimage of Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of German Federal Republic and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Polish Prime Minister, was spent in an atmosphere of prayer to unite both nations and for peace.

December 7 -8 - Days of Marian Culture at Jasna Góra - lectures, reports by professors and Cracow scientific workers from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, the Academy of Theology in Cracow and the Higher Pauline School from Skalka in Cracow. The theme "Marian Heritage of God's Servant Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński" was artistically completed by the drama "Prison Notes" (directed by Jan Machulski) performed by the Ochota Theatre from Warsaw.

1991, August - 6th World Youth Day. Young people from all over the world came to meet with Pope John Paul II. The main celebrations took place on 14th and 15th August and gathered 1,500 to 1,750 thousand people from over 80 countries. It was a great meeting of Eastern and Western youth. Many young people from the East (among them quite a large group from the Orthodox Church) came to Częstochowa on foot, joining Polish pilgrimages.

1993, January 6th - the first All - Polish Pilgrimage of School Superintendents led by the head of Ministry of National Education, Professor Zdobysław Flisowski, and 30 department head .

February 5th - A torch for the Winter Sport Competition of Students in Zakopane was lighted in Częstochowa - the symbolic place where the Pope met with the young people of the world (15th August 1991). A relay race (about 1500 competitors from 41 countries) carried the torch to the competition site.

May, 3rd - Feast of Our Lady Queen of Poland. President of Poland, Lech Wałęsa arrived, as well as bishops (and pilgrims groups) from the United States, Africa and neighbouring countries liberated from communist totalitarianism, among them Archbishop Kazimierz Świątek from Belorussia who was held captive Soviet prison camps for many years.