



The Holy See

APOSTOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

FAREWELL CEREMONY AT JASNA GÓRA

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II

Częstochowa

Wednesday, 6 June 1979

Our Lady of Jasna Góra!

1. There is a custom—a beautiful custom—for pilgrims whom you have welcomed at Jasna Góra to make a farewell visit to you before leaving here. I remember very many of these farewell visits, these special audiences that you, Mother of Jasna Góra, have granted me, when I was still a high-school student and came here with my father and the pilgrimage from the whole of my native parish of Wadowice. I remember the audience that you granted to me and to my companions when we came here clandestinely, as representatives of the university students of Krakow, during the terrible Occupation, in order not to interrupt the continuity of the university pilgrimages to Jasna Góra, pilgrimages begun in the memorable year 1936. I remember so many other *farewell visits to you*, so many other moments of parting, when I came here as chaplain to young people, later as Bishop, leading pilgrimages of priests from the Archdiocese of Krakow.

2. Today I have come to you, Our Lady of Jasna Góra, with the venerable Primate of Poland, with the Archbishop of Krakow, with the Bishop of Częstochowa and with the whole of the Episcopate of my motherland, *to bid you farewell once more and to ask your blessing for my journey*. I come here, after these days that I have spent with them—as the first servant of your Son and as the successor of Peter in the See of Rome. *The meaning of this pilgrimage is quite inexpressible*. I shall not even try to find the words to express what it has been for me and for us all, and what it will never cease to be. And so, Mother of the Church and Queen of Poland, forgive us all if we thank you only with the silence of our hearts; and if with this silence we sing you our "preface" of farewell.

3. I just wish, in your presence, to thank once more my beloved brothers in the Episcopate: *the Cardinal Primate, the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church in Poland*, from the circle of whom I have been called, and with whom I have been profoundly linked from the beginning and continue to be so. Here are those who becoming, in Saint Peter's words, models of the flock (*forma gregis*) (cf. 1 Pet 5:3), with all their hearts serve the Church and the motherland, without sparing their energies. Revered Brothers, I wish to thank all of you, and in a special way you, the Eminent and beloved Primate of Poland, repeating once more (perhaps also without words) what I have already said in Rome on *22 and 23 October* of last year. *Today I repeat the same things*—with my thoughts and with my heart—here, in the presence of Our Lady of Jasna Góra.

I express my cordial thanks to all who have been pilgrims with me here during these days—in particular the custodians of the Shrine, *the Pauline Fathers*, led by their Superior General and Guardian of Jasna Góra.

4. Our Lady of the Bright Mountain, Mother of the Church! *Once more I consecrate myself to you in your maternal slavery of love": Totus tuus!*—I am all yours! I consecrate to you the whole Church—everywhere and to the ends of the earth! I consecrate to you Humanity; I consecrate to you all men and women, my brothers and sisters. All the Peoples and the Nations. I consecrate to you Europe and all the continents. I consecrate to you Rome and Poland, united, through your servant, by a fresh bond of love.

Mother, accept us!

Mother, do not abandon us!

Mother, be our guide!

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