



CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI
Target Date—1966

Primate Reveals Plans For Faith In Red Poland

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Ever since his triumphant return to Warsaw last October after three years as a Red captive, Cardinal Wyszyński has refused newspaper interviews. But just before winding up his 44-day visit to Rome and Italy, he broke his rigid rule to answer questions put to him by Rome Bureau of the NCWC NEWS SERVICE.

Rome, June 21 — In his first interview since his arrest by the Polish communists in 1953—the Cardinal-Primate of Poland outlined his program for making Poland a model Christian nation.

His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński told the N.C.W.C. News Service that the Polish Church is launching a campaign for a spiritual rebirth in which the whole nation will "live in the spirit of social justice and brotherly love."

To culminate in 1966, the 1000th anniversary of the conversion of Poland, the program includes the education of youth "in the spirit of the Gospel according to Christian customs and ancestral traditions," and the banishment of such evils as abortion, marital infidelity and divorce.

HERE IS an English translation of the Primate's written answers to the questions put to him:

QUESTION: What program of action will you follow on your return to Poland?

REPLY: The vows of Jasna Gora (Poland's Black Madonna or Lady of Czestochowa Shrine) of August 26, 1956, have become the program of the spiritual and religious life of the whole nation. They were therefore renewed on May 5, 1957, in all the parishes of Poland. Henceforth, they will be renewed in every parish on the feast of the Queen of Poland, May 3, and at Jasna Gora on the feast of the Madonna of Jasna Gora, August 26.

The Latin text of the vows of Jasna Gora, presented to the Holy Father by the Primate of Poland on May 14 of this year, has now become the program of the novena work to be put into effect in the teaching of catechism by the secular priests and religious throughout Poland. This work will be the nation's preparation for the millennial celebrations of the baptism of Poland (966 A.D.).

The program was prepared during the Bishops' conference and its execution entrusted to special departments of the various episcopal curiae. A special committee for the execution of

3. Common vigilance for the home and for the protection of every life conceived.

4. Defense of the institution of marriage, in society, of the dignity of womanhood and the harmony of the family.

5. The education of youth in the spirit of the Gospel according to Christian customs and ancestral traditions.

6. Common activity so that all the sons of the Polish nation may live in the spirit of social justice and brotherly love.

7. The combat against national vices.

8. The acquisition of national virtues.

9. Imitation of the virtues of Mary and the extension of devotion to the Mother of God through means of which the Catholic populace wish to gain heaven.

These essential points will be developed in the yearly programs which have been prepared by the Marian Commission of the Episcopate and confirmed by the Bishops' Conference. The details of the program will be worked out by the pastoral offices of the diocesan curiae and then put into practice.

QUESTION: What program will be carried out for the millennium?

REPLY: The program will be put into effect in the various sectors as follows:

1. With a single program for the whole of Poland for the feast on all the Sundays of the year. On every Sunday in every parish of Poland sermons will be preached on the same subject.

2. With pertinent sermons on the various feastdays of Our Lady.

3. With a religious service on every first Saturday of the month.

4. With May and October devotions in all the churches of Poland.

5. With spiritual retreats during Advent and Lent, based on the theme established in the yearly program.

6. With Marian congresses in parishes and deaneries.

7. Through the Catholic newspapers ("The Universal Weekly," "The Catholic Guide," "Sunday's Guest"; in the monthly ecclesiastical periodicals and in official and private publications). All will be called upon to follow the common theme.

8. Through spiritual retreats for priests and pastoral and social courses for the clergy of every diocese.

9. On dates of great religious solemnities — May 3 throughout Poland and August 26 at Jasna Gora, the motto will be set forth: Let us fulfill the national vows of Jasna Gora.

QUESTION: What does Our Lady of Czestochowa represent for the Polish People?

REPLY: The jubilee of the third centenary of the defense of Jasna Gora, capital of the Virgin of Czestochowa besieged by the Swedes (1655-1955), spiritually united the Polish nation, today confronted by a bitter struggle for the preservation of the Christian spirit and for the maintenance of a sound union with the Universal Church and with Latin-Roman culture.

THE YEAR 1956 saw the celebration of the third centenary of the national vows pronounced by King John Casimir who, for the purpose of strengthening the spirit of the nation in the struggle against the Swedes, consecrated it to the Queen of Poland. The Polish victory constituted a confirmation that the vows of

the nation had been heard favorably.

But not everything was fulfilled, particularly from the social standpoint, because of the obstacles created by continuous wars and by the partition of Poland. Only one wish remained always in force among the Polish people, namely, the recognition of the Virgin Mary as Queen of Poland.

The whole nation has always venerated her with extraordinary devotion, offering her what they possessed and going in pious pilgrimage to the shrine of Czestochowa. The image of the Mother of God (of Czestochowa) was carried everywhere.

Refugees, emigrants, people condemned to forced labor in Siberia—all have always carried with them her sacred image. The face of the Virgin, struck twice with the swords of the Swedish invaders, has become a true symbol of the wounds which were always inflicted on the Polish nation.

Therefore, when the nation found itself in extreme peril and left to its own resources, it placed all its hope in Jasna Gora. Despite all the difficulties and obstacles, there has been a constant flow to Jasna Gora of youth, parents, children, priests and bishops, men of every profession.

August 26, 1956, marked the culmination of these continuous pilgrimages. On that day all the bishops still free to exercise their ministry assembled at Jasna Gora at the head of one and a half million pilgrims, the majority having arrived there on foot. The vows originally made by King John Casimir, adapted to the present circumstances of the nation, were then renewed.

Religious Life Appeals To Pupils, Survey Shows

Dayton, Ohio — (NC) — The priesthood is the second most popular career among boys of junior high school age in parochial schools, according to a Young Catholic Messenger survey. Only engineering proved more popular.

In conducting a "Youth Market Survey," the Messenger learned that 14.5 per cent of 1,350 boys want to study for the priesthood. Out of the same number 26.8 per cent are aiming at engineering careers, 7.8 at medicine, 6.8 at the military services, 4.9 at athletics, and 4.4 at law.

Among the girls, the survey showed, the sisterhood ranks



fourth in popularity, with 8.7 per cent of 1,418 girls indicating a desire to enter convents. Nursing appeals to 23.1 per cent of the girls, teaching to 18.3 per cent, and secretarial work to 17.8 per cent.

Family background information brought out in the survey indicates that the fathers of 4 per cent of the children are unskilled laborers; 70 per cent own their own homes, 95 per cent have automobiles, 97.3 per cent have television sets, and 70 per cent own two to four radio sets.

The average number of children in each family, according to the survey, was 3.6.

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