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## THE POPE

## **Pope Prays to Mother of Poland at Jasna Gora**

Czestochowa, Poland (NC) - Following is the English translation released by the Vatican of Pope John Paul II's Polish-language meditation-prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa at a Vespers service for the people of Czestochowa June 19. The text, released in Katowice the following day, reflects changes made by the pope from his prepared text.

Hallowed be Jesus Christ.

At the hours of the Jasna Gora Appeal I would first of



all like to thank you, mother of our country, for this festive day. For a long time I have placed this day in your maternal heart, asking you to guide us all. I am, therefore, grateful that I could come here as a pilgrim and a participant in the jubilee of the 600th anniversary of Jasna Gora, that I could offer my thanksgiving for your presence here, O mother, in the image so much beloved by ail Poles. In your presence, Our Lady, I thank all who arrived here together with me today, and the people from outside, to take part

in our national thanksgiving holiday. In the trust in you, mother, I thank all who prepared that pilgrimage both on the part of the state and the Church. Let the Lord reward you all. In a moment from now we are to repeat the words of the Jasna Gora Appeal. The simple and strong words. Fundamental words, evangelical words. The words of love with which we want to reach the heart of the mother. To meet one another in this heart. This meeting is extremely important. It is impossible for us to remain on that difficult soil without meeting in the maternal heart of Our Lady of Jasna Gora.

That is why repeating together with you, who are present here, the Jasna Gora Appeal I wish to embrace all our compatriots within the Polish lands and outside of them. In how many parts of the world, in how many countries, on how many continents the image of Jasna Gora is at the same time a visible mark of the Polish soul and the Polish soil. On the Polish soil I want to have this Jasna Gora Appeal become a prayer of special visitation. Let this visitation fill out my absence in all those places I was invited to and I failed to come to. Today at the Jasna Gora Appeal I commune particularly with you, dear brothers and sisters, whom I had no occasion to either see or meet on the trail of my pilgrimage in Poland. Through the image of Our Lady of Jasna Gora I visit you and I am in communion with you.

In this prayer community I also wish to unite in a special manner with those of my compatriots who, particularly in recent times, turned to me in letters and usually assured me in them of their support for me with prayers and sacrifices. Let them find for themselves an answer and a word of gratitude in today's meeting with Our Lady of Jasna Gora.

We wish to invite all those who suffer to our circle of prayer of the Jasna Gora Appeal. We gather here in the name of Christ who said: "I was hungry and you have fed me, I was sick and you have visited me, I was imprisoned and you have come to me.'

Dear brothers and sisters suffering. At this hour of the Jasna Gora Appeal we have come to you, we are together with you with our hearts and with our memory. We invite you to common prayer. You have a special appeal to deliver to the queen and mother of our nation. And she is particularly with you like her son who said: "What you have done to one of those brothers, you have done unto me.

Our Lady of Jasna Gora, in this hour of frankness in the evening I am opening my heart. I think that my words are clumsy because it is difficult to speak about painful matters. So I only ask you, mother of my nation, to stand by those who are suffering, by those who cause suffering. Your son does not want to reject anybody. O mother and

contemporary experiences. This is at the same time the way of respect for man, for his conscience and beliefs.

In this difficult historic hour I entrust to you, mother, all the Poles, since on everyone, to some/extent, depends perseverance on the road of renewal, justice and peace.

Ever more frequently the mouths of the Church placed amid the great human family voice the words of reconciliation. Christ, after all, as St. Paul said, reconciled us with God in one body through the cross, by which he was put to death.

In this year, which marks the special anniversary of redemption this word reappears with a new force. Through Christ it summons you to be one with God, it opens access to him for all people. At the same time the road to communion with God leads through reconciliation with people. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

These words are a mighty dam against the growing hatred and revenge.

These words from the Lord's Prayer safeguard interpersonal dignity at its very roots. Mother of our hearts, make those words shape the power of forgiveness wherever forgivness cannot escape the fetters of hatred. For hatred is a destructive force and we must neither destroy nor be destroyed by it.

We have to stop at the threshold of the Lord's Prayer. We always have to reach to the limits of the possibilities of reunification. Apart from that, forgiveness testifies to the grandeur of the human spirit, it testifies that it is transparent to the action of the Holy Spirit. How many people on the Polish soil have testified to this in recent time. Thank you for that, Our Lady of Jasna Gora. Thank you for every triumph of love in the year of Father Maximilian Maria Kolbe's being elevated to sainthood and the beatification of the sons of God, Rafael, Albert and Ursula.

Forgiveness is love's might, forgiveness is not weakness. To forgive does not mean to give up truth and justice, it means to aim at truth and justice through the Gospel.

O mother, plead on our behalf, in this Holy Year of Redemption, the readiness to reconcile. Teach us to learn truth and justice persistently as we are taught by your son. I came here to Jasna Gora in 1979 following the steps of the patron saints of Poland, Wojciech and Stanislaw, from Gniezno and Cracow. This year I am following the trail of Saint Maximilian, a martyr of love, a martyr of the Auschwitz camp. I am coming also from the grave of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, the great primate of the millennium, who died recently.

Out of memory for those personages, who map out the path of the Church in our difficult 20th century, I beseech you, Our Lady of Jasna Gora, to let the Church continue performing its service on Polish soil.

As almost 20 years ago it prepared the nation for the great millennium of baptism, so let it now prepare all the people of God on Polish soil to begin the third millennium of the nativity. It is, as it were, a new advent of humanity. Mary is the light of this advent. It was she, however, who preceded the first coming of the savior to this world.

May the light of her divine motherhood shine brightly here on Jasna Gora and constantly bring us closer to the one who is the way, truth and life. The sons and daughters of this land have shown sensitivity to the Jasna Gora light of Mary for six centuries. May they remain as sensitive as our difficult age requires of them - the age of the history of mankind and the history of our nation within the great human family.

Finally, O Our Lady of Jasna Gora, I have come here to tell you once again, "Totus tuus." O mother, I am all yours and all that is mine is yours. All that is mine, that means also my homeland, my nation. O mother, I have been called to service to the universal Church in the See of Peter. With a mind to that universal service I constantly repeat "Totus tuus." I wish to be a servant to all and at the same time I am the son of this land, this nation. This is my people, my homeland. Mother, all that is mine is yours. Mother, all that is mine is yours.

What else can I tell you, how else can I entrust this land, these people, this heritage? I trust the way I can. You are the mother. You understand.

And there is one more thing. On May 13 two years have passed since that afternoon when you had saved my life. It was in St. Peter's Square. There, during the general audience, a shot was aimed at me that was supposed to deprive me of my life.

Last year on May 13 I was in Fatima to thank and entrust. Today I desire to leave here, in Jasna Gora, as an offering, a visible sign of that event - the shot-pierced sash of my frock.

Your great worshipper, Cardinal Augustyn Hlond, the primate of Poland, on his deathbed uttered these words: "The victory, when it comes, shall come through Mary." "Totus tuus," and I will add no more. Let us sing the words of the Jasna Gora Appeal and then I ask you to leave for home in pious tranquility, contemplating upon the words of the Jasna Gora Appeal. I trust that nobody will disturb our contemplation.



Our Lady of Jasna Gora, in communion with all I would like once again to entrust my nation to you. I am a son of that nation, in myself I carry the entire heritage of its culture, its history, the heritage of victories - this year we are especially remembering John III Sobieski and Vienna - but also the heritage of disasters.

I carry within myself the awareness of its neglect, sins and guilt, but also the awareness of historic wrongs which were its lot, particularly in the past 200 years. I am a son of this nation and, therefore, I deeply feel its noble aspirations: the wish to live in truth, liberty, justice, social solidarity, the wish to live one's own life. After all, after the 1,000 years of historic experience this nation has its own life, its own culture, its social traditions, its spiritual identity. Our mother of Jasna Gora, I wish to entrust to you yourself all that has been worked out in the difficult times of the last few years, particularly since August 1980. All these truths — (to the people:) I would rather you did not cut in, I would rather you did not disturb me, this prayer.

All these truths, principles, values and attitudes. Cause nothing of that which is true and just to disappear. Cause it to turn into the material for true social and moral renewal. The nation justly pins its hopes on this renewal. See to it that the social dialogue, through which the nation could regain the hopes for full participation in deciding common life, be taken up anew with courage.

Queen of Poland, I also wish to entrust you with the difficult tasks of those who wield authority on Polish soil. The state gains its strength first of all from the support of the people. To you, O mother of Jasna Gora, I carry the overt plea that this support could flow from the full understanding of the nation's historic way and its

