

Akademia im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie
Wydział Filologiczno-Historyczny

al. Armii Krajowej 36a • 42-200 Częstochowa • tel./fax +48 34 361 14 25

“You are our Queen. Jasna Góra roads to independence”

Częstochowa, 6-8 December 2018

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence. On 11th November 1918, after 123 of political non-existence, our country was reborn. This event was created by heroic deeds of the nation, which had never accepted the unfair judgement of history, which was embodied by the activities of the partitioning empires and on all the continents and under various flags fought for regaining its independence

The resurrection of Poland is also a martyr sacrifice of the best sons and daughters, who were persecuted, imprisoned, sent to Siberia, killed and the constant care of Polish mothers to keep the language, Polishness and our cultural identity. Throughout the years of the partitions, Polish home was the only basis for the national tradition, inseparably connected to the Catholic faith, grounded in Christ's teaching. Long persistence, despite the loss of the country was possible due to the fact that all the time faith and freedom were the most important for Polish people, which was manifested in the flagship mottos: God, Honour, Motherland, with which subsequent generations started combat, “demanding” independence in the national uprisings, battles and wars occurring in various parts of Europe and the world.

Although specific people, outstanding political activists and servicemen and masses of anonymous heroes, are responsible for the rebirth of the Polish nation in 1918, it cannot be forgotten that all their actions that aimed at regaining independence, were preceded by a fervent prayer of millions of Polish people “Give us back the free Motherland, oh Lord”

All human actions would have been futile but for the Providence's grace and the never-stopping care of Holy Mother over our nation, which was known and sung during the Confederacy of Bar.

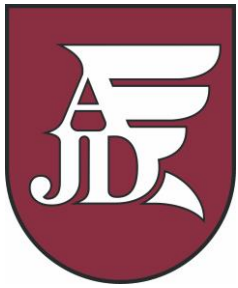
„Remember Holy Virgin who
Defends the Polish crown
Holy Mary, you are the Queen of Poland
Who God gave the throne in Częstochowa”

Thanks to Holy Mary's, „the brave lady”, intercession, the noble act of the Polish nation could make their wish about the free nation come true. Thanks to humble requests offered by thousands of pilgrims to the altar of the Jasna Góra Lady, our motherland resurrected in 1918, which was both achieved by weapon and prayers by “generations black in mourning”

The celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Polish independence are a perfect opportunity for this anniversary to exist not only in the historic space, but also in the social-cultural space. The scale of the celebrations confirms the return to the values that created the basis of the recreating Polish country in 1918. The jubilee has become a visible commitment to worthily indicate that Holy Mary is the patron of our independence.

Częstochowa with its Jasna Góra Monastery has been the sanctuary for the nation, about which John Paul II said during his first pilgrimage to the Motherland “We need to put our ears to this holy place to hear how the nation’s heart beats in Mother’s heart. It beats, as we know, with all tones of history, all sounds of life. How many times has it beaten with the moan of the Polish historical suffering! But also with the shouts of joy and victory! The history of Poland – as the Pope continued – can be written in many ways, especially the history of the last few centuries, they can be interpreted using various keys. However, if we want to find out how this history flows in the hearts of Polish people, we must come here. We must put our ears to this place. We must hear the echo of all its life in the heart of its Mother and Queen!”.

Before the Polish Pope, no one had better explained the phenomenon of Jasna Góra and the role of the sanctuary, These words sound like an obligation for the Częstochowa academic centre. Under the kind auspices of His Excellence Archbishop of the Częstochowa Archdiocese, Waław Depo, PhD, together with the Paulite Fathers of the Jasna Góra Monastery under the supervision of Father Prior Marian Waligóra, we would like to show how the roads to independence joined at Jasna Góra, in front of the Queen of Poland’s face and how Holy Mary inspired and strengthened our fight for independence. Joining the national celebrations of the 100th anniversary of regaining independence, we want to stress beyond any doubt Holy Mother’s participation in our independence and refer clearly to the religious key as a necessary tool serving to interpret the history of the country and the nation. We wish to follow the Pope’s words and remind about this area of the Polish culture, which testifies about its belonging to the history of Salvation and which is so strongly connected with declaring to believe in Jesus and his Mother.



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We wish to invite scientists, artists and all participants of the cultural and religious life, both from Poland and from abroad, to participate in the anniversary scientific conference **“You are our Queen. Jasna Góra roads to independence”**. The conference takes place on 6-8 December 2018 in Częstochowa, at Jan Długosz University and in the Jasna Góra Monastery. The culmination of the conference is the participation in the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary.

The issues connected with the spiritual presence of Holy Mary in all the activities aiming at retaining the Polish national identity and conspiratorial, uprising and war activities undertaken by our ancestors are the topic of the conference. We would like to pay attention to the involvement of church dignitaries in activities of various committees acting for the sake of independence during WWI. Had it not been for the indomitable attitude of Polish cardinals and bishops, political actions and diplomatic measures would not have led to the return of our country to the world map.

Inviting to the participation in the conference, we would also like to remind about the mission performed by frequently-forgotten artists, writers, teachers and also clergymen and nuns. All of them, caring about faith in cities and tiniest villages, school, offices and churches, cared at the same time about keeping the national tradition.

We would like to ponder over literature, artistic and music manifestations of entrusting the Polish fate to Holy Mary, and also over historical documents and artefacts that solidify Holy Mary’s auspices over our freedom.

With the deep reflection concerning the way Jasna Góra contributed to regaining our freedom, we wish to offer the vote of gratitude for this unique gift, which we received a century ago and which we wish to cherish and keep for future Polish generations.

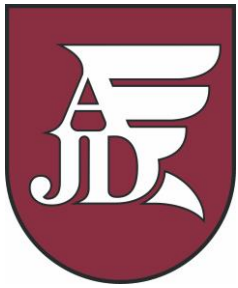
Suggested conferencetopics:

- National and universal dimensions of the presence of the Miraculous Image at Jasna Góra;
- Polish and European Marian literature and its connection with the issue of Polish independence and human freedom;

- Literature prayers to Holy Mary – individual and common aspects;
- Pilgrimages to Jasna Góra before important political events in iconography, documents, memoirs, historiography and literature;
- A pilgrimage to Jasna Góra as a breakthrough for an individual and a community. Literature, historical and iconographic evidence;
- Thanksgiving votes, their role and position in pilgrims' awareness and in the nation's spiritual life;
- Jasna Góra in the literature from the 18th century to the 20th century as the place where “we have always been free”;
- The presence of Jasna Góra and the phenomenon of Polish people's religiousness in the literature of other nations;
- Known and unknown propagators of the Marian cult;
- Insurgents and soldiers' prayers to Holy Mother from the 18th century to the 20th century;
- Jasna Góra as a fortress in the historical and spiritual aspect.
- Prayers to Mary of insurgents and soldiers from the eighteenth to the twentieth century;
- Jasna Góra as a fortress in the historical and spiritual dimension;
- Popes, cardinals and bishops about the role of Jasna Góra in the life of the Polish nation;

Organizational information

The conference is planned for 6-8 December. On 6-7 December it is held in the building of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, on 8 December – in the Jasna Góra Monastery. On that day, the plenary proceedings will be incorporated into the plan of the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary. The participants will be able to take part in the celebratory High Mass, in paying homage with flowers at the figure of the Immaculate Virgin, and also in the concert from the cycle of the Jasna Góra Advent evenings and the Jasna Góra Appeal. The conference will be accompanied by the artistic events – the exhibition from the Monastery's collection, presenting artifacts related to the pursuit of Poland independence and a solemn symphonic concert. During that concert the



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Overture in E-flat major for Ignacy Jan Paderewski's orchestra and Piano Concerto in E-minor by Fryderyk Chopin will be performed. The opening of the exhibition will take place on 3th of May 2018, and the concert will take place on 6th of December 2018 at 18.00.

We anticipate a conference fee of EUR 150. Submission of topics in Polish / English of speeches and abstracts should be sent to: maryja.niepodlegla@ajd.czest.pl by 31st of May 2018. We invite you to participate.

Honorary Committee of the Conference

His Excellence Archbishop of the Częstochowa Archdiocese, Rev. Waław Depo, PhD – convenor

Father Prior of Jasna Góra Monastery Marian Waligóra OSPPE

Her Magnificence Rector of Jan Długosz University In Częstochowa Prof. dr hab. Anna Wypych-Gawrońska

His Magnificence Rector of Częstochowa University of Technology Prof. dr hab. Eng. Norbert Sczygiol

His Magnificence Rector of the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Częstochowa Rev. Grzegorz Szumera, PhD

President of *Silva Rerum Polonarum* Foundation Krzysztof Czajkowski, PhD

The Scientific Committee of the Conference

Prof. dr hab. Teresa Kostkiewiczowa (IBL PAN) – convenor

Rev. dr hab. Marek Chmielewski, Professor of KUL (KUL, PTM)

Dr hab. Agnieszka Czajkowska, Professor of AJD (AJD)

Dr hab. Adam Regiewicz, Professor of AJD (AJD)

Prof. dr hab. Bogusław Dopart (UJ)

Prof. dr hab. Jarosław Ławski (UwB)

Rev. Józef Płatek, PhD OSPPE

Rev. Prof. dr hab. Jan Związek (AJD w Częstochowie)

Organizing Committee of the Conference

Dr hab. Agnieszka Czajkowska, Professor of AJD – convenor

Ewelina Mika, PhD

Ewelina Dziewońska-Chudy, MA

Anna Janek, MA