

8 June 2014
SAINT JADWIGA QUEEN



St. John Paul II and St. Jadwiga Queen

Queen Jadwiga, daughter of King Louis the Great (Anjou), was born in 1374 in Buda, Hungary. Ten years later she was crowned as King of Poland, being recognised as a legitimate successor of the last Polish Piast dynasty. Her high intelligence, charm and kindness were evident through the years of her short reign and resulted not only in the rise of East Central Europe but also in the “golden age” of Polish culture. It was Jadwiga who obtained permission from Pope Boniface IX to include a faculty of theology at the Jagiellonian University, and who later bequeathed, in her will, all the money to be obtained from the sale of her jewellery and other valuables, to refund the university. Jadwiga died in the year 1399 at the age of 25. Her personal qualities and political wisdom made it possible to found the powerful state of the Jagiellonian Dynasty, so called Polish-Lithuanian Union. She was a promoter of peaceful politics and the Queen loved by the whole nation. In the year 1997 Jadwiga was canonized by Pope John Paul II.

HOMILY OF JOHN PAUL II Krakow, 8 June 1997

“...*Sit Trinitati gloria, laus, honor, iubilatio* ... Today we thank the Most Holy Trinity for your wisdom, Jadwigo. The author of the Book of Wisdom asks: "Who has learned your counsel, o Lord, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy Spirit from on high?". Let us therefore give thanks to God the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit for your wisdom, Jadwigo; because you recognized God's design regarding not only your own vocation but also regarding the vocation of the nations: our own historic vocation and the vocation of Europe which, through your endeavours, as a continent completed its own evangelization, so that later it would be able to undertake the evangelization of other countries and other continents throughout the

... It is from him, the Christ of Wawel, the black Crucifix to which the people of Krakow come every year on pilgrimage on Good Friday, that you learned, Queen Jadwiga, to give your life for the brethren. Your deep wisdom and your intense activity flowed from contemplation, from your personal bond with the Crucified One. Here *contemplatio et vita activa* found the right balance. Thus you never lost the "better part", the presence of Christ. Today we wish to kneel with you, Jadwigo, at the feet of the Crucified One of Wawel, to hear the echo of that lesson of love which you listened to. We wish to learn from you how to put that lesson into practice in our time.

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave" These words of Christ deeply penetrated the mind of the young sovereign of the noble house of the Angevins. The most profound characteristic of her short life and, at the same time the measure of her greatness, was her spirit of service. Her social position, her talents, her whole private life she offered completely to the service of Christ and, when it was her time to reign, she also devoted her life to the service of the people entrusted to her.

The spirit of service inspired her social commitment. She zealously devoted herself to the political life of her time. And she, the daughter of the King of Hungary, successfully combined faithfulness to Christian principles with the defence of the common weal of Poland. Undertaking great works in the national and international sphere, she desired nothing for herself. Through her generosity she enriched her second homeland with every material and spiritual good. An expert in the art of diplomacy, she laid the foundations for Poland's greatness in the 15th century. She inspired religious and cultural cooperation between the nations and her sensitivity to social wrongs was often praised by her subjects.

With a clarity that right up to the present day has enlightened all of Poland she knew that the strength of both State and Church have their origin in the Nation's careful education; that the path to the State's welfare, sovereignty and recognition in the world passes by way of thriving Universities. Jadwiga was also well aware that faith seeks rational understanding, that faith needs culture and forms cultures, that

faith lives in the world of culture. And she spared nothing to enrich Poland with the whole spiritual heritage both of ancient times and of the Middle Ages. She gave to the University even her golden sceptre, using instead one of gilded wood. This fact, while having a concrete meaning, is above all a great symbol. Throughout her life her prestige and the esteem which she enjoyed came not from royal insignia but from her strength of spirit, depth of mind and sensitivity of heart.

"Let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth", so writes the Apostle. Brothers and Sisters, let us learn at the school of Queen Saint Jadwiga how to put into practice the commandment of love. Let us think about this "Polish truth". Let us think about whether it is respected in our homes, in the means of social communication, in public offices, in parishes. Does it not sometimes escape us under the pressure of circumstances? Does it not become distorted, simplified? Is it always at the service of love? "Let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth"!

Now Divine Providence is putting a new task before us: to love and to serve. To love in deed and in truth. Queen Saint Jadwiga teaches us that the fulfilment of freedom is love, thanks to which man is willing to entrust himself to God and his brothers and sisters, to belong to them. She therefore entrusted her life and her rule to Christ and to the nations which she wanted to lead to him. She gave the whole Nation the example of love of Christ and of man, of man who is hungry for faith and knowledge, as he is also daily bread and clothing. God grant that this example will also be drawn from today, so that the joy of the gift of freedom may be complete. Our Saint, Queen Jadwiga, teach us today, on the threshold of the third millennium, that wisdom and love which you made your path to holiness. Lead all of us, Jadwigo, to the Crucified One of Wawel, so that, like you, we may know what it means to love in deed and in truth, what it means to be truly free."



The Queen Jadwiga Foundation (QJF) was established in Australia on the occasion of the 600th Anniversary of the Refounding of the Jagiellonian University (www.qjfl.org). This celebration took place in the year 2000. The Queen Jadwiga Foundation is dedicated to promoting the interdisciplinary scientific research, not contradictory to Christian values, educational and cultural exchanges between nations and increasing understanding of European and Polish culture and history. The aims of the Queen Jadwiga Foundation are, among others, promoting the interdisciplinary scientific research, not contradictory to Christian values, publishing scientific journals and books, and promoting people characterized by attributes such as kindness, wisdom, strength of character and personal sacrifice which were characteristic to St. Jadwiga the Queen of Poland.

Inspired by the activities of our Patron St Jadwiga Queen, QJF is to recreate a replica of *racjonal* which was made of little pearls. Each collected 'Queen Jadwiga's little pearl' intends to symbolize a contribution to the cultural works which were inspired by St. Jadwiga's activities.



The Queen Jadwiga Research Institute of Understanding (QJRIU) was established as a part of the Queen Jadwiga Foundation. The aim of the Queen Jadwiga Research Institute of Understanding is to carry out original research that investigates different aspects of understanding. The International Journal of Understanding is focused on creating a suitable environment for exchanging theoretical research results as well as techniques concerning all aspects of understanding. QJF Press is dedicated to publish books that will present the QJF point of view on the most important issues in science, art and philosophy.

