

Snapshots: Purissima

Our Lady of Jazlowiec – 75th anniversary of Her Coronation



Seventy-five years ago in Jazłowiec, the site of the Mother House of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, thousands of pilgrims came to see the Polish Primate, Cardinal August Hlond, honour our Lady of Jazlowiec, a statue not yet 50 years old, by bestowing on Her a papal crown. Two months later, World War Two broke out, Jazlowiec came under Russian control, and the Sisters heard of a plan to move Our Lady of Jazlowiec to a museum in Kiev!!!! This, the Sisters could never allow – She was their Mother, and they were her daughters. More than that, in Her was Hope, Brightness, the past and the future – not just for the Sisters, but for many people – the 14th platoon of the Jazlowiec lancers had taken Her as their patron – their Commander-in-Chief, there were the pilgrims who had received her graces, generations of girls who had grown up with Her during their days at the school in Jazlowiec; She could not stay, in danger as she was. If She could not stay, She would have to go...and go She did. The Sisters brought her to Szymanów in June 1946.

The first pilgrim to visit Her in Her new home, was an old friend – Cardinal August Hlond.



Cardinal Hlond



Our Lady of Jazlowiec in the former chapel at Szymanów



Cardinal Wyszyński

Purissima was the name given Her by Cardinal Hlond's successor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, who visited Her several times during His primacy. He wrote to the Sisters of Her :

Whenever I have looked upon Our Lady of Jazlowiec in your chapel, I have to admit, I haven't been able to keep my eyes fixed for very long on She, who I would most desire to call: Purissima, Integra, the Purest, the Untouched. (12.III.1956)

In a very special and mysterious way, Our Lady of Jazlowiec unifies our Congregation – She joins the past with the present, the present with the future, and the future with the past. Looking at Her in the shrine of Our Lady of Jazlowiec at Szymanów, is to look upon One Who has seen it all. We come to Her, with this issue, or that problem, we don't know what to do ... and there She stands, serene, pure, and She knows EXACTLY what to do. Her intercession, Her calm presence has given so many people so much over such a long time...Purissima.