



## **Śluby lwowskie Jana Kazimierza - Tekst angielski**

Great Mother of the God-man, Most Holy Virgin. I, Jan Kazimierz<sup>1</sup>, king by the grace of Thy Son, King of kings and my Lord, and by Your mercy, having fallen to Your Most Holy feet, do choose you on this day as my Patroness and Queen of my countries. I recommend to Your special care and protection both myself and my Kingdom of Poland, Duchy of Lithuania, Ruthenia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, Livonia, Smolensk and Czernichów, and the armies of both nations and all my peoples, I humbly summon Your help and clemency in the defeated and deplorable condition of my Kingdom against the enemies of the Roman Catholic Church.

And since, bound by the graces you have accorded [me], I burn, along with my nation, with a new and zealous desire to devote myself to Thy service, I therefore vow to Thee and Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, on my own behalf and on behalf of my senators and my peoples, to spread your glory and worship across all the lands of my Kingdom.

Finally, I vow and promise that once I have achieved victory over [my] enemies, particularly over the Swede<sup>2</sup>, through Thy almighty mediation and Thy Son's great mercy, I shall beseech the Apostolic See to make this day holy by annual celebration for all time to come in gratitude to Thee and to Thy Son, and I shall make all effort, along with the bishops of [my] Kingdom, to have my peoples keep what I have promised.

But since to my heart's great sorrow I clearly see that the groans and oppression of the peasants have brought plagues of air, war and other misfortunes upon my Kingdom<sup>3</sup> in these seven years by the hand of Thy Son, the Righteous Judge, I furthermore promise and vow that once peace comes, I and all my estates shall use measures to free the people of my Kingdom from unfair burdens and oppressions.

And Thou, most merciful Queen and Lady, as Thou hast inspired in me, my senators and the estates of my Kingdom the idea of these vows, so make me obtain from Your Son the grace of fulfilling them.

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<sup>1</sup> Jan Kazimierz Vasa (1609-1672), king of Poland and grand duke of Lithuania from 1648 to 1668, younger son of Sigismund III and stepbrother of Władysław IV. Married to Marie Louise Gonzaga de Nevers, the widow of Władysław IV, he died childless as the last representative of the Vasa dynasty on the Polish throne. Four years before his death he abdicated and went to France.

<sup>2</sup> Reference to the Swedish Deluge, a war fought with Sweden in 1655-1660.

<sup>3</sup> Reference to wars fought on the territory of the Commonwealth since 1648.