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JUBILEE OF OUR REDEMPTION IN THE YEAR 2033 –  
FROM THE PASTORAL THEOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

**Abstract:** Pastoral theology, conscious of the Church's goals, must look far into the future. This begins with establishing the starting point for the Church's future actions, namely the awareness of the multifaceted crisis of Christianity. Facing this difficult truth resembles taking on the role of the biblical prophets, such as Ezekiel. Only in the most challenging situation did he hear the voice pointing to the fourfold breath of the Holy Spirit. In line with this image, we point to the prophetic significance of the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis (USA, 2024), then to the appeals of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA in 2023, followed by the analogous appeal of the Polish Renewal, and finally to the calls of the Polish Episcopate (2024). All these impulses indicate the year 2033 as the moment of the Jubilee of Redemption. The Jubilee is an entry onto the path set out by Pope Pius XI in 1933 and Pope John Paul II in 2000, and it may become an essential element shaping a better future for the Church.

**Keywords:** jubilee, Holy Spirit, future of Christianity, contemporary prophecy.

We Christians are long-distance runners. There is no one in the whole world who has further plans for the future than the Church. And no one has more perseverance in running: our running exercise is with no end at all. Because our planning comes from Jesus Christ: "Behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world" (Mt 28:20). This is the justification for announcing a date as far-off as 2033. And this is exactly what archbishop Tadeusz Wojda, President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, did when he announced in the spring of this year: "The Polish

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Church is beginning a 9-year preparation for the Great Jubilee of 2033. We are starting a great Novena of 9 years”<sup>1</sup>.

## 1. OUR STARTING POINT: WHERE ARE WE NOW

Every conceivable statistic we know is an intrusive reminder of the crisis in the Church. Polish Church and otherwise. Yes, many aspects of the faith cannot be put into numbers (the power of faith, hope, love...), but what can be counted does not look good. The number of people admitting to the Christian faith; going to Church on Sundays; new priestly or religious vocations: all these are subject to rapid change and, unfortunately, in recent years each of these changes has been a downward reduction. This applies to Poland, to all European countries, and overseas too: the statistics evolve similarly. It is difficult for us to escape the difficult thought: is a phrase of the prophet Ezekiel really for us (the one when he said: “Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are lost”, Ez 37:11). Is it time to sing along with the Israelites of old: “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat weeping, when we remembered Zion” (Ps 137: 1-2)? But did not the prophet Ezekiel receive a new mission just when he had touched the bottom of despair?

The Lord said to me, «Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life» (Ez 37:9).

From the four winds, that is, from north and south, from east and west. From distant, unknown places and from distant, as yet unrecognised situations; prophesy that they may believe:

I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. I have spoken; I will do it – oracle of the Lord (Ez 37:14).

## 2. “COME, FROM THE FOUR WINDS” – AND THE SPIRIT CAME

### 2.1. THE FIRST WIND – FROM THE USA: THE TENTH NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Until 1941, National Eucharistic Congresses were held in the US every five years. But then - despite attempts, not a single one could be organised. Until finally, after 80 years, the issue was revived: National Eucharistic Congress number 10 was

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<sup>1</sup> T. WOJDA, *Przewodniczący Episkopatu w orędziu na Wielkanoc 2024: Odnówmy naszą wiarę!*, <<https://franciszka3.pl/aktualnosci/przewodniczaczy-episkopatu-w-oredziu-na-wielkanoc-2024-odnowmy-nasza-wiare>> (March 30, 2024).

celebrated in July 2024 in Indianapolis. Afterwards it was called a revival, a rebirth of Eucharistic piety. At its peak, 50,000 participants were present. Bishop Andrew Cozzens, at the conclusion of this Congress (21 July 2024), announcing the next such meeting number 11, said: "The next Congress will take place in the Year of Redemption – 2033". And he added: "Two thousand years since the Redemption – worth celebrating"<sup>2</sup>. "From the four winds come, O Spirit". The Spirit suddenly began to come with a prophecy about the year 2033, the year of the Redemption.

## 2.2. THE SECOND WIND

The voice from the Indianapolis Congress was by no means isolated. The Coordination of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA had already taken the same strong initiative since 2023:

In preparation for the two-thousandth anniversary of Pentecost, our vision is a nine-year novena of «Holy Spirit 2033» as a catalyst for ongoing Pentecost in the Renewal, in the Church and in the world. May our Lord fulfil this vision through our prayers and actions!: Join the Novena!<sup>3</sup>

## 2.3. THE THIRD WIND

Our native Polish Charismatic Renewal could hear the same appeal already two months before the Indianapolis event. During the Congress of the Renewal at Jasna Góra, on 17 May 2024, tens of thousands gathered there heard the appeal of Bishop Andrzej Przybylski:

It will be two thousand years since Pentecost [...] Therefore: Novena or 9 years to this great Jubilee. This is a God-given programme: that the 9 years until this Great Jubilee, also in the Renewal in the Holy Spirit, should be a great stirring and renewal. Today, in the name of the Pope, of the bishops in Poland, as the delegate (of the Polish Episcopate) for the Charismatic Renewal, I want to ask you all to do this: Get on the road to this blessed Great Jubilee. Let the time of this holy Novena to the Jubilee Year 2033 begin in the Renewal<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> A. COZZENS, *Full Remarks at the National Eucharistic Congress*, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFt5-kvKJ20>> (min 6.30) (USA, Indianapolis, July 21, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> *Holy Spirit 2033*, "Pentecost Today USA" 2023, no 2, <<https://www.pentecosttodayusa.org/hs2033/>>.

<sup>4</sup> A. PRZYBYLSKI, *National Vigil of the Catholic Renewal in the Holy Spirit*, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz6PvIzI-Fo>> (May 18, 2024).

## 2.4. THE FOURTH WIND

The fourth wind, the most important one for Poland, however, was certainly the voice of the Polish Bishops' Conference in March 2024, when Archbishop Tadeusz Wojda, the newly elected President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, reminded us: let us begin the Novena! Here are the words from his communiqué:

In the year 2033 we will celebrate the bicentennial of the Redemption accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ through his passion, death, resurrection, ascension and sending of the Holy Spirit. The nine years that precede this great Jubilee are a wonderful opportunity for the Church in Poland to revive faith and, above all, to give thanks for «the great things that the Almighty has done» (Lk 1:49). The Shepherds of the Catholic Church have decided that with this year's celebration of the now imminent Easter holiday, we will begin a nine-year Great Novena to prepare for this great Jubilee<sup>5</sup>.

Four examples, from near and from afar; from very different geographical and ecclesiastical locations. All with one message:

Prophecy, O son of man: [...] From the four winds come, O spirit, and blow upon the beaten ones, that they may come to life (Ez 37:9).

There are more examples: dozens from all over the world. Here is one of the fundamental ones that went unnoticed in its time:

What joy that through acts of faith and public witness [...] we are beginning to prepare for the Jubilee of Redemption 2033 – after all, we are always to look ahead!<sup>6</sup>

These are the words of none other than Pope Francis from the Angelus prayer in St Peter's Square at the Vatican already three years ago, in December 2021.

## 3. WE ARE NOT REINVENTING THE WHEEL

Millions of pilgrims visit the famous prayer centre of Medjugorje. Many of them climb to the top of the nearby Križevac mountain, climbing there in prayerful contemplation to stop at the cross up there. The impressive, ten-metre-high concrete structure bears the inscription “33-1933”<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> T. WOJDA, *Przewodniczący Episkopatu w orędziu na Wielkanoc 2024*.

<sup>6</sup> FRANCESCO, *Angelus, 12 dicembre 2021*, <[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco\\_angelus\\_20211212.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20211212.html)> (2024).

<sup>7</sup> „Križevac (520 m above sea level, 3 km south of Medjugorje). The cross on the summit was unveiled on March 15, 1934, 8.5 m high (built since 1933) commemorates the 1900th anniversary of the Passion of Christ”. Cfr. *Medjugorje*, <<http://www.truepeace.com.au/about.html>> (2024).

Few people realise that it is a reminder of the great Jubilee of Redemption of 1933. After all, the years since the days of Christ's Passover (His death on the Cross and then His Resurrection and Ascension) are counted from the year 33 of the first century AD. When a full nineteen centuries after the Redemption was accomplished, Pope Pius XI proclaimed a special Jubilee of Redemption – and called for memorial crosses to be erected on hilltops around the world to commemorate it: the memorial sign at Medjugorje is one of them.

It is a reminder of how much importance was attached a hundred years ago to the Jubilee of the Redemption, although at that time it was, after all, a much less “round” anniversary of nineteen hundred years (compared to the upcoming Jubilee of exactly 2,000 years of the Redemption). And what were the motives for the Jubilee celebration that Pope Pius XI presented to the Church in his then promulgated encyclical *Quod nuper*?

The full, longer title of the bull itself declares it to be an *Apostolic Constitution Towards the institution of an Extraordinary Holy Year and of a Universal and Great Jubilee when nineteen centuries have passed since the accomplishment of the Redemption of the human race*<sup>8</sup>. Already it is worth noting: far more than just “the anniversary of Jesus” death on the Cross’ it points toward His resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The papal text list a whole series of salvific events:

- the institution at the Last Supper of the Blessed Eucharist
- the Apostles were raised to the priesthood
- the Passion of Jesus Christ, His Crucifixion and Death for the Salvation of mankind,
- the Virgin Mary appointed, at the foot of the Cross, Mother of all mankind,
- the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, a condition and a guarantee of our (resurrection),
- the giving to the Apostles of the power to remit sins
- the true primacy of jurisdiction given to Peter and his successors,
- the Ascension of Our Lord
- the Descent of the Holy Ghost
- the prodigious and triumphal evangelical preaching of the Apostles<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Pius XI, *Constitutio Apostolica “Quod Nuper” – Indictio Anni Sancti extra ordinem ac Generalis Maximique Iubilaei Undevicesimo exeunte saeculo a peracta Humani Generis Redemptione*. In the English text we find the following annotation: “The Bull *Quod nuper*, dated 6th January, 1933, was solemnly published on the 15th of the same month. The following translation of the Bull appeared in the Standard, to which we are indebted for permission to reprint it”. In: J.R. MACMAHON, *The Holy Year*, <<https://www.ecatholic2000.com/cts/untitled-559.shtml>> (2024).

<sup>9</sup> “The institution at the Last Supper of the Blessed Eucharist, the Apostles who were raised to the priesthood, the Passion of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, appointed at the foot of Her Son's Cross, Mother of all mankind, the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the giving to the Apostles of the power to remit sins, the power of primacy given to Peter and his successors, the Assension of Our

The cross in Medjugorje was erected in 1934. An insignificant gesture, hardly noticed by anyone then. In the same year, one of the rulers of this world gave himself the title of Führer while making plans for the conquest of the globe. The other ruler of this world began a great purge in 1934, murdering millions of people in order to establish communism throughout the world. In time it became apparent that “the fashion of this world is passing away” (1 Cor 7:31). And the cross? “The cross stands while the world revolves”, as the motto of the Carthusian Order says.

#### 4. BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS A JUBILEE?

In January this year (2024), I was in Uganda, in the Diocese of Mbarara. At a meeting with the Poor Clare nuns, I asked at one point the question (as I thought, a rhetorical one): “has anyone heard of Jubilee 2033?” To my pleasant surprise, voices came to me from different parts of the congregation: “We’ve heard! We know! We’re already praying about it”. Five months later, in May 2024, Pope Francis announcing in his bull *Spes non confundit* the immediate preparations for the Holy Year 2025 did not fail to add:

The Holy Year will also guide our steps towards yet another fundamental celebration for all Christians: 2033 will mark the two thousandth anniversary of the redemption won by the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. We are about to make a pilgrimage marked by great events, in which the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people (SnD, 6).

But what exactly is this thing called “Jubilee”? The idea came from the very top [...] that is, from God, through the biblical Word of God<sup>10</sup>. The very name “jubilee” comes from the ancient instrument we call a horn today. Since in the Bible such a horn was called by the Hebrew word *yobel*, it became associated in early Christianity with the Latin *jubilare*, meaning “to shout joyfully”. Henceforth, the word *jubilaeum* carries a double connotation: both of joy (Latin *jubilatio*) and of spreading news of the cause of that joy, announced by the sound of a horn (*yobel*)<sup>11</sup>.

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Lord, the decent of the Holy Ghost, and the prodigious and triumphal evangelical preaching of the Apostles”. Pius XI, *Constitutio Apostolica “Quod Nuper”* (English text.) 1933, p. 23.

<sup>10</sup> Pointing to the direct biblical roots of church jubilees is an old tradition, cf. for example: R.D. PETRUS PROST, *Tractatus de Jubileo: Spicilegium theologicum de Iubileo, Anni magni piacularis & aliis praeterea Jubilaeis ac eorum adiunctis*, Sumpt. Ludovici Prost Haer. Rouille 1625, p. 377.

<sup>11</sup> C.J.H. WRIGHT, *Theology of Jubilee: Biblical, Social and Ethical Perspectives*, “Evangelical Review of Theology” 2017, no. 41:1, p. 6; J.A. SANDERS, *Jubilee in the Bible*, “Biblical Theology Bulletin” 50:2020, no. 1, p. 4. For an excellent, thorough study of the Jubilee throughout the Old Testament and into the Second Temple period, see J. BERGSMAN, *The Jubilee from Leviticus to Qumran: A History of Interpretation*, Leiden: Brill 2007; E. SRI, *Release from the Debt of Sin: Jesus’ Jubilee Mission in the Gospel of Luke*, “Nova et Vetera, English Edition” 9:2011, no. 1, p. 184.

And why were jubilees celebrated? Because it is God's commandment, quite extensively and accurately described in the book of Leviticus. The relevant biblical commandment reads as follows:

You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to your own property, each of you to your own family (Lev 25:10-11).

In our time there are many initiatives to improve the state of the Church. It is an almost unstoppable stream of ideas and concepts, whose most important motivation is often to "modernise the Church" and bring it into line with human concepts. This does not seem to be doing much good. It is therefore necessary to look with gratitude at what Pope Francis points out to the Church living on the threshold of the 21st century in the bull *Spes non confundit* (SnC) declaring the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025. Basing the Christian life on Scripture is the most important postulate of the papal document. Pope Francis leads us along the trail of the great idea of the Jubilee through the history of the Old and New Testaments. Pope Francis pointed to a thread leading us from the Torah, through the calls of the prophets, to the Gospel. It is a trail set at the very beginning of Christianity, when the Lord Jesus himself "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures" (Lk 24:27).

## 5. WHY SHALL WE GET INTO IT?

Why should we feel any particular commitment to Jubilee, to one that will not come until 2033? There are many reasons. For those sensitive to being rooted in and continuing the old Catholic Tradition, it will be particularly important to point out how deeply Catholic the custom of Jubilees is. The celebration of Jubilees has been rooted in the Tradition of the Catholic Church since the Middle Ages. It has been an initiative taken up by successive popes, and the Jubilee of Redemption, one thousand nine hundred years after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, was fervently promoted by Pope Pius XI in the 1933. For ecumenical enthusiasts, it will prove significant that there could hardly be a more ecumenical endeavour than the joint commitment to Jubilee 2033. Those who point to the need for all the Church's work to be grounded in the Bible will find the basis of the Jubilees there.

For all of us, without exception, it is attractive to look to the future with hope: we can do something together, as global Christianity, each community according to its doctrinal and spiritual riches, without losing anything and by helping others with their treasure. Today we see this initiative being taken up both personally by Pope Francis and by the relevant Vatican institutions of the Holy See, such as 2023, Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life:



[...] to celebrate 2000 years from Christ's death and resurrection: a work agenda to plan a path toward 2033: missions, events and celebrations for the 2000th anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection<sup>12</sup>.

Similarly, we find in the 2022 document of the Dicastery for Evangelization:

The bimillennium of Christ's redemption falls in 2033. It will be a new extraordinary Jubilee, the Jubilee of the Redemption<sup>13</sup>.

Christianity is by nature forward-looking: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). The invitation to celebrate the Jubilee 2033, to prepare evangelistically for this event, is a unique opportunity for every Christian and for Christianity as a whole. It is also, above all, the greatest opportunity for the whole of humanity to finally be able to hear the Good News and salvation in Jesus, so that the task entrusted to the Apostles and their successors can be undertaken anew and with energy, so that the Task can really be accomplished. Thus an evangelical blessing may manifest itself with power in our life:

Every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old (Mt 13:52).

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<sup>12</sup> *On the path towards 2033*, <<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/news/2023/in-cammino-verso-il-2033.html>> (April 12, 2023).

<sup>13</sup> *Nel 2033 Giubileo straordinario per il bimillenario della redenzione di Cristo* (HuffPost), <[https://www.huffingtonpost.it/cronaca/2022/03/29/news/giubileo\\_2033-9060349/](https://www.huffingtonpost.it/cronaca/2022/03/29/news/giubileo_2033-9060349/)> (2024).



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## JUBILEUSZ NASZEGO ODKUPIENIA W ROKU 2033 – Z PERSPEKTYWY TEOLOGII PASTORALNEJ

**Streszczenie:** Teologia pastoralna, świadoma celów Kościoła, musi patrzeć daleko w przyszłość. Zaczyna się to od ustalenia punktu wyjścia przyszłych działań Kościoła, a więc uświadomienia sobie poziomu wielorakiego kryzysu chrześcijaństwa. Stanięcie przed trudną prawdą jest podobne do wejścia w rolę biblijnych proroków, takich jak Ezechiel. Dopiero w najtrudniejszej sytuacji doszedł do niego głos wskazujący na czteroraki powiew Ducha Świętego. Zgodnie z tym obrazem wskazujemy na profetyczne znaczenie Eucharystycznego Kongresu w Indianapolis (USA, 2024), następnie na apele katolickiej Odnowy charyzmatycznej w USA z 2023 r., potem na analogiczny apel polskiej Odnowy i wreszcie na wezwania polskiego episkopatu (2024 r.). Wszystkie te impulsy wskazują na 2033 r. jako na moment Jubileuszu Odkupienia. Jubileusz jest wejściem na drogę wyznaczoną przez papieża Piusa XI w 1933 r. oraz papieża Jana Pawła II w 2000 r. i może stać się istotnym elementem kształtującym lepszą przyszłość Kościoła.

**Słowa kluczowe:** jubileusz, Duch Święty, przyszłość chrześcijaństwa, profetyzm współczesny.