

A Report on the Activities of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2022

Sprawozdanie z działalności Towarzystwa Naukowego Franciszka Salezego w roku 2022

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The activities of scientific societies constitute an important part of the national heritage. Based on the potential of their members, they undertake scientific research, conduct educational activities, disseminate scientific concepts and develop publishing initiatives. Nowadays, this activity should focus on contemporary issues stemming from global problems related to social, demographic, political, and scientific challenges. Scientific societies should support academic efforts in their pursuit of the highest value – truth.

The basic task and value of scientific societies is the dissemination of knowledge, which contributes to bolstering scientific creativity and the ability to apply their research for the greater good. A considerable challenge is to maintain a society's own consistent ethos without succumbing to the fleeting, often illusory, trends or changeable expectations of various academic bodies. The Francis de Sales Scientific Society (FSSS) shapes attitudes that are appropriate for researchers of social phenomena related to the youth and their world. It implements Christian axiology, the depreciation of which has become common. The FSSS is tasked with building civil society and promoting culture across people's personal and social lives. Members of the Society carry out this task in light of their freedom and responsibility. The FSSS Statute says that "The Society's objective is to conduct, support, and popularize scientific research, in the field of humanities in particular. Also, it is to support social, economic, and cultural activities based on knowledge, and to integrate the scientific milieu gathered around Salesian Society" (§ 6).

In the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2022, the activity of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society included the following areas and events:



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1. THE 14TH FSSS CONGRESS AND GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

Among the most important organizational activities of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society are the activities of the members and authorities, the coordination of various scientific activities, including those that popularize knowledge and matters related to the membership. The General Meeting, which is the highest authority of the Society, in line with its tradition, gathers its members at the annual FSSS Congress. In 2022, the stabilizing epidemiological situation made it possible to hold the Congress on May 19-20 in Ślesin near Konin with 27 members taking part in it. On the first day, a meeting of the FSSS management board and the editorial staff of the journal "Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe" [Seminare. Learned Investigations] was organized. In addition, an integration meeting for the participants of the Congress was also held. The second day started with a Holy Mass at the parish church in Ślesin presided over by Dr. Adam Popławski SDB, vicar of Piła province, who also delivered a homily.

The main scientific event of the Congress was a conference (as part of the series "Młodzież i jej świat" [Youth and its World]) entitled "Młodzież i jej popandemiczny świat" [Youth and its Post-Pandemic World]. In the first part of the conference, chaired by Prof. Zbigniew Łepko SDB, there were two lectures: "Młodzież w (po) pandemicznym społeczeństwie" [Youth in a Post-Pandemic Society] by Dr. Karol Leszczyński (University of Warsaw) and "Młodzież w popandemicznym Kościele" [Youth in a Post-Pandemic Church] by Rev. Prof. Dariusz Kurzydło (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, UKSW). After a coffee break, the second part of the conference (chaired by Prof. Sylwester Jędrzejewski SDB) included three reports: "Działalność oratorium praskiego w czasie pandemii" [Activities of the Prague Oratory During the Pandemic] by Prof. Hanna Markiewicz (The Maria Grzegorzewska University), "Szkoła i uczeń w czasach COVID-19 – implikacje na płaszczyźnie osobistej i dydaktycznej" [School and Students During Covid-19: Personal and Didactic Level Implications] by Rev. Prof. Bogdan Stankowski (Ignatianum University in Kraków) and "Objawy depresyjności u młodzieży 13-18 lat w czasie pandemii i ich konsekwencje popandemiczne" [Symptoms of Depression in Young People Aged 13-18 and Post-Pandemic Consequences] by Dr. Agnieszka Kulik (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), Dr. Natalia Kajka (the Medical University of Lublin), Prof. Hanna Karakuła-Juchnowicz (the Medical University of Lublin), and Paweł Szewczyk (the Medical University of Lublin). After these reports, a discussion followed.

The General Meeting of FSSS members (of an electoral character) was chaired by Prof. Ryszard Sadowski SDB. As an introduction to the formal part there was a discussion on "Zadania i wyzwania TNFS" [Tasks and Challenges of FSSS]. Then, the following resolutions were adopted by vote: Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/2 *W sprawie zatwierdzenia sprawozdania finansowego* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/2 regarding the approval of the financial statements]; Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/3 *W sprawie podziału zysku* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/3 on the distribution

of profits]; Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/4 *W sprawie przyjęcia protokołu Komisji Rewizyjnej TNFS* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/4 on the adoption of the proceedings of the FSSS Audit Committee] and Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/5 *W sprawie przyjęcia sprawozdania z działalności TNFS* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/5 on the adoption of the report on the activities of the FSSS]. In accordance with § 20 of the FSSS Statute, all the resolutions had been previously recommended by the Management Board.

Subsequently, the new FSSS authorities were elected (see the FSSS Statute § 16, point 3). The elections were preceded by the adoption of Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/1 *W sprawie powołania Prezydium i Komisji Wyborczej Walnego Zebrania* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/1 on the appointment of the Presidium and the Electoral Committee of the General Meeting]. The elected Presidium of the General Meeting included Kazimierz Misiaszek SDB as chairman, Stanisław Chrobak SDB as secretary, and Henryk Skorowski SDB as a member. The Electoral Committee of the General Meeting included: Ryszard Sadowski SDB as chairman, and two members: Krzysztof Niegowski SDB and Jan Niewęglowski SDB. As a result of the elections, the following authorities of the Society were elected: the president of the FSSS was Rev. Jerzy Gocko SDB, and members of the FSSS Management Board: Rev. Ryszard Sadowski SDB, Rev. Sylwester Jędrzejewski SDB, Rev. Mariusz Chamarczuk SDB, Rev. Peter Młynarczyk SDB, Rev. Zbigniew Łepko SDB, and Rev. Stanisław Chrobak SDB. The General Meeting also appointed the following members of the Audit Committee: Rev. Krzysztof Niegowski SDB, Rev. Radosław Błaszczak SDB, and Rev. Mirosław Wierzbicki SDB.

All elected persons accepted the results of the elections, and the General Meeting approved the authorities by way of the resolution Uchwała WZ-2022/05/20/6 *W sprawie wyboru Zarządu TNFS oraz Komisji Rewizyjnej* [Resolution WZ-2022/05/20/6 on the election of the FSSS Management Board and the Audit Committee]. Prof. Kazimierz Misiaszek, chairman of the General Meeting, congratulated the new FSSS authorities and thanked all members of the Management Board and the Audit Committee who were ending their current term. He bestowed special words of thanks to the secretary of the FSSS Management Board, Prof. Stanisław Chrobak.

2. MEETINGS OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE FRANCIS DE SALES SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY IN 2022

During the reporting period, the FSSS Management Board met 8 times: January 11, March 8, April 29, May 16, 19 and 20, July 1 and October 15. The meetings were held remotely and in hybrid form.

2.1. During meeting no. 1/2022 on January 11, 2022, the most crucial issues discussed were:

- The program of the 14th FSSS Congress and related financial issues. The Congress was scheduled for 19-20 May 2022 to be held at Ośrodek Szkoleniowo-Wypoczynkowy “Gwarek” in Ślesin near Konin. As part of

the scientific conference “Młodzież i jej popandemiczny świat” [Youth and its Post-Pandemic World] two lectures and three reports were planned.

- The FSSS budget estimate for 2022 was approved with Uchwała 2022/01/11/01: *Przyjęcie budżetu TNFS na rok 2022* [Resolution no. 2022/01/11/01 on the adoption of the FSSS budget for 2022.] Also, the activities related to the preparation of the financial report (to be done by the accounting office “ALFA PLUS” Monika Dziuban in Warsaw) were discussed.

- Members of the Management Board discussed issues related to the FSSS journal “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” and the FSSS publishing series. As a result of the decision of the Ministry of Science and Education, the journal received 70 points. An application was submitted to the program of the Ministry, “Rozwój Czasopism Naukowych” [The development of scientific journals]. Also, the issue of moving “Seminare” to the UKSW journal platform was discussed. One publication was submitted to the “Studia i Rozprawy TNFS” [the FSSS Studies and Dissertations] publishing series.

2.2. During the meeting of the Management Board no. 2/2022 on March 8, 2022,

- The Management Board adopted the report on the activities of the FSSS for 2021 and adopted Uchwała nr 2022/03/08/01 [Resolution no. 2022/03/08/01] which recommended that the General Meeting accept the report.

- Preparations for the 15th Congress of the Society were discussed

- Further development of the FSSS journal “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” was discussed. Problems with financing the journal by existing donors (Salesian provinces) were underscored. Consequently, the importance of searching for funding from other sources was emphasized. A new graphic design was developed for the publishing series “Studia i rozprawy TNFS”. Also, the question of cooperation with Wydawnictwo Salezjańskie [Salesian Publishing House] in the field of printing and distribution of publications by the FSSS and the journal “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” was discussed.

2.3. During the meeting of the Management Board no. 3/2022 on April 29, 2022:

- Preparations for the 15th Congress of the Society and scientific conference were discussed. The significance of preparing the Congress in terms of its graphics was also stressed.

- While applying for the program “Wsparcie dla Czasopism Naukowych” [Support for Scientific Journals], the publishing activities in 2019-2020 were also discussed. During this period, in the journal “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” 131 texts were published (97 scientific papers, of which 25 were in conference languages). 17 of the

authors had foreign affiliations. The process of internationalization of the review team continued. At present, 30 foreign reviewers from Italy, Slovakia, Benin, Ukraine, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Austria, Sweden, Israel and Great Britain cooperate with the editorial office permanently. The editor-in-chief of "Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe" applied to the DOAJ database and efforts are being made to apply to the SCOPUS database. In addition, a new layout of the journal was established. The fact that texts by foreign authors are too few poses a constant challenge. The editor-in-chief of the journal, Jerzy Gocko, drew attention to the need to reflect on narrowing the profile of the magazine. The issue of statutory obligations of FSSS members was also discussed.

2.4. During meeting no. 4/2022 of the Management Board which was held remotely on May 16, 2022, the FSSS financial report for 2021 and Uchwała nr 2022/05/16/01 *W sprawie rekomendacji przyjęcia sprawozdania finansowego TNFS za rok 2021* [Resolution no. 2022/05/16/01 regarding the recommendation to accept the FSSS financial report for 2021] by the FSSS General Meeting were adopted.

2.5. Meeting no. 5/2022 of the Management Board was held on May 19, 2022, in Ślesin before the 14th Congress of the FSSS.

– The participants discussed organizational matters of the 14th Congress of the FSSS and the list of proposed members of the Presidium of the General Meeting, the Election Commission and candidates for the Society's authorities.

– Jerzy Gocko, the editor-in-chief of "Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe" together with Krzysztof Niegowski, the editorial secretary, presented a strategy for the development of this periodical. It includes, among others, changing its thematic profile, the internationalization of the editorial board, scientific council and team of reviewers, changing the publication frequency (semi-annual instead of quarterly), moving to the UKSW journal platform, increasing the number of databases and repositories indexing "Seminare", and a number of activities to increase the journal's recognition and its importance in the international academic community.

– A discussion held within the Board also concerned the future publishing policy of the FSSS.

2.6. The next meeting of the Management Board no. 6/2022 was held on May 20, 2022.

It was the first meeting of the newly elected authorities of the Society. It was presided over by the President, Rev. Prof. Jerzy Gocko SDB. In accordance with the Regulations of the General Meeting of TNFS § 9, point 6, the main purpose of the meeting was to determine functions within the new Management Board. After a discussion, Uchwała nr 2022/05/20/1 *O podziale funkcji w Zarządzie TNFS* [Resolution no. 2022/05/20/1 on the division of functions] was adopted. Rev. Ryszard Sadowski SDB was elected vice-president, Rev. Sylwester Jędrzejewski SDB

was elected the secretary, and Rev. Mariusz Chamarczuk SDB became the treasurer. Rev. Stanisław Chrobak SDB, Rev. Zbigniew Łepko SDB, and Rev. Peter Mlynarčík SDB were elected members (without functions) of the FSSS Management Board

2.7. The next meeting of the Management Board no. 7/2022 was held on July 1, 2022. It was held in-person with the remote participation of Peter Mlynarčík (Žilina-Slovakia). The following issues were addressed:

- The FSSS Management Board, based on the opinions of the participants of the 14th Congress in Ślesin, analyzed the Congress. The topicality of the issues discussed was emphasized: *Młodość i jej popandemiczny świat* [Youth and its Post-Pandemic World] as well as the high quality of the presentations and lectures presented during the scientific session. Organizational issues for the future were also discussed.
- Possible locations for the subsequent year's Congress were discussed. The majority of members supported the idea of holding the Congress at Dom Polonii in Pułtusk. As for the topic of the 15th Congress, a reflection on the current situation of young people in connection with the war in Ukraine was proposed. The particular problems to be discussed were the war in the light of the social teachings of the Church, the sociological effects of the war, its moral and psychological consequences. The topic seemed all the more valid in light of the Salesian educational mission and the breadth of problems and challenges facing Poland and Ukraine. The reflection was to concern both people directly affected by the war (war refugees and their families) and people who receive them, in Poland and Slovakia in particular. As a conclusion of the discussion, it was stressed that this topic should be presented from the Ukrainian, Polish, and Slovakian perspectives. The topic of the symposium will be discussed at subsequent meetings of the Management Board.
- A new monograph was included in the publishing plans as part of the series "Studia i rozprawy TNFS". XXXV Łądzkie Sympozjum Liturgiczne [the 35th Łądz Liturgical Symposium] was granted scientific patronage.
- President Jerzy Gocko proposed organizing a symposium dedicated to the patron of FSSS, Francis de Sales, on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of his death. Proposed speakers were discussed, and the following topic was suggested: "Franciszek Salezy – człowiek, myśliciel, święty" [Francis de Sales: Man, Thinker, Saint]. However, because of the pandemic, the symposium did not take place.
- The resignation of Dariusz Sztuk SDB, secretary of the Chapter of Adam Durak SDB Award was accepted. In his place, Radosław Błaszczuk SDB was proposed.

2.8. The last meeting of the FSSS Management Board in the reporting year 2022 was held on October 15, 2022, in Łomianki. Peter Mlynarčík (Žilina-Slovakia) took part in it remotely via the MS Teams platform. The following issues were discussed:

– Preparations for the 15th Congress of the FSSS to be held on May 18-19, 2023, at Dom Polonii in Pułtusk. The following topic of the conference within the Congress was approved: “Młodzież a wojna. Wyzwania w kontekście wojny na Ukrainie” [Youth and War: Challenges in the Context of the War in Ukraine]. The structure of the conference was initially defined. The symposium was to include two parts. The first one was to consist of two lectures: “Wojna z perspektywy katolickiej nauki społecznej” [The War From the Perspective of Catholic Social Teaching] and “Wyzwania dla polskiego systemu edukacyjnego” [Challenges for the Polish Educational System]. The participation of a representative of Biuro Analiz Ministerstwa Edukacji i Nauki [Analysis Office of the Ministry of Education and Science] to monitor the situation in connection with the war crisis in Ukraine was initially confirmed. The second part of the symposium was to focus on presenting activities for Ukrainian youth carried out by Salesian institutions and centers in Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia. Due to the importance of the problem, it was proposed to publish the texts of the speeches in the journal “Seminare”.

– Applications for admission of new members to the FSSS were positively considered. Consent was given for another publication in the publishing series “Biblica et Theologica TNFS” (7). Consent was given to grant scientific patronage to TNFS XI Międzynarodowe Sympozjum Resocjalizacyjne [The FSSS 11th International Resocialization Symposium] in Trzciniec and a liturgical symposium in Łąd.

– The budget estimate for 2023 proposed by the FSSS treasurer was considered, including funds for financing the domain, server, and website of the Society and “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe”.

– President Jerzy Gocko presented the effects of implementing the proposals developed by the working group for the new publishing strategy regarding “Seminare” which were discussed at the last FSSS Meeting and previous meetings of the Management Board. These included: migration to the UKSW platform, reorganization and internationalization of the editorial team, and the establishment of a new Scientific Council. These activities will be continued. Invitations to cooperation were sent, among others, to people in South Korea, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The Management Board approved the presented activities and plans.

– Two events related to the presentation of jubilee books in honor of the FSSS members were announced: the 16th National Conference from the “Ekologia Humanistyczna” [Humanistic Ecology] series on October 26, 2022, dedicated to Prof. Zbigniew Łepko SDB, member of the Management Board of the FSSS, and the anniversary celebration of Prof. Henryk Skorowski SDB, to take place on November 7, 2022, at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

Pursuant to § 13 point 4 of the Regulations of the Management Board of the Franciszek Sales Scientific Society, an annual report on the Society's activities should contain a collective list of attendance of the Board's members at its meetings. In the reporting year 2022, the FSSS Management Board met eight times. Attendance at the meetings is illustrated in Tables 1 and 2. The first one refers to the members of the Management Board of the previous term, the second to the current term.

Table 1:

Member of the Management Board	11.01.2022	8.03.2022	29.04.2022	15.05.2022	19.05.2022	Presence in total
Kazimierz Misiaszek	+	+	+	+	+	5
Ryszard Sadowski	+	+	+	+	+	5
Stanisław Chrobak	+	+	+	+	+	5
Mariusz Chamarczuk	+	+	Justified absence	+	+	4
Jerzy Gocko	+	+	+	+	+	5
Sylwester Jędrzejewski	+	+	+	+	+	5
Zbigniew Łepko	+	+	+	+	Justified absence	4
The number of members present	7	7	6	7	6	

Table 2:

Member of the Management Board	20.05.2022	1.07.2022	15.10.2022	Presence in total
Jerzy Gocko	+	+	+	3
Ryszard Sadowski	+	+	+	3
Stanisław Chrobak	+	Justified absence	+	2
Mariusz Chamarczuk	+	+	+	3
Peter Mlynarčík	+	+	+	3
Sylwester Jędrzejewski	+	+	+	3
Zbigniew Łepko	Justified absence	+	+	2
The number of members present	6	6	7	

Pursuant to § 27 point 5 of the FSSS Statute, representatives of the Audit Committee, the editor-in-chief of "Seminare" and other persons invited by the President of the Society may participate in the meetings with an advisory vote.

The presence of the members of the FSSS Audit Committee at the meetings of the Management Board in the previous term is presented in table 3; in the current one – table 4.

Table 3:

Member of the Audit Committee	11.01.2022	8.03.2022	29.04.2022	19.05.2022	Presence in total
Krzysztof Niegowski	+	+	+	+	4
Jan Niewęglowski	+	+	+	+	4
Radosław Błaszczuk	-	Justified absence	Justified absence	+	1

Table 4:

Member of the Audit Committee	1.07.2022	15.10.2022	Presence in total
Krzysztof Niegowski	Justified absence	Justified absence	0
Mirosław Wierzbicki	Justified absence	+	1
Radosław Błaszczuk	Justified absence	Justified absence	0

The Audit Committee of the Society, at its meeting on March 31, 2023, adopted a resolution confirming that the activities of the Society in 2022 were in accordance with its Statute and Regulations. No irregularities during this period were detected. During the reporting period, at the invitation of the President of FSSS, representatives of the Audit Committee took part in the meetings of the Management Board as observers and provided advisory input in the decisions made by the Management Board. The Audit Committee did not submit any comments or recommendations.

3. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As of December 31, 2022, the Francis de Sales Scientific Society had 118 regular members. During the reporting year, Prof. Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz and Prof. Barbara Baraniak passed away, and three people resigned their membership. Six new members were admitted. The current list of the FSSS members is available on its website.

The number of honorary members of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society did not change in 2022. The current honorary members are Rev. Dr. Pascual Chavez SDB, General Superior of the Salesian Society (2002-2014), and Rev. Ángel Fernández Artime SDB, the current General Superior of the Salesian Society. The

supporting members of the FSSS are the four Polish Salesian provinces and Wyższe Seminarium Duchowne Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego [the Higher Theological Seminaries of the Salesian Society] in Krakow and Łąd (since the 2022/2023 academic year, both seminaries have formed Salezjański Instytut Teologiczny [the Salesian Theological Institute] affiliated with Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II [the Pontifical University of John Paul II] in Kraków.

The Francis de Sales Scientific Society pursues its statutory goals based on funds from membership fees, subsidies, and donations. The annual membership fee is PLN 50. The income from contributions in the period in question is shown in the table below (payment status as of December 31, 2022).

Table 5: Membership fees 2022 (number of members: 118)

Payments made:	2900 PLN
Overdue payments:	3000 PLN
Percentage of arrears	50,8 %
Total amount of payments	2900 PLN

4. SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

In 2022, the scientific activities of the FSSS focused on research work conducted by its members around the issue of “Youth and their world” and on the annual scientific conference during which FSSS members had the opportunity to present their achievements.

The publishing activity of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society focuses primarily on the periodical “Seminare”. In recognition of its growing scientific prestige, publishing level and growth, Ministerstwo Edukacji i Nauki [the Ministry of Education and Science] gave “Seminare” 70 points. The work of the editorial team and the previous editor-in-chief, Jerzy Gocko, together with the editors (who worked on the journal’s development strategy) has largely contributed to raising the substantive and formal level of the journal. People representing foreign research centers were appointed to the new editorial board, scientific council, and team of reviewers. In the 2022 edition, 3 issues of the journal were published, the fourth one in *Online-First mode*. They contain a total of 60 scientific texts, including 48 articles, 7 reports, and 5 reviews.

In 2022, as part of the FSSS publishing series “Studia i rozprawy TNFS” [the FSSS Studies and Dissertations], we published a monograph by Marek Woś, “Aksjonormatywne wymiary wychowania do podmiotowości społecznej. Studium koncepcji wychowania Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego” [Axionormative Dimensions of Education for Social Subjectivity: A Study of the Concept of Education According to the Salesian Society], (“Studia i rozprawy TNFS”, vol. 14, Warszawa: TNFS 2022, 335 pages).

As part of the series “Biblica et Theologica”, we published a monograph by Daria Laura Gargała, “Narracja o działalności św. Pawła w Filipi (Dz 16, 9-40) w świetle starożytnej literatury greckiej” [A Narrative of the Activity of Saint Paul in Philippi (Acts 16:9-40) in the light of ancient Greek literature], (BiTh TNFS 7, Wydawnictwo Salezjańskie, Warszawa 2022, 267 pages).

The FSSS took scientific patronage over two scientific symposia: XI Międzynarodowe Sympozjum Resocjalizacyjne [11th International Resocialization Symposium] in Trzcinec entitled “Wokół organizacji pracy resocjalizacyjnej w kontekście nowych wyzwań” [On the Organization of Social Rehabilitation in the Context of New Challenges] (November 18, 2022) and XXXV Łądzkie Sympozjum Liturgiczne [35th Liturgical Symposium in Łódź] entitled “Adwent mocnym okresem roku liturgicznego” [The Advent as a Vital Time in the Liturgical Year] (October 21, 2022).

CONCLUSION

In the reporting year, the Society continued its mission of being a platform for exchanging information on the research interests of its members as well as a forum for promoting projects that were implemented. With its publishing activity, it complements the activities of universities and scientific institutions in many fields and areas of Polish science.

The Management Board would like to thank all the members of the Society who, with their steadfast commitment, contributed to the functioning of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2022.