

A Report on the Activities of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2023

Sprawozdanie z działalności Towarzystwa Naukowego Franciszka Salezego w 2023 roku

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Scientific societies combine in their activities development of science, meeting their members' needs for social activity, familiarizing wider circles of society with contemporary scientific advancements as well as broadly understood dissemination of knowledge. They cultivate the tradition passed down by former generations and raise the awareness of the importance of scientific, cultural and civic activities. They are, therefore, a manifestation of social interest in science and its practice.

As stated in its Statute, the Francis de Sales Scientific Society (TNFS) declares as the primary area of its activity the "world of youth". The Society's main goal is to comprehend the realities of young people, including their needs, threats and hopes typical of this age group. Through research and popularization of its findings, organization of scientific events, cooperation with scientific, social and educational institutions, the Society integrates those environments that value the idea of forming the new generation. This task is specifically carried out in all environments gathered around the Francis de Sales Scientific Society.

In the reporting period from January 1 to December 31, 2023, the activity of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society included the following areas and associated events:

1. THE 15TH THE FRANCIS DE SALES SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY CONGRESS AND GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

Organizational activities of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society were focused on the work of its members and authorities. They were carried out in various scientific fields and those dealing with the popularization of knowledge. Following the Statute, the General Meeting, the highest authority of the Society, gathers its members



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at the annual TNFS Congress. The 15th TNFS Congress combined with the annual scientific symposium was held on May 18-19, 2023, at the Dom Polonia - Hotel Zamek in Pułtusk. It began on May 18, 2023 with a joint meeting of the TNFS Board and the editorial office of the "Seminare. Poszukiwania Naukowe" [Seminare. Learned Investigations] journal as well as integration meetings. The working day of the Meeting began with the celebration of the Holy Mass in the Collegiate Basilica in Pułtusk on May 19, 2024. The prayer was led by the inspector of the Salesian Province of Wrocław, Rev. dr Bartłomiej Polański SDB. The formal part of the 15th Congress was opened by the President of the TNFS, Rev. prof. dr hab. Jerzy Gocko SDB. The Congress started with the implementation of the TNFS Board's Resolution of April 4, 2023, on granting the *Praemium Societatis Scientiarum Francisci Salesii* to the first president of the Society and one of its initiators, jubilarian, Rev. prof. Henryk Skorowski SDB. After reading the Resolution by Rev. prof. J. Gocko, the occasional laudation was given by Rev. dr Krzysztof Niegowski SDB. The award was presented to the Jubilarian by Inspector Rev. dr Bartłomiej Polański SDB, after which the Laureate expressed his gratitude for the award in a short speech.

After this ceremony, the General Meeting of the TNFS was constituted. On signing the attendance list, it turned out that the required quorum was not met, hence, pursuant to §17 point 2 of the Society's Statute, a break was ordered before the 2nd session of the General Meeting. According to the TNFS statute, during the second session, resolutions are adopted by simple majority of votes regardless of the number of attending members.

The main scientific point of the 15th Congress was the scientific conference: "Młodzież a wojna. Wyzwania w kontekście wojny na Ukrainie" [Youth and War. Challenges in the Context of the War in Ukraine]. In the first part of the conference, chaired by dr hab. Agnieszka Kulik, prof. KUL, the following participants presented their papers: Rev. prof. dr hab. Henryk Skorowski: "Problem wojny etycznie usprawiedliwionej w kontekście wojny na Ukrainie" [The Problem of Ethically Justified War in the Context of the War in Ukraine] and Wawrzyniec Roch Kowalski from the Ministry of Education and Science: "Wojna na Ukrainie jako wyzwania dla polskiego systemu edukacyjnego" [The War in Ukraine as Challenges for the Polish Education System]. The discussion after the presented papers concerned the difficulties with the precise distinction in the teaching of the Church between a just war and an ethically justified war, especially in the face of the extremely devastating experience of the war in Ukraine. The following question raised was the role of the Polish state in the complex problem of education and upbringing of children and youth from Ukraine staying in Poland.

The second part of the conference was titled: "Zaangażowanie instytucji i ośrodków salezjańskich na rzecz młodzieży ukraińskiej" [The Involvement of Salesian Institutions and Centers in the Interests of Ukrainian Youth]. Rev. dr hab. M. Chamarczuk SDB, prof. WSKM in Konin presented this issue from the Polish perspective, while Rev. dr hab. Peter Młynarczyk SDB from the University

of St. Elisabeth in Bratislava (Slovakia) presented the Slovak perspective. Rev. mgr Mateusz Kopaniecki SDB outlined the activities conducted by Salesian centres in Poland and Ukraine. During the discussion of the presentations, the participants raised the topic of the Salesian national centre for crisis management. This role was played by the Warsaw Salesian province. The following discussed topic were the potential and existing negative phenomena currently occurring in Poland in the realm of education and upbringing. Finally, the participants indicated important from the Church's perspective tasks to be carried out with respect to Ukrainian youth. These include maintaining their own religious identity as well as the existing and growing problem of crime and addictions among young Ukrainians staying in Poland.

The above part was followed by the second session of the TNFS General Meeting, chaired by Rev. R. Sadowski SDB. During this session, four resolutions recommended by the Board and made available in advance to all members of the Society, were put to a vote: *Uchwała WZ-2023/05/01 W sprawie zatwierdzenia sprawozdania finansowego* [Resolution WZ-2023/05/01 Regarding the approval of the financial statement]; *Uchwała WZ-2023/05/02 W sprawie podziału zysku* [Resolution WZ-2023/05/02 On the distribution of profits]; *Uchwała WZ-2023/05/03 W sprawie przyjęcia protokołu Komisji Rewizyjnej TNFS* [Resolution WZ-2023/05/03 On the adoption of the proceedings of the TNFS Audit Committee] and *Uchwała WZ-2023/05/04 W sprawie przyjęcia sprawozdania z działalności TNFS za rok 2022* [Resolution WZ-2023/05/04 On the adoption of the report on the TNFS activities for 2022]. All resolutions were adopted by the TNFS General Meeting, after which Rev. prof. J. Gocko announced the end of the formal part of the 15th General Meeting.

Subsequently, the participants discussed proposals for the venue and date of the next, 16th TNFS Congress and a possible modified formula for organizing a scientific symposium. The new formula would require a person or a group of people from among the TNFS members, together with a team selected by them, to present the topics for a future scientific symposium as well as the way of its organization. This proposal requires further thought and discussion.

2. BOARD MEETINGS OF THE FRANCIS DE SALES SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY IN 2023

During the reporting period, the Board of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society met four times. The Board meetings in 2023 were held in Łomianki, remotely using the MS Teams application, and in a hybrid form. They took place on February 7, April 4, May 19, and December 2, 2023.

2.1. During the Management Board meeting No. 1/2023 on February 7, 2023, the following issues were raised:

- The final topic and program of the scientific conference as part of the 15th TNFS Congress on May 18-19, 2023 in Pułtusk were adopted: "Młodzież a wojna. Wyzwania w kontekście wojny na Ukrainie" [Youth and War. Challenges in the

Context of the War in Ukraine]. Organizational issues, planned costs, and the state of preparations for the congress were discussed.

- The Management Board included mgr Marcin Bielecki among the TNFS members.

- The request to publish a monograph as part of the publishing series "Studia i rozprawy TNFS" [TNFS Studies and Dissertations] was considered positively: Rev. Łukasz Pawłowski SDB, *Model świętości kapłańskiej w pismach Czcigodnego Sługi Bożego ks. Józefa Ouadrio (1921-1963)* [Model of Priestly Holiness in the Writings of the Venerable Servant of God Rev. Józef Ouadrio (1921-1963)].

- The issue of the award of Rev. Adam Durak was raised and an application was reviewed for granting the 2023 award to dr Bogumiła Frontczak from the UPJPII in Kraków for her monograph on the source texts of early Christianity, important for research in the field of liturgics. The applicant is Rev. dr hab. Jarosław Superson from the UPJPII in Kraków.

- The Management Board accepted the TNFS budget estimate for 2023 submitted by the TNFS treasurer, Rev. Mariusz Chamarczuk.

2.2. During meeting no. 2/2023 on April 4, 2023, the Management Board dealt with the following issues:

- The TNFS financial report for 2022 prepared by the TNFS treasurer, Rev. M. Chamarczuk and Monika Dziuban - ALFA PLUS Accounting Office from Warsaw was discussed. After the discussion, the Management Board decided to adopt the TNFS financial report for 2022 and Uchwała nr 2023/04/04/01 *W sprawie rekomendacji przyjęcia tegoż sprawozdania finansowego i rekomendacji Walnemu Zebraniu TNFS* [Resolution No. 2023/04/04/01 on the recommendation to adopt the financial report and recommendation to the TNFS General Meeting].

- The TNFS Secretary, Rev. Sylwester Jędrzejewski, presented the Report on the Society's activities in 2022. After the discussion, the Management Board, by Resolution No. 2023/04/04/02, decided to adopt the presented document and recommend its adoption by the TNFS General Meeting.

- The Management Board adopted resolution 2023/04/04/03 on awarding the TNFS - PRAEMIUM SOCIETATIS SCIENTIARUM FRANCISCI SALESII prize to Rev. prof. dr hab. Henryk Skorowski, First President of the Society. The award and justification for the prize were presented by Rev. prof. dr hab. J. Gocko, who emphasized the organizational merits of the Laureate and his outstanding scientific achievements in the spirit of the Christian humanism of St. Francis de Sales. The award will be presented during the 15th TNFS Congress in Pułtusk.

- The application for admission to the Francis de Sales Scientific Society were positively considered: Rev. dr hab. Waldemar Bartocha, dr Ewa Jaglarz. dr hab. Piotr Gołdyn prof. UW, mgr. Krzysztof Kupiński.

- The Board agreed to publish two monographs in the *Biblie a et Theologica* publishing series: Andrzej Kosiński, - *Jetro - teść Mojżesza we wczesnej tradycji żydowskiej i chrześcijańskiej* [Jethro - Father-in-law of Moses in the Early Jewish

and Christian Tradition] and Rev. Adrian Mętel, *Drzewa w Edenie. Motyw drzewa (Rdz 3,1-24) w apokaliptycznych pismach judaizmu okresu Drugiej Świątyni*. [Trees in Eden. Motif of the Tree (Gen 3:1-24) in the Apocalyptic Writings of Judaism in the Second Temple Period].

- After discussion on indexing TNFS publications in the CEEOL repository, addressed to Eastern European countries, a decision was made to withdraw from this repository due to its commercialization.

- Decision was made to assume scientific patronage over the symposium organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Salesian parish of St. Joseph in Przemyśl. The organizers of the symposium are: the Parish of St. Joseph in Przemyśl and the National Museum of the Przemyśl Region in Przemyśl.

- The President of the Society presented information on the current use of the Ministry of Education and Science funds allocated for the “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” journal under the “Rozwój Czasopism Naukowych” [Development of scientific journals] programme. The positive effects of promoting “Seminare” on Facebook were also indicated, i.e. the growing statistics of visits noted on the “Seminare” profile after switching to the UKSW journal platform in Warsaw.

2.3. Board meeting no. 3/2023 was held on May 19, 2023, in Pułtusk as part of the 15th Congress of the Society.

- The Management Board discussed the attendance in the annual TNFS Congresses, which was at the level of 1/3 of the Society’s members. Among other things, a possibility was pointed out to modify the current practice of defining the topics of scientific sessions as well as methods of their organization. It would consist in increasing the number of speakers, TNFS members, from various scientific centres. It was also suggested that during the General Meeting, TNFS members should be given the opportunity to develop an original concept of the conference, the content of which should refer to the fundamental mission of TNFS: “Youth and their world”. The Management Board would retain the right to the final acceptance of the submitted application, while providing full support in its organization.

- Arrangements were made regarding the prerogatives of the TNFS Management Board and the TNFS President towards the Chapter of the Father A. Durak Award and the award itself. They result, on the one hand, from the Chapter Statute, which is chaired by each subsequent President of the TNFS, and on the other hand, from the Chapter’s autonomy.

- The Chairman of the TNFS Audit Committee, Rev. Krzysztof Niegowski, presented the Committee’s minutes, which will be voted on during the General Meeting in Pułtusk.

- The TNFS Management Board held a discussion on improving the capabilities of the current TNFS treasurer, Rev. M. Chamarczuk.

- The Management Board agreed to assume the scientific patronage of the TNFS for the scientific session on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Salesian’s work in Czerwińsk.

– Rev. Mariusz Chamarczuk, the editor-in-chief of the TNFS “Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe” journal, presented positive opinions on the changes that have taken place in the journal after adopting a new strategy, consisting in narrowing the profile of journal to topics revolving around the “world of youth” and placing the journal on the UKSW platform. As a result of the promotion of “Seminare” on Facebook, there is a systematic increase in the number of visits to the journal’s website. Efforts are underway to acquire authors for “Seminare” from outside Poland. The journal will be permanently deposited in the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) in Canada. Further preparations are being made for the next attempt to apply to the Scopus database. The editorial secretary presented information on the state of work on volume 45 (2023) of “Seminare”.

2.4. The Management Board meeting no. 4/2023 took place on December 2, 2023. It covered:

– Discussion of the state of preparations for the 16th TNFS congress combined with a scientific conference, scheduled for May 17-18, 2024, in Frombork. The choice of the venue is related to the celebration of the Copernican Year. The Management Board accepted prior arrangements.

– The Management Board discussion on the conference theme related to the presence of youth in cyberspace proposed by Prof. Zdzisława Kobylińska. Its theme was finally defined as “Młodzież w cyberprzestrzeni: szanse i zagrożenia” [Youth in cyberspace: opportunities and threats]. During the discussion on the presence of youth in cyberspace, it was indicated that the topic should be presented in both its negative and positive aspects. That means presentation of the topic by speakers who are experts in the field of psychology, pedagogy, and medicine. The Management Board approved the two-part structure of the conference. The theoretical part would include 3 papers and it would be supplemented by a panel discussion conducted by practitioners and experts.

– Proposal by Rev. dr hab. M. Wierzbicki, participating in the Board meeting on behalf of the Audit Committee, that the participants of the 16th Congress should develop and adopt an appeal regarding the discussed topic, in order to present it in various scientific, church and educational environments. This would aim to underlie the importance of the problem related to the presence of young people in cyberspace and the associated ideas developed during the conference. The Management Board accepted this proposal.

– The report of the President of the Society and at the same time the Chairman of the Chapter of the Rev. prof. Adam Durak Award on its last meeting. The Chapter awarded two equal prizes for 2023 in the amount of PLN 5,000: to Rev. dr Rafał Wasielewski and dr Bogusława Frontczak. The presentation of medals to this year’s laureates is planned during the next Liturgical Symposium in Łąd on April 12, 2024.

– Presentation of the possibility by Rev. M. Wierzbicki of adapting one of the rooms to the TNFS office in Łomianki as part of the plans to transform

the Education and Studies Centre at the Salesian community in Łomianki into a scientific and research institution addressed to other Salesian entities.

Pursuant to §13 point 4 of the Regulations of the Management Board of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society, an annual report on the Society's activities should include a complete list of attendance of the Board's members at its meetings. In the reporting year 2023, the TNFS Management Board met four times. Attendance at the meetings is presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Attendance at Audit Committee meetings

Member of the Management Board	7.02.2023	4.04.2023	19.05.2023	2.12.2023	Total attendance
Rev. J. Gocko	+	+	+	+	4
Rev. R. Sadowski	+	+	+	+	4
Rev. Stanisław Chrobak	+	+	+	+	4
Rev. Mariusz Chamarczuk	+	+	+	just.	3
Rev. P. Młynarczyk	+	+	+	just.	3
Rev. S. Jędrzejewski	+	+	+	+	4
Rev. Z. Lepko	+	+	+	+	4
Total number of present members	7	7	7	5	

Pursuant to §27 point 5 of the TNFS Statute, representatives of the Audit Committee and other persons invited by the President of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society may participate in the meetings of the Management Board with advisory capacity. The presence of members of the TNFS Audit Committee at the meetings of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society Management Board is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Attendance at Audit Committee meetings

Audit Committee member	7.02.2023	4.04.2023	19.05.2023	2.12.2023	Total attendance
Rev. K. Niegowski	+	+	+	–	3
Rev. M. Wierzbicki	–	–	–	+	1
Rev. R. Błaszczuk	–	–	–	–	0

The Audit Committee of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society at its meeting on March 2, 2024, adopted a resolution confirming that the Society's activities in 2023 were conducted in accordance with the Statute and Regulations of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society. No irregularities during this period were found. During

the reporting period, at the invitation of the TNFS President, representatives of the Audit Committee participated in the meetings of the Management Board of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society as observers and served in an advisory capacity in decisions made by the Management Board. The Audit Committee did not submit any comments or recommendations.

2. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

As of December 31, 2023, the Francis de Sales Scientific Society had 124 regular members. During the reporting year, Prof Barbara Baraniak passed away, 2 people resigned from their membership: Prof. Czesław Grajewski and dr hab. Barbara Kałdon. 5 new members were admitted to the TNFS: mgr. Marcin Bielecki, Rev. dr hab. Waldemar Bartocha, dr Ewa Jaglarz, dr hab. Piotr Gołdyn Prof. UW, mgr. Krzysztof Kupiński. The current list of the TNFS members is available on its website.

The number of honorary members of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society did not change in 2023. The current honorary members are: Rev. dr Pascual Chavez SDB - former Superior General of the Salesian Society (2002-2014); Rev. Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime - current Superior General of the Salesian Society (since 2014). The supporting members of the TNFS are the Polish Salesian provinces and Wyższe Seminarium Duchowne Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego [the Higher Theological Seminary of the Salesian Society] in Kraków (since the 2022/2023 academic year the Salesian Theological Institute, affiliated with Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II [the Pontifical University of John Paul II] in Kraków. Until the 2022/2023 academic year, the Higher Theological Seminary of the Kraków and incorporated into the Salesian Theological Institute.

The Francis de Sales Scientific Society implements its statutory goals based on funds from membership fees, subsidies and donations. The annual membership fee is PLN 50. The income from fees in the period in question is presented in Table 3 below (payments status as of December 31, 2023).

Table No. 3: Membership fees in 2023 (number of members 124)

Payments made:	39
Overdue payments:	85
Percentage of arrears	64,54%
Total amount of payments	1950 PLN

2.1. Scientific and publishing activities

In 2023, the scientific activities of the TNFS focused on research work conducted by its members individually or in teams. A significant part of the activities focused on the topic of "Youth and their world". In addition, an important

event was the annual scientific conference, during which TNFS members had the opportunity to present their achievements, taking part in a panel discussion.

The publishing activity of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society focuses primarily on the "Seminare" journal and three published scientific series. The reporting year was a period of further changes related to the implementation of a new publishing strategy of the editorial board consisting in narrowing the journal's profile to "Youth and their world" related topics. The work of the editorial team, which met regularly, both at meetings of the entire editorial office or smaller editorial boards, is worth emphasizing as it has greatly contributed to raising the substantive and formal level of our journal. The process of reorganizing the editorial office, the scientific council and the team of reviewers was also continued with new members being appointed from among representatives of foreign research centres, specialists in areas related to the new profile of the journal. In the reporting year, two issues of the journal were published, first, in the Online First mode and then in print. They contain 21 articles, 1 report and 1 review. The journal, from 2023 published again as a semi-annual, was given a new layout and a new cover. All texts were published in English. In 2023, the Franciszek Sales Scientific Society published two monographs in the publishing series: "Studia i rozprawy TNFS" [the TNFS Studies and Dissertations]:

- Volume 16: *Historia - tożsamość - kultura. 100-lecie salezjańskiej Parafii Świętego Józefa w Przemyślu* [History - Identity - Culture. 100th Anniversary of the Salesian Parish of Saint Joseph in Przemyśl, ed. Jerzy Gocko SDB, Marta Trojanowska. Warszawa-Przemyśl: Towarzystwo Naukowe Franciszka Salezego, Muzeum Narodowe Ziemi Przemyskiej 2023, ISBN: 978-83-61451-35-8;

- volume 17: *Nayiaśniejszy Nieba y Ziemi Królowey Nayświętszey Maryi Panny Przecudowney w Obrazie Jasney Góry Czerwińskiej (...) na 20 stopniach z krótkim nabożeństwem wystawiony. Facsimile, tekst, opracowania* [The Most Wonderful Image of the Most Holy Queen of Heaven and Earth, Virgin Mary in the Painting of Jasna Góra Czerwińska. Facsimile, text, studies], ed. Rev. Janusz Nowiński SDB (2023).

In the *Biblica et Theologica* series three monographs were published:

- BiTh TNFS 8: Katarzyna Sługocka OP, *Pierwszy żydowski hellenistyczny historyk Eupolemos i jego koncepcja historiografii* [The First Jewish Hellenistic Historian Eupolemos and His Concept of Historiography], Towarzystwo Naukowe Franciszka Salezego, Wydawnictwo Salezjańskie, Warszawa 2023, 404 pages;

- BiTh TNFS 9: Andrzej Kosiński, *Jetro - teść Mojżesza we wczesnej tradycji chrześcijańskiej* [Jethro - Father-in-law of Moses in the Early Jewish and Christian Tradition], (BiTh TNFS 9), Towarzystwo Naukowe Franciszka Salezego, Wydawnictwo Salezjańskie, Warszawa 2023, 308 pages;

- BiTh TNFS 10: Adrian Mętel, *Drzewa w Edenie. Motyw drzewa (Rdz 3,1-24) w apokaliptycznych pismach judaizmu okresu Drugiej Świątyni* [Trees in Eden. Motif of the Tree (Gen 3:1-24) in the Apocalyptic Writings of Judaism in the Second Temple Period], Towarzystwo Naukowe Franciszka Salezego, Wydawnictwo Salezjańskie, Warszawa 2023, 271 pages.

The Francis de Sales Scientific Society assumed the scientific patronage of the symposium on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Salesian parish of St. Joseph in Przemyśl, organized by the Parish of St. Joseph in Przemyśl and the National Museum of the Przemyśl Region in Przemyśl, and of the scientific session on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Salesian work in Czerwińsk.

CONCLUSION

In the reporting year 2023, the Francis de Sales Scientific Society conducted its activities in accordance with its Statute. It is worth emphasizing the implemented strategy of focusing the Society's activities on youth issues, so important in the context of contemporary cultural challenges. The Board of the TNFS would like to express their gratitude to all members who contributed to the active functioning of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2023.