

Report on the Activities of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2025

Sprawozdanie z działalności Towarzystwa Naukowego Franciszka Salezego za rok 2025

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The Francis de Sales Scientific Society (TNFS) focuses, in accordance with its Statutes, on the broadly understood “world of youth”. It conducts and supports academic research, organises events to facilitate knowledge exchange, and initiates projects to address contemporary educational, formative, and cultural challenges. Its work combines scholarly rigour with the Christian humanism of St Francis de Sales.

During the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, the Society’s activities centred on the following areas.

I. The 17th TNFS Congress and General Assembly



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The principal statutory event of 2025 was the 17th TNFS Congress, held on 15–16 May at the Golden Forest Hermitage in Rytwiany. It brought together 33 participants, including Society members, invited speakers, and guests. The programme combined academic, statutory, organisational, spiritual, and community-building elements.

The second day began with the celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by the President of TNFS, Rev. Prof. Jerzy Gocko SDB.

The central academic event was the conference entitled “Youth and the Meaning of Life”, which inaugurated the five-year TNFS research project Youth in Search of Meaning, scheduled to run from 2025 to 2029. The project aims to develop an interdisciplinary examination of how contemporary young people experience and seek meaning amid cultural, social, religious, and technological change.

The speakers were Prof. Krzysztof Wielecki, Prof. Marek Melnyk, Rev. Prof. Witold Kawecki, and Prof. Dariusz Wesołowski. Their presentations addressed civilisational crisis and intergenerational communication, transformations in youth spirituality, the relationship between culture and values, and the educational dimension of the search for meaning.

A panel discussion with young people and pastoral workers complemented the academic presentations by relating them to contemporary youth experience, particularly in the areas of meaning, interpersonal relationships, and digital technologies.

As the required quorum was not reached at the first session, the General Assembly reconvened in accordance with the Statutes. It approved the Society's financial and activity reports for 2024, allocated the financial surplus, and accepted the Audit Committee's report.

The General Assembly also discussed plans to hold the 18th TNFS Congress in Łą on 14–15 May 2026. It confirmed that Youth in Search of Meaning would remain the Society's principal framework for future academic initiatives.

II. Meetings of the Board of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society in 2025

The Board held three meetings in 2025: on 31 March, 15 May, and 24 October. The meetings were conducted online, in person, or in a hybrid format. Average attendance was 90.5%. Representatives of the Audit Committee participated as observers and advisers.

During its meetings, the Board reviewed the Society's reporting documentation for 2024, prepared the 17th TNFS Congress, and launched the five-year research programme Youth in Search of Meaning. It also admitted five new members and discussed the development of *Seminare*. Learned Investigations, international cooperation, academic patronage, external funding, and publishing cooperation with the Salesian Sports Organisation of the Republic of Poland.

Publishing matters formed an important part of the Board's work. Measures were considered to increase the number of articles published in *Seminare*, improve the journal's academic quality, strengthen its international profile, and continue efforts to secure inclusion in international indexing databases. The journal's fiftieth anniversary was also noted.

The Board discussed the presentation of the *Praemium Societatis Scientiarum Francisci Salesii* to Rev. Prof. Kazimierz Misiaszek SDB. Owing to the recipient's state of health, the award ceremony was postponed and will be held in a form adapted to his circumstances.

International cooperation was developed through contacts with Salesian academic institutions in Rome, including the Salesian Pontifical University. The Society's research programme on youth, including the project Youth and Their World, was presented during these meetings, and possible forms of scholarly cooperation and the involvement of international researchers in the Society's work were discussed.

The Board adopted a provisional budget for 2025. It granted academic patronage to selected initiatives, including a conference in the Humanistic Ecology series, the publication series Salesian Spirituality Notebooks, a symposium in Łą devoted to the continuing relevance of St John Bosco's charism, and the conference Rehabilitation through Work, organised by the Salesian Educational Centre in Trzciniec.

The Board confirmed its decision to co-publish the SALOS RP Monographs series and to participate in the organisation of its annual scholarly symposium. It also established the main organisational arrangements for the 18th TNFS Congress in Łą. The accompanying conference will form the next stage of Youth in Search of Meaning, with responsibility for the

academic programme entrusted to Rev. Prof. Henryk Skorowski SDB and Prof. Monika Podkowińska.

After reviewing the documentation relating to the Society's work in 2025, the Audit Committee concluded that its activities had been conducted in accordance with the Statutes and internal regulations. No irregularities were identified, and no additional recommendations were made.

III. Membership Affairs

In 2025, five new members were admitted to the Francis de Sales Scientific Society: Prof. Krzysztof Wielecki, Rev. Mariusz Kuźniar, Rev. Radosław Mazur, Magdalena Wilczek-Karczewska, PhD, and Katarzyna Mazela, MA.

As of 31 December 2025, the Society had 133 regular members, two honorary members, and five supporting members.

The honorary members remain Rev. Pascual Chávez Villanueva SDB, Rector Major of the Salesian Society from 2002 to 2014, and Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime SDB, Rector Major from 2014 to 2024.

The Society pursued its statutory objectives using funds derived from membership fees, grants, and donations. The annual individual membership fee remained PLN 50. In 2025, 71 of the 133 regular members paid their fees, representing 53.38% of the membership.

IV. Academic and Publishing Activities

In 2025, the scholarly activity of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society continued to focus on Youth and Their World, now developed within the five-year research programme Youth in Search of Meaning. Its first stage was the conference Youth and the Meaning of Life, held during the 17th TNFS Congress in Rytwiany.

Publishing remained one of the principal areas of TNFS activity, centred on *Seminare*, *Learned Investigations* and the Society's monograph series.

In 2025, *Seminare* maintained its semi-annual publication cycle. Two issues were published, totalling 37 research articles, two review articles, two reports, and editorial introductions. The editorial team continued its efforts to strengthen the journal's academic quality, international visibility, and presence in indexing databases. The year also marked the fiftieth anniversary of *Seminare*.

Volume 19 of the TNFS Studies and Dissertations series was published under the title *Lenda Vetera et Nova: The Former Abbey in Ląd—Research and Conservation, 2019–2024*, edited by Rev. Janusz Nowiński SDB.

As part of its cooperation with the Salesian Sports Organisation of the Republic of Poland, TNFS became a co-publisher of the SALOS RP Monographs series. In 2025, volume

44 was published under the title *Education for Universalism through Sport*, edited by Jerzy Gocko SDB, Andrzej Pawłucki, and Edward Pleń SDB.

From 2025 onwards, TNFS also became a co-organisier of the annual SALOS RP academic symposia. This cooperation broadens the scope of the Society's publishing activities and strengthens its presence in research on the educational, social, and axiological dimensions of sport.

As of 31 December 2025, the publication record of the series associated with TNFS comprised:

- 19 volumes in the Studies and Dissertations series;
- 5 volumes in the Library of the Francis de Sales Scientific Society series;
- 10 volumes in the Biblica et Theologica TNFS series;
- 44 volumes in the SALOS RP Monographs series.

The Society continued to develop cooperation with academic and educational institutions in Poland and abroad, particularly the Salesian Pontifical University and other Salesian institutions in Rome. TNFS also collaborated in organising the Humanistic Ecology series of conferences and granted academic patronage to initiatives on Salesian pedagogy, social rehabilitation, spirituality, and youth education.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Francis de Sales Scientific Society continued to pursue its statutory mission through academic, publishing, and organisational activities. The year was marked by the launch of Youth in Search of Meaning, the 17th TNFS Congress, the fiftieth anniversary of Seminare, expanded cooperation with SALOS RP, and the development of international academic partnerships.

The Board expresses its gratitude to all members, collaborators, and partner institutions for their contribution to the Society's work in 2025.