

Establishment of organisational structures of the Association of Teaching Priests in Habsburg Galicia between 1899 and 1909

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Abstract:

The article presents the process of the formation of the organisational structures of the Association of Teaching Priests in Galicia. Austrian Crown Galicia. During the reign of the Habsburg Monarchy, it was the first organisation of its kind in this part of Europe, bringing together Polish Catholic clergy involved in the teaching and religious education of children and young people. The chronological scope covers the years 1899-1909, i.e. the first decade of the activity of the Association of Teaching Priests, the time between the formal approval of the first statute and its amendment. The aim of the present publication is to characterise the process of the formation of this organisation and the creation of its organisational network in Galicia during the first decade of its existence, which has yet to be comprehensively covered. This was an unprecedented event in that era as none of the partitioning states (i.e. Prussia, Russia and Austria) that annexed Polish lands at the end of the 18th century had hitherto permitted such activity on the part of the clerical teachers of the Catholic Church. In the course of time it turned out that the organisation established in the Habsburg Monarchy, became the haven for a nationwide association of teaching priests in the reborn Polish state after 1918.

Key Words: Association of Teaching Priests, Galicia, religious teaching, religious education, teaching priests

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I. Introduction

The Austrian monarchy under the Habsburg dynasty annexed the southern part of Poland in 1772. Over time, these territories were given the status of an Austrian crown state with the official name of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria. However, it was the abbreviated name of these lands, namely Galicia, that came into common use. It was a common custom to distinguish between the western and eastern parts thereof, with Krakow being the leading centre for the former and Lviv, which was officially the capital of the entire crown province, for the latter. Initially, Galicia was centrally administered by Vienna, which imposed Austrian legislation in this region, pursued a policy of Germanisation of the population, and restricted civil rights and the functioning of Polish institutions. However, as a result of geopolitical transformations in Europe in the mid-19th century (lost wars with France, Piedmont and Prussia) and the formation of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, internal reforms took place in the former Austrian Empire. In order to preserve the integrity of the empire, the Habsburgs granted greater independence to the individual nations that made up the empire in order to prevent separatist and independence tendencies. As a result of those actions, Galicia was granted far-reaching autonomy with a national parliament and government in the capital Lviv. Almost one hundred years after the takeover of these lands by the Habsburg Monarchy, education, science and culture could develop freely, and numerous Polish social and political organisations were established. It was basically 1867 that marks the beginning of a period of Galician autonomy, which lasted until Poland regained its independence in 1918. During this time, the Sejm had the right to pass laws on the national economy, transport, health and education. As a result, Galicia became a centre for the formation of national identity and cultural heritage. This was manifested in the numerous organisations, societies, brotherhoods and associations that were formed. It was during this period of autonomy that the first Polish professional organisation for Roman Catholic priests involved in the teaching and religious education of children and young people, i.e. the Association of Teaching Priests (*Związek Katechetów*, ZK), was established. Its aim was to improve the professional qualifications of its members and increase the effectiveness of the religious education and formation of children and young people in schools and parishes within the boundaries of Galicia during the reign of the Habsburg dynasty.

II. Materials and methods

The basic source of information in this subject area and the period in question is not archival material, but press materials (selected periodicals) because the former were destroyed or lost during the First and Second World Wars. Archival research in Austria, Poland and Ukraine has only yielded a few single documents that do not contribute significantly to the analysis of the issue in question. With regard to the press, the situation is slightly different as some magazines concerning the Association of Teaching Priests have survived to this day, although completing them is difficult due to the dispersion of the individual volumes and even issues across many Polish libraries and archives (awaiting comprehensive digitisation). The issues addressed concern primarily two Polish periodicals from that period published in Galicia, i.e. the *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* (*Catechetical and Pastoral Biweekly*) and the *Gazeta Kościelna* (*Church Newspaper*). It should be noted that these were the only publications that discussed issues related to the establishment and activities of the Polish Association of Teaching Priests. This is not surprising given that their editors were also the presidents of this organisation and many of its members were part of the editorial board or authors of the articles published in these periodicals. The historical material obtained from these magazines became the subject of research. As a source text, it was subjected to critical analysis during which it was described, interpreted and verified in several dimensions, including facts, characters and chronology, in order to obtain specific data on the mechanisms of creating the organisational structures of the Association of Teaching Priests. These activities contributed to the fact that a lot of valuable information that was previously unknown and, consequently, not studied, came to light for the first time.

III. Formal organisation of the association in the light of the statute and instruction

The Statute of the Association of Teaching Priests under the invocation of St John Cantius¹ was adopted at a general meeting on 20th November 1899 in Lviv, after the approval by the state administration of Galicia, and became the fundamental document defining the structure, tasks and *modus operandi* of the organisation. Over the years, however, it became apparent that it required the removal of some minor inaccuracies and adaptation to the realities of the Association of Teaching Priests (ZK) after a decade of its functioning. After being amended, especially with regard to the functioning of the local Circles (field branches) by giving extra appreciation to their autonomy, the statute received the approval of the *k. k.* Governorate and was formally approved on 27th March 1909 and entered in the register of associations, retaining the existing name.²

Pursuant to the statutory provisions, the main objective of the ZK was to foster mutual communication among the members of the organisation in matters of teaching and education, to promote the concept of Catholic education in society and to affirm any activities intended to promote the welfare of educational institutions and the priest-teachers themselves. The seat of the ZK was located in Lviv which was at that time the capital of Galicia and at the same time of the Metropolitan Consistory. Its activities covered four dioceses: Lviv, Krakow, Przemysl and Tarnow. The statute defined the organisational structure of the Association. In principle, it had a three-tier structure. At the lowest level were (local) Circles of teaching priests, which were the core units of the Association, i.e. field organisational units the task of which was to pursue the goals of the Association taking into account the local conditions. Members of the ZK could establish them in all localities of Galicia. The manner of organising them was to be specified in a separate instruction. The second tier in the internal structure of the Association was formed by all the local Circles operating in the territory of a given diocese and constituting a common conglomerate. Then, all these units taken together constituted the ZK the highest organ of which was the Faculty and the General Assembly (General Meeting) as the central authorities of the organisation.³

The statute divided the members of the ZK into active (ordinary) and honorary (distinguished) ones. As for the former group, it included professionally active and retired Latin-rite priests teaching religion as well as priests teaching subjects other than religion in schools, and also all clergy involved in matters of religious education in general. As for the latter group of members, it was only open to priests of outstanding merit in the field of Christian education of children and young people or involved in the development of the ZK. The former were admitted to the organisation by the Faculty and the latter by the General Assembly based on a proposal of the Faculty.⁴

Those enrolled in the ZK had the right to elect (active right to decide) and be elected (to run for office at every level of authority); to speak and vote at ordinary, diocesan and general meetings; to submit and support motions concerning the statute; to invite priests as guests to meetings with the consent of the chairman, and to benefit from discounts on the standard price of the publications offered by the ZK.⁵ Apart from their rights, members of the ZK also had some obligations. These included contributing to the development of the organisation (e.g. by active participation in its work), paying an annual fee to the Association and a fee to cover the costs incurred by the local Circle where such a fee was determined by its board.⁶

The management of the affairs of the ZK rested with the Faculty, which had executive powers. The statute described in detail the internal structure and method of functioning of the organisation. In its hierarchical arrangement, the Association was headed by a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and seven (ordinary) members

elected by the General Assembly. In addition, the Faculty also consisted of delegates appointed at meetings held in the dioceses (one from each diocese). From the group thus formed, the Faculty members elected a chamberlain (treasurer) and a secretary. Additionally, four (extraordinary) deputy members were appointed, whom the Chairman could invite to the Faculty meetings in the event that the excused absence of the ordinary members would prevent the deliberations from taking place in the composition envisaged by the Statute. The normal term of office of the Faculty was three years.⁷

As the central authority of the Association, the Faculty had specific tasks to perform. Among these were the following: to convene general assemblies (meetings) and catechetical conventions and to deal with matters decided by them; to report to the general membership at the General Assembly on the activities of the Faculty and on the management of the property of the Association; to collect and manage funds; to deal with matters relating to the organisation of the structures of the Association; to control the exercise of membership rights and internal discipline; to manage the property of the Association and to carry out the day-to-day work ensuring its functioning in accordance with the norms accepted in the Association; to organise lectures for the benefit of the Association; to popularise religious and pedagogical publications and publishing them in print; to communicate with the authorities (of the state and of the church) on matters relating to the Association; to hold joint retreats and services; to provide care for sick members of the Association; and to administer the local Circle in Lviv (this meant that the Board of the ZK was also the board of the Lviv Circle).⁸

The Statute also specified the duties of the diocesan delegates (or their deputies), which included convening meetings in a given diocese and setting the agenda; maintaining communication between the Circles and striving to introduce uniform forms of action; acting as an intermediary between the local Circles and the Faculty of the Association; drafting opinions for the Board on matters subject to consultation; and organising care for sick members of the Circle.⁹

Also included in the catalogue of important issues for the organisation were guidelines for the conduct of ordinary meetings organised at least once a month at the local Circles. These were intended to focus on issues such as holding lectures and theological readings with discussions; presenting model RE lessons or presenting model exhortations with a critical discussion of them; holding discussions on pedagogical and teaching topics; drafting memorials and petitions concerning religious education and formation as well as professional pragmatics; and addressing current issues raised by members of the Circle concerning the pursuit of the aims of the Association.¹⁰

The Statute also provided for another category of meetings of the members of the ZK, i.e. diocesan meetings. According to this provision, they were to be convened normally once a year, at a time and place designated by a diocesan delegate. The agenda of the diocesan meetings was to include all matters submitted to the ordinary meetings at the local Circles; the election of the diocesan delegate and his deputy for a three-year term; the endorsement and publication of religious works and deciding on their possible use in catechetical practice.¹¹

They were to be held annually by the ZK and were to be organised by the Faculty. Within the scope of this type of meeting, it was possible to take up and examine all matters discussed at meetings of a lower level or resolutions voted at meetings of a lower level and then approved by the Faculty, and General Assembly could express its opinion on such matters. In addition, the General Assembly was responsible for passing resolutions on matters discussed in the various forums of the Association; electing the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the members of the Faculty and their deputies; examining and approving the annual reports on the activities of the Board and the disposal of the assets of the Association; dealing with proposals for possible amendments to the Statute; appointing honorary members and determining the amount of the membership fee.¹²

In addition to the Statute, an important tool for organising the structures of the ZK in Galicia was to be the instruction on the establishment of local Circles.¹³ The instruction specified the minimum number of persons required to constitute a Circle. At least three members of the ZK from the same locality or region were needed to form a Circle. Individual members who joined the organisation, but who were unable to form a Circle in their place of residence and work due to the impossibility of fulfilling the above criterion, were to belong to the Circle in the nearest locality. The instruction did not envisage the creation of more than one Circle, even in the larger urban centres where there were many schools and parishes and thus a large number of teaching priests and pastoral workers.¹⁴

Each Circle was to be headed by a Board elected for a one-year term. It consisted of a Chairman, his Deputy, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Provision was also made for a scenario with the smallest number of members in that it was possible to cumulate, which meant in practice that the Chairman (or Deputy Chairman) could act as Secretary and Treasurer at the same time, or that the Secretary could be Treasurer of the Circle at the same time. In addition, an audit committee consisting of two members was included in the Board of each local Circle.¹⁵

The instructions described in detail the subject matter of the regular meetings of the Circles. Basically, it reproduced what was contained in the Statute of the ZK amended in 1909. The twelfth section was referred to drawing attention to the frequency of the meetings, their content and the manner of considering resolutions, taking into account provisions of the current Statute pursuant to which only those matters that did not concern the local

Circle had to be submitted to the Faculty of the Association for approval. In the area concerning local issues, the Circles retained their autonomy.¹⁶

The document also defined the tasks of the Board of each local Circle. It was obliged to dispose of the assets of the Circle and to submit an annual report on the disposition of these funds to its members at the first meeting in the new school year; to send to the Faculty of the Association, through the diocesan delegate, reports on major meetings within four weeks after the meeting and on the annual activities of the Circle with a financial balance sheet for the period in question by the end of October; to communicate to the Faculty the requests of the Circle on matters concerning the whole of the ZK, and to the local Circles the decisions on catechetical matters common to all of them within their home diocese, with a view to their final settlement or submission (as a collegial request) to the central authorities for consideration at the General Assembly; to report to the Faculty of the Association any changes made to the composition of the Board of the local Circle; to collect membership fees for the Circle (in the amount set by it) and for the Association (according to the rate contained in the Statute); and to implement the recommendations of the Faculty of the ZK in the areas indicated by the Statute. The same section of the instruction further recalls the scope of function of diocesan delegates and the pattern of diocesan meetings. This was understandable because the elected members of the local Circles performed the function of diocesan delegates and were responsible for organising diocesan meetings so they had to have proper discernment regarding these matters. The document, however, did not give any details on this matter, but referred to a number of sections of the Statute which detailed those matters.¹⁷

IV. Central authorities

The first General Meeting of the ZK took place on 20th November 1899 in Lviv. It was held in the Catholic Reading Room (centre for religious education, culture and formation) located at No. 28, Piekarska St (first floor), at 4.30 pm.¹⁸ It was then that the ZK was founded and its central authority, i.e. the Faculty (Board), was constituted. The core of the Faculty consisted of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and seven members, as mentioned above. The Chairman coordinated the activities of the entire Association and represented it externally, managed the work of the Faculty, decided on the undertaking of its various activities, decided on the convening of meetings, supervised the implementation of the resolutions and regulations, and signed documents and correspondence. In these undertakings he was assisted by the Vice-Chairman, who provided him with support and took over some of the responsibilities (in the area defined by him) in the scope of administrative, formal and organisational activities. The General Assembly nominated Fr Alojzy Jougan as the Chairman of the ZK. Fr Aleksander Pechnik was elected as his deputy (Vice-Chairman).¹⁹ After the expiry of their three-year term of office, on 4th February 1903 to be exact, the General Assembly again entrusted them with the same functions.²⁰ It was not until February 1906 that there was a change in the authorities of the Faculty,²¹ the reason for this being that another term of office came to an end and Fr Jougan had become the Dean of the Theological Faculty of the University of Lviv.²² At that time, Fr Pechnik became the Chairman of the Association and held this office until the end of the period under discussion²³ as did its new Vice-Chairman, Fr Adam Gerstmann.²⁴

In addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the central authorities also included seven ordinary members. They were jointly responsible for directing the Association and programming its work. At the inaugural meeting, the following teaching priests were elected to this body: Fr Michał Czechowski, Fr Jan Gnatowski, Fr Feliks Józefowicz, Fr Michał Kochański, Fr Stanisław Sokołowski, Fr Jan Ślósarz and Fr Walenty Wołcz.²⁵ In addition, four extraordinary members were elected, Fathers Józef Boczar, Jakub Głąb, Jan Lazarewicz and Stanisław Tempieński.²⁶ A few days later the first of these succeeded Fr Wołcz, who resigned as an ordinary member of the board.²⁷ During the next term (from 4th February 1903) the Faculty worked in a similar composition, with merely a few changes. As far as ordinary members were concerned, Fr Gerstmann and Fr Gerwazy Krukowski replaced Fr Gnatowski and Fr Sokolowski while Fr Mieczysław Bryczkowski and Fr Jan Ciemniowski were added to the team of extraordinary members. One of them filled the vacancy left by Fr Boczar and the other replaced Fr Lazarewicz.²⁸ The collective thus formed probably operated throughout the next term.²⁹ No significant changes took place until 24th February 1909. At that time, the group of ordinary members consisted of Fr Boczar, Fr Dziurzyński, Fr Głąb, Fr Józefowicz, Fr Andrzej Kosztyla, Fr Jan Piwiński and Fr Szczepan Szydelski. Those who became extraordinary members were Fr Józef Janusiewicz, Fr Antoni Ratuszny, Fr Mateusz Sokołowski and Fr Bartłomiej Szulc.³⁰

The secretary and the treasurer were also elected from this team of seven, which was the prerogative of the Faculty itself, not of the General Assembly. The duty of the former was to document the activities of the Board and thus to take minutes of the meetings, co-edit outgoing letters and sign them together with the Chairman, and to store correspondence and archival materials. The latter supervised financial and property matters, collected various types of monetary payments, kept accounting records prepared financial reports and distributed material resources according to the directives of the Board. They were elected during the first meeting of the Faculty, i.e. on 27th November 1899 when Fr Stanisław Sokolowski became the secretary of the Board and Fr Ślósarz the treasurer.³¹ Those who held the position of secretary changed quite often, but this did not cause too many

difficulties as the by-elections were made within the Faculty. Already on 8th February 1901 it was reported at the General Assembly that Fr Michal Kochanski had taken over as secretary.³² Two years later it was Fr Gerwazy Krukowski who signed the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 1903 as the secretary.³³ From 14th March 1905 the duties of the secretary were taken over by Fr Aleksander Moszyński,³⁴ and in January 1907 by Fr Dziurzyński,³⁵ who held this position until the end of the period under discussion. As for the treasurer, Fr Ślósarz was replaced on 14th March 1906 by Fr Szczepan Szydelski³⁶ and that was the only change at that time.

In addition, the structures of the ZK included a scrutiny committee, which was mentioned for the first time (and the last in the period under discussion) in the report on the activities of the Association presented at the General Assembly on 4th February 1903 in Lviv.³⁷ Its task was to check the material and monetary resources (inventory), i.e. to carry out an audit to ascertain the facts and reveal any shortcomings or irregularities in the management of funds (examination of all accounts, cash register and annual statements). This was in line with the Statute of the Association, which provided for the inspection and authorisation of the annual reports on the management of the assets of the ZK.³⁸ The number of people on such committees varied, each organisation having its own preferences in this respect. Generally, at least two people were selected to check the state of the finances, who then drew up a report and submitted it to the Chairman with conclusions, if any, after which it had to be presented to the Faculty and the General Assembly. In the ZK, the members of the scrutiny committee were Fr Boczar and Fr Głab.³⁹

There was another body within ZK, namely the audit committee. It was appointed at the General Meeting of the ZK in Lviv on 24th February 1909. Its three members were Fathers Mieczysław Bryczkowski, Franciszek Janicki and Jan Trznadel.⁴⁰ Despite the fact that it was actually established, it was not included in the new version of the ZK Statute of 1909 even though work was underway at the time to amend it, and it would have been possible to amend its content in such a way as to include this body and give it a footing in this most important internal document. This was probably because the amendment of the Statute was only intended to be of a minor nature, not affecting the substance of the existing provisions, and the introduction of information about the new organ of the Association would have disturbed the previously made assumptions and would have disrupted the structure of the document.

The Association had its seat in Lviv. In the early days it did not have its own premises, so meetings of its authorities and General Assemblies were held in various places in the city. Usually the office of the Lviv Society for Mutual Aid for Priests was used, but also the conference room of the Franz Joseph I Gymnasium was used. From 1904 onwards, the Board met in the building at 7 Katedralna Square (on the 2nd floor). All indications are that from 1906, when the above-mentioned priests' society built its own centre in Lviv (9 Muliarska St) it probably vacated the premises at 7 Katedralna Square, which have since become the seat of the Faculty of the ZK.⁴¹

V. Branch offices

The Board of the ZK was eager to expand its activities all over Galicia. The organisation was meant to be a conglomerate of local branches, i.e. local Circles. It was planned to establish a network of them in the Dioceses of Lviv, Krakow, Przemyśl and Tarnow. They were to be established in individual towns and cities, bringing together members from a particular locality or region. In order to set up the Circles, the Faculty ran campaigns to promote the ZK, agitated for it and motivated people to join, and sought support for the idea at bishops' consistories. These activities were targeted not only at priests being active teacher, but also pastoral workers as those responsible for the education and religious formation of children and young people in the parish (and folk schools).⁴²

The first ZK Circle was established in Tarnow as early as on 4th December 1899. It had its own Board, which consisted of a Chairman, Fr Józef Wątopek, a Vice-Chairman, Fr Walenty Gadowski and a secretary, Fr Józef Krośniński. In addition, a delegate was elected who was the representative of the Circle authorised to represent its interests to the Faculty. Fr Gadowski was elected as the delegate, with Fr Wątopek as his deputy.⁴³ The Board thus constituted was approved by the central authorities of the Association on 27th February 1900 during a meeting of the Faculty.⁴⁴ Changes to its composition were made at a meeting of the Circle on 17th February 1903. At that time, a new collective was elected, and it consisted of Fr Gadowski as the Chairman, Fr Adam Frączkiewicz as the Vice-Chairman, Fr Józef Koterbski as the Secretary and Fr Józef Kaliciński the Treasurer, with Fr Wątopek as the Delegate.⁴⁵ The Board was reconstituted again in 1909. As a result of internal arrangements within the Circle, Fr Franciszek Pałka was elected as the Chairman, Fr Adam Frączkiewicz as the Vice-Chairman, Fr Stanisław Wróbel as the Secretary, and Fr Józef Kaliciński as the Treasurer.⁴⁶

Another Circle was established in Lviv. The founding meeting took place on 2nd January 1900.⁴⁷ Its first Chairman was Fr Jougan, with Fr Pechnik as the Vice-Chairman, Fr Sokolowski as the Secretary and Fr Ślósarz as the Treasurer. They were all connected with the Lviv catechetical community, which lends credence to the assumption that they were members of the central authorities of the Association and at the same time of the authorities of the local Circle.⁴⁸ In fact, this is confirmed by the account of the General Assembly of 24th February 1909 where it is noted that the Secretary read out a report on 'the activities of the Faculty and at the same time of

the Lviv Circle in the past three years.⁴⁹ Within this arrangement, successive changes in the personnel of the Faculty of the ZK were automatically changes in the Board of the Lviv Circle, and the seat of the central authorities was also the office of the local authorities.

There was another Circle within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Lviv besides the Circle operating in the episcopal capital. At the General Meeting of the ZK in Lviv, on 24th February 1909, Fr Pechnik, the Chairman, announced that 'a local Circle had just been established in Stanisławów.'⁵⁰ It can therefore be assumed that it was established at the beginning of that very year (and not at the end of 1908). This is indicated by the content of the annotation for the reporting year 1909 which states that meetings of the members of the Circle were held during that period and that its Chairman was Fr Jan Eiselt.⁵¹ Unfortunately, there is no information about the other members of the Board. It is also worth mentioning that efforts to establish a Circle in this locality were made by the Faculty of the Association as early as in 1900.⁵²

There was also a Krakow Circle, set up within the ZK. The decision to found it was made at a meeting of teaching priests on 14th February 1902 in Krakow.⁵³ Soon the Board was constituted, the members of which were Fr Mateusz Jeż as the Chairman, Fr Jan Filar as the Vice-Chairman and Fr Marceł Ślepicki as the Secretary⁵⁴ (on 17th November Fr Michał Fajfer was appointed in his place).⁵⁵ In the report of the ZK of 5th May 1903, no news was given as to who held the post of the Treasurer, but there was information about two additional members of the Faculty, who were Fr Franciszek Świdorski and Fr Rudolf Kraupa. Presumably one of them took over the duties of the Treasurer. In addition, a diocesan delegate to the ZK was elected, and that was the Chairman of the Krakow Circle.⁵⁶ The Board of the Circle was reorganised in 1909. Father Jeż was again elected its Chairman, Fr Jan Masny as the Vice-Chairman, Fr Władysław Wrana as the Secretary and Fr Ignacy Woźniczka as the Treasurer.⁵⁷ Initially, the meetings of the Circle were held in the House of the Archbrotherhood of Mercy and the Pious Bank in Krakow (5 Sienna St) and from 1903 in the house of the Congregation of the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (26 Garncarska St).⁵⁸

The Circle in Przemyśl also joined the ZK. In this city, the founding meeting was held on 29th April 1907 in the building of the local seminary. It was of a declarative nature without the appointment of a board. Its formation took place a few months later. At that time, only a delegate and a deputy delegate (to the ZK) were elected, and these were Fr Józef Drozd and Fr Michał Tokarski, respectively.⁵⁹ The formation of the Przemyśl Circle must have taken place before 27th October 1908. The ZK report for 1909 indicates that at that time the Chairman of the Circle was Fr Wojciech Tomaka and the secretary was Fr Jan Bazyłski.⁶⁰

Several other Circles were established in the Diocese of Przemyśl, which constituted the ZK in Galicia. As well as the Circle in Przemyśl, there was also a Circle in Rzeszów. It is difficult today to pinpoint the exact date of its establishment. In any case, on 4th May 1909, members of the Rzeszów Circle participated in the second congress of teaching priests of the Diocese of Przemyśl, together with the Chairman, Fr Wawrzyniec Pilszak.⁶¹ The Secretary of this Circle was Fr Walenty Szast.⁶² Further Circles were also established in Jasło, Krosno and Sanok.⁶³ Due to the smaller number of teaching priests in these towns, it was decided to merge those circles into one Circle of Jasło-Krosno-Sanok. Fr Drozd⁶⁴ became its first Chairman and Fr Jan Chryzostom Pasek its Secretary.⁶⁵

Apart from the above-mentioned towns, attempts were made to establish more Circles. Intense efforts in this regard were made by the Faculty of the ZK, especially in the Archdiocese of Lviv. It was eager for new centres to be also established in provincial localities. Besides Lviv, which was the seat of the central authorities and of a local Circle, there were also plans to establish Circles in Ternopil and Chernivtsi⁶⁶ as well as in Stryi.⁶⁷ The Tarnow Circle sought to establish local circles in Bochnia and Nowy Sącz.⁶⁸ Unfortunately, this objective had not been accomplished by the end of 1909.

VI. The organ of the Association

A few years before the ZK was founded, there had already been a proposal to establish a Polish pedagogical and catechetical periodical in Galicia, which would serve as a professional periodical for Catholic teachers and educators, supporting the process of self-education and improving their own qualifications.⁶⁹ This idea gave rise to the concept of making it a future organ of the teaching priests of Galicia.⁷⁰ The idea of publishing a periodical of this kind was soon implemented. The responsibility for this undertaking was taken by Fr Gadowski who published the first issue of the *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny (Catechetical Biweekly)*⁷¹ on 5th January 1897 in Tarnow.⁷²

From the very beginning Fr Gadowski hoped that this periodical would become the official organ of this association, its official bulletin. He expressed this idea at the first meetings in Krakow, Lviv and Przemyśl, probing the possibility of establishing such an organisation, by raising the issue of the *Biweekly*.⁷³ The teaching priests who took part in them agreed in principle that the journal should be recognised as a common organ of the association and that it should be zealously supported.

Unfortunately, there was a conflict with the *Gazeta Kościelna (Church Newspaper)* published in Lviv that stood in the way to making it the official organ of the emerging association. The root cause of the conflict was

some disagreements regarding the evaluation of textbooks for religious education and the concept of catechetical teaching. Without going into the intricacies of these issues, it should be stated that the polemics between the Lviv-based and the Tarnow-based periodicals caused divisions in the catechetical community of Galicia, as a result of which some distanced themselves from the emerging association and from the first Polish catechetical periodical. In an effort to put an end to this process, Fr Gadowski decided to resign from his position as the editor⁷⁴ and even to place his periodical under the guardianship of the *Gazeta Kościelna*. Since from 20th November 1899 the ZK already had legal personality and could formally operate, he also submitted the same proposal to the Faculty with the hope that a new editorial board would be appointed and the magazine would continue to be published.

The question of taking over the *Biweekly* and setting up its editorial board was examined at the first meeting of the Board of the ZK on 27th November 1899 in Lviv. However, it was decided that at such a preliminary stage of the activity of the organisation the Faculty did not have the capacity to carry out this project. A temporary solution was accepted according to which Fr Gadowski would continue to run the periodical which could rely on the Faculty for material and moral support.⁷⁵ Nevertheless, the periodical was not granted the status of the official organ of the ZK, and in addition a proposal was accepted that reports on the meetings of the Faculty and of the local Circles throughout Galicia would not only be featured in the *Dwutygodnik (Biweekly)*, but also in the *Gazeta Kościelna*.⁷⁶

Finally, at the request of the Chairman of the Association, Fr Jougan, and many other priests, Fr Gadowski continued as the editor of the magazine. However, he decided to change its editorial offer and adapt the profile of the periodical to the ZK Statute. Since the membership of the Association was to be open not only to teaching priests but also pastoral workers, the content devoted to the teaching of religion at school was supplemented with materials on Christian formation in the parish. With this solution, the magazine was to have two main lines, catechetical and pastoral.⁷⁷ With these innovations the name was changed to *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski (Catechetical and Pastoral Biweekly)*. Fr Gadowski expressed the hope that in its new version the magazine would become the official organ for all priests, both teachers and pastoral workers.⁷⁸ Its first issue appeared on 5th January 1900, gaining a following of readers as evidenced by the number of subscribers, which rose to just under a thousand at that time, and finding an audience also outside Galicia.⁷⁹

At that time, the Lviv-based newspaper also decided to alter its offer (by adding catechetical issues) and created a special section containing reports on the functioning of the ZK, and even additional pages and inserts on this organisation, increased the number of articles devoted to issues of religious teaching and education, and even undertook to organise or support teaching priests' congresses. Moreover, according to Fr Gadowski, it depreciated the role of the *Dwutygodnik* and its editor in the establishment of the ZK, contributing to the formation of opposition against him and his magazine.⁸⁰ On the other hand, Fr Jougan, the editor of the *Gazeta Kościelna* and at the same time Chairman of the ZK, complained about the attitude of Fr Gadowski, who, in the pages of his magazine, was critical of some of the activities of the Association and regarded all his (and the editor's) suggestions related to the need to address various issues within the scope of responsibility of the Faculty regarding the functioning of the Association and new forms of activity as a personal attack aimed directly at him, at the same time accusing him of lacking support for the newly established organisation of teaching priests.⁸¹

Finally, the decision was made to publish the *Dwutygodnik (Biweekly)* as a monthly, but under the aegis of another editorial board, i.e. the *Gazeta Kościelna*. Fr Gadowski expressed the hope that its new editor and at the same time Chairman of the ZK, Fr Pechnik, would make it an even more professional catechetical magazine, raising its profile and gaining more readers. He considered this solution as reasonable, which he had communicated earlier, and trusted that it would definitively end the unnecessary conflict between the editorial boards (Tarnow and Lviv).⁸² The last issue of the *Dwutygodnik* appeared on 5th July 1910 and only contained the history of the periodical, written down by Fr Gadowski, and a list of all items from all the years. Unfortunately, it did not live to be recognised as the official organ of the ZK during this period although it was regarded as such by many of its members, especially in its first years, when it contributed to the drafting of the Statute and the formal incorporation of the Association. It was its successor, the *Miesięcznik Katechetyczny i Wychowawczy (Catechetical and Educational Monthly)* that became the official organ in 1911.⁸³

VII. Conclusion

To summarise the discussion so far, it is worth pointing out several issues. Firstly, the key moment in the history of the ZK was the approval of its Statute, which made it possible to convene the first General Meeting and formally initiate the Association on 20th November 1899 in Lviv. The Statute became the constitutional document defining the organisational structures which should be understood as a certain system by means of which the various components of the organisation were arranged to form a compact organism with established functional and hierarchical relations in order to fulfil the mission of the established ZK. In the most general terms, this boiled down to the promotion of the idea of religious education of children and young people and the improvement of the qualifications and competences of teaching priests in the field of religious education and formation targeted at pupils of various types of schools in Galicia during the Habsburg Monarchy. Secondly, the ZK was established

with the intention of creating a network of local Circles wherever priest-teachers and pastoral workers were engaged in teaching and pastoral activities. It was assumed that they would be established especially in those localities where there were schools and dormitories, where the community of teaching priests was more numerous. To a certain extent, this was achieved, for in the first decade of the existence of the Association, branches were established in every diocese included in the Statute. They were active in larger and smaller towns in Galicia, such as Jasło, Lviv, Kraków, Krosno, Przemyśl, Rzeszów, Tarnów, Sanok and Stanisławów. During the period under discussion, the number of ZK members increased threefold (to 157 associates). However, for the central authorities of the Association, these figures were not satisfactory, so promotional actions were constantly undertaken to attract the interest of the Catholic clergy in its programme offer and to attract them to the Association. Thirdly, magazines such as the *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* and the *Gazeta Kościelna*, played a significant role in this respect by becoming a platform for promoting the ZK throughout Galicia, for providing important information on its organisational activities and other forms of activity, consulting and communicating on matters of religious teaching and education and professional pragmatics, providing professional publications on religious education and formation and practical catechetical and pastoral materials. Unfortunately, the conflict between the editorial boards meant that neither of these periodicals actually became the official organ of the Association during this period. This was certainly to the detriment of the Association. By creating an official bulletin, the Association could have raised its profile, made it a more professional and specialised journal along the lines of other periodicals that were published at the time as journals representing various professional groups, associations, brotherhoods or societies. And fourthly, it is worth mentioning that the establishment of the ZK testified to the great responsibility of clerical Catholic teachers and educators, above all for the work of religious education. Filled with the desire to improve their proficiency and increase the effectiveness of religious teaching and education, they looked for various tools to fulfil these tasks. In their view, such opportunities were to be provided by a professional organisation, which they established based on the model of those already existing in Western Europe, promoting the spirit of moral and religious education in society and improving the teaching skills and the methodology of religious education. The beginnings may not have been very impressive, but it should be noted that they were the nucleus of a future nationwide professional organisation of teaching priests which was established soon after Poland regained its independence in 1918.

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³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Instrukcja dla Kół Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 10 September, 1909, 466.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Związek katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 16 November, 1899, 371.

¹⁹ W sprawie Towarzystwa Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 30 November, 1899, 393.

²⁰ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 7, no. 7 (1903): 226.

²¹ Czesław Lechicki states that the election for the Chairman of the ZK in Lviv was made on 29 Feb 1906. It is not known based on what sources he established this date. The year was certainly 1906 and probably February as it was the month in which the General Assembly had been convened in previous years. However, the day is doubtful because it was not a leap year, which means that February could not have had 29 days. Czesław, Lechicki. Pechnik Aleksander Józef. In *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, vol. 25, edited by Emanuel Rostworowski, 536–538. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo PAN, 1980; Ludwik, Grzebień. Pechnik Aleksander Józef. In *Słownik Polskich Teologów Katolickich 1918-1981*, vol. 6, edited by Ludwik Grzebień, 630–643. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo ATK, 1983.

²² Józef, Zieliński. Jogan Władysław Alojzy (1855-1942). In *Polski Słownik Biograficzny*, vol. 11, edited by Emanuel Rostworowski, 301. Wrocław: Wydawnictwo PAN, 1964–1965.

²³ The article takes the year 1909 as the cut-off date. This does not mean, however, that Fr Pechnik was the Chairman of the ZK in Lviv only at that time. He held this office for another decade, resigning only on 3 November 1919. Protokół z Walnego Zgromadzenia Związku Katechetów b. Galicyi. *Miesięcznik Katechetyczny i Wychowawczy* 8, no. 8 (1919): 250–252.

²⁴ Ze Związku katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 March, 1909, 132a.

²⁵ W sprawie Towarzystwa Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 30 November, 1899, 393.

²⁶ Związek Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny* 3, no. 19 (1899): 402.

²⁷ Związek Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 11 January, 1900, 13.

²⁸ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 12 February, 1903, 62.

- ²⁹ Unfortunately, neither the *Dwutygodnik (The Biweekly)* nor the *Gazeta Kościelna (Church Newspaper)*, which reported on the activities of the ZK, mention the General Meeting of 1906 at which the election of the new ordinary and extraordinary members for the next three-year term should have taken place. It can only be presumed that there were no significant changes in this respect so this fact was not recorded.
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- ³¹ Związek Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 11 January, 1900, 13; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Wychowawczy* 4, no. 2 (1900): 44.
- ³² Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 14 February, 1901, 84.
- ³³ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 Mar, 1903, 102.
- ³⁴ Ze Związku XX. Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 March, 1905, 146.
- ³⁵ Program kursu katechetycznego we Lwowie. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 25 January, 1907, 42.
- ³⁶ Z Koła ks. Katechetów we Lwowie. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 March, 1906, 119.
- ³⁷ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 12 February, 1903, 62.
- ³⁸ *Statut Związku Katechetów*, Tarnów, 1899, 6.
- ³⁹ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 12 February, 1903, 62.
- ⁴⁰ Ze Związku katechetów, *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 Mar 1909, 132b.
- ⁴¹ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 13 February, 1902, 69; Z Towarzystwa wzajemnej pomocy Kapłanów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 27 February, 1902, 87; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 20 January, 1903, 41; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 3 December, 1903, 459; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 31 March, 1904, 113; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 3 November, 1904, 398; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 2 February, 1905, 62; Z Towarzystwa wzajemnej pomocy Kapłanów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 March, 1906, 119; Aleksander, Pechnik. Kurs Katechetyczny we Lwowie. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 11 January, 1907, 12; "Z lwowskiego Koła XX. Katechetów." *Gazeta Kościelna*, 9 October, 1908, 494; Z lwowskiego Koła XX. Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 20 November, 1908, 569.
- ⁴² Ze Związku katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 15 March, 1900, 105; Ze Związku katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 July, 1900, 264; Z Koła ks. Katechetów we Lwowie. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 March 1906, 119; Aleksander, Pechnik. W sprawie Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 18 May, 1906, 201-202; W sprawie Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 19 February, 1909, 99; W sprawie 'Związku Katechetów'. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 July, 1909, 379-380.
- ⁴³ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 4, no. 2 (1900): 42; Związek Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 11 January, 1900, 13.
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- ⁴⁵ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 7, no. 7 (1903): 226-27.
- ⁴⁶ Z Koła tarnowskiego XX. Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 November, 1909, 565.
- ⁴⁷ Związek Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 11 January, 1900, 13; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 4, no. 3 (1900): 67.
- ⁴⁸ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 1 November, 1900, 435; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 13 December, 1900, 496.
- ⁴⁹ Ze Związku katechetów." *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 March, 1909, 132a.
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- ⁵² Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 July 1900, 264.
- ⁵³ Diecezja krakowska. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 6, no. 6 (1902): 153; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 6, no. 7 (1902): 183; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 27 February, 1902, 87.
- ⁵⁴ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 15 May 1902, 219.
- ⁵⁵ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 6, no. 20 (1902): 575.
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- ⁵⁸ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 8, no. 21 (1904): 642.
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- ⁶⁴ Spis członków Koła jasiel.-krośn.-sanockiego. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 21 May, 1909, 272b.
- ⁶⁵ Walne Zgrom. Związku XX. Katechetów we Lwowie. 151.
- ⁶⁶ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 5 July, 1900, 264; Ze Związku Katechetów. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 14 February, 1901, 83; Z Koła ks. Katechetów we Lwowie. *Gazeta Kościelna*, 23 March, 1906, 119.
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- ⁶⁸ Ze Związku Katechetów. *Dwutygodnik Katechetyczny i Duszpasterski* 8, no. 2 (1900): 42.
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