



REV. JAN PIETRZYKOWSKI SDB\* – WARSAW

## THE SALESIAN ARCHIVE OF THE PROVINCE OF WARSAW – THE HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

### Abstract

The Salesian Archive of the Province of Warsaw has always been located in the provincial council's headquarters (Oświęcim 1919–1922, the Powiśle District of Warsaw 1923–1944, Łódź: Wodna Street 1945–1978 and Kopcińskiego Street 1978–1986, the Praga District of Warsaw 1986-).

Initially, the archive was headed by a provincial secretary. Generally, as a current archive, the Salesian Archive of the Province of Warsaw was associated with the Salesian secretariat and was established for its internal use. The archive cannot be referred to as historical until the 1960s, when in 1967, Rev. Czesław Madej was seconded to deal with this task. The archive was burnt in September 1944, during the German pacification of the Powiśle District of Warsaw. The archival collection was partially recreated out of the unburnt part of the collection and materials located in other Salesian institutions. It is assumed that the main organizer of the archive was Rev. Andrzej Świda who, in 1972–1995, collected, arranged and systemized each of the archival items. He divided the collected acts and documents into fonds and subfonds arranging them in the same way as it was done in the General Salesian Archive in Rome. Each of three adjacent rooms (the music collection repository, the study room and the main repository) was equipped with a reference library containing basic magazines, dictionaries, indexes, books on various Salesian topics, Salesian printed and typescript publications and typescripts of Ph.D. and M.A. theses.

Keywords: the Salesian Society; archive; library; Warsaw

---

\* Rev. Jan Pietrzykowski SDB – Professor of History; Institute of History, Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw

e-mail: [jan\\_pie@poczta.onet.pl](mailto:jan_pie@poczta.onet.pl)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5414-3902>

\*\*\*\*\*

## Introduction

The Central Archive of the Society of St Francis de Sales (hereinafter: Salesian Society, congregation) was generally located in the provincial house and was one of its agencies. Therefore, it is appropriate to zoom in on the 'journey' of the Board of Directors of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province. At the end of the 19th century, Salesians from Italy arrived on Polish soil and established their first establishments in the areas of the Austrian Partition. In 1905, a new Province of the Holy Guardian Angels (Austrian-Hungarian) was established with headquarters in Oświęcim. Salesian establishments in Galicia during the Partitions received recognition on 27 June 1912 by Emperor Franz Joseph I.<sup>1</sup> The dynamic development of the congregation, language and nationality difficulties, and Poland's regaining of independence influenced the separation of the new Province of St Stanislaus Kostka in 1919, with its headquarters in Oświęcim, and from 1923 in Warsaw's Powiśle District. On 14 May 1922, the Minister of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment approved the existence of the Society of St Francis de Sales in Poland, as a result of which it obtained legal personality.<sup>2</sup> Until 1933, the Polish Province included all parishes, as well as teaching and care works run by Salesians in the Second Republic. Due to long distances, communication difficulties and the development of a network of establishments, a new Province of St Hyacinth with headquarters in Krakow (southern) was separated from the Province of St Stanislaus Kostka (northern) in 1933. In 1979, during the last administrative division of houses and Salesians in Poland, the new Province of Piła under the name of St Adalbert<sup>3</sup> was separated from the Province of St Stanislaus Kostka (Warsaw).

In the activities of the Salesian Society in Poland, with the exception of the Salesian Archives of the Piła Province, the archive is regarded as a place or premises. For many years, the provincial's secretary was responsible for them. At the time, the storage location of historical archives was associated with the registry of the provincial secretariat, and the objects were located on shelves or in separate, lockable wooden cabinets located in the secretariat, hallway and corridor. A sep-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Archivio Salesiano Centrale – Rome (ASC), E 961, Austria, decree of erection of 14 October 1905; S. Zimniak, *Salesiani nella Mitteleuropa. Preistoria e storia della provincia Austro-Ungarica della Societa di S. Francesco di Sales (1868 ca-1919)*, Roma 1997, pp. 339–340.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the *Decree on Associations* of 3 January 1919 (Journal of Laws 1919, no 3, item 88), the Minister approved the *Statutes of the Salesian Society*. Archive of New Files in Warsaw, Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment. Male Orders, vol. 5, ref. 911, k. 468–469; A. Świda, *Droga do samodzielności polskiej prowincji salezjańskiej*, Warsaw 1990, pp. 111–112; J. Krawiec, *Powstanie Towarzystwa Św. Franciszka Salezego oraz jego organizacja i działalność na ziemiach polskich*, Kraków 2004, pp. 134–135.

<sup>3</sup> The Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province (hereafter: ASIW), file: Division of Polish Provinces Circular by Rev. T. Kopa and Rev. S. Pływaczek, Turin, 30 October 1933; file: Division of the Polish Provinces 1979–1980. Decree of the erection of the Salesian Provinces under the name of St Adalbert with headquarters in Piła, 16 December 1979, L.dz. 10/80 issued by Rev. General E. Vigano.

arate room for this agenda was set up in Oświęcim and in Warsaw, at the Rev. Jan Siemiec Facility, but only as late as in 1936, after the expansion of the facility and the eviction of girls from one wing. In September 1944, Salesian facilities were destroyed by the Germans during the Warsaw Uprising.<sup>4</sup> Due to difficulties related to the reconstruction of the Church of the Holy Family and the Rev. Jan Siemiec Facility, the management of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province was temporarily relocated to Łódź, on Wodna Street, as of 1945. Then, from December 1978 to April 1986, the Province headquarters was located on the second floor of the new religious house (rectory) at the Church of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus in Łódź. New premises for the agendas of the board of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province have been prepared in a new edifice (religious house and rectory) at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Warsaw's Praga District. Since 1986, it also houses the Salesian Archives of the Warsaw Province.<sup>5</sup>

### The early days of the Warsaw Province Archives

For most of the history of the Salesian Society in the world, including Poland, no separate religious was assigned to maintain the provincial archives. From this practice, one can conclude that the file repository was intended primarily for the internal use of the institution that produced the files. Perhaps this is why provincial archive was seen as a place of storing documents and files and statistical data. This practice was partly due to the tradition nurtured in the congregation, the lack of seconding of priests and coadjutors (religious brothers) for academic work, and above all the normative acts contained in the general regulations of the Salesian Society, approved by the Holy See. The issue of archives was systematically overlooked in the laws (constitutions) of the Society of St Francis de Sales, and was only vaguely and perfunctorily mentioned among the duties of the provincial secretary.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, the most recent General Regulations of 1984 did not mention the archivist and archives as an institution, and only recommended in Article 62 the care '[...] for the maintenance of immovable and movable property. Of particular importance is the maintenance of libraries and other documentation materials, due

<sup>4</sup> Cf. J. Pietrzykowski, *Towarzystwo Salezjańskie w Polsce w warunkach okupacji 1939–1945*, Warszawa 2015, pp. 230–231.

<sup>5</sup> ASIW, Personal file of Rev. W. Balawajdar. Chronicle of Prov. Rev. Balawajder 20 December 1944–12 May 1945; Private correspondence 1945–1947; Rev. W. Szulczyński. Circulars 1978–1984. Circular, 8 December 1978.

<sup>6</sup> 'Provincial shall appoint a secretary [...]; to him also shall be entrusted the provincial archives', *Regulaminy Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego*, Warsaw 1925, Article 356, p. 149. 'He also maintains the archives of the province and takes care of the collection and collation of statistical data', *Regulaminy Ogólne*, Łódź 1972, p. 214, Article 145. By way of justification for such past practice in the Salesian Society, it can be added that the Second Polish Plenary Synod indirectly takes note of the diocesan and parish archives: 'Objects of particular value, especially those withdrawn from worship, can be transferred to the diocesan museum or enrich the parish collection. The same is true of archives and parish book collections', *II Polski Synod Plenarny (1991–1999)*, Poznań 2001, p. 117, Article 69.

to their great cultural and community values.’ The secretary remains ‘responsible for the provincial archives, collects and compiles statistical data’.<sup>7</sup>

In 1987, through the efforts of the Secretary General, Rev. Francesco Maraccani, a manual/guide for provincial priests was developed and published under the title *Elementi giuridici e prassi amministrativa nel governo dell’ispettoria* (Legal Basis and Practical Guidance in the Management of Province). The last – thirteenth – chapter deals with the (central) archive of the province and the (local) archive of the religious house. The author used the relevant canons of the Code of Canon Law (487–491), the General Regulations of the Salesian Society, the Circular of the Superior General Rev. Pietro Ricaldone (24 October 1943) and the records of earlier General Chapters. In accordance with generally accepted practice, he listed the types of archives: historical, current and secret. The provincial secretary is still responsible for the first two, but a separate function appears in the document, namely archivist.<sup>8</sup>

Polish state and church archives do not have separate recommendations for the construction of archival buildings. The published indications mainly dealt with recommendations and storage conditions for archival materials.<sup>9</sup> During the Stalinist era in Poland, when the party-state authorities unlawfully and brutally deprived the Salesians of their youth-related activities in schools and orphanages, documents, files and correspondence were secured in the central archives of the Warsaw Province to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. For these reasons, the more valuable archival materials were temporarily stored outside their proper storage location.<sup>10</sup>

In the case of St Stanislaus Kostka Province, one can speak of a separate historical archive only in the mid-1960s. A room behind the house chapel, located on the left second balcony of the church, was used for the main storehouse. For a new and young religious congregation, this is not a date that causes complexes of delay. For the sake of some clarity, it should be mentioned that according to Fr Prof. Jerome Eugene Wyczawski, OFM, the birth of ecclesiastical archivology and the establishment of church archives with scientific instrumentation is the third decade of the 20th century.<sup>11</sup> One can speak of the separation of the historical and current archives in the Salesian Society only after 1978, that is, after the headquarters of the province was moved to a new religious house in Łódź, at Kopcińskiego Street, and to the premises in the Church of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus. The corner parts of the temple house large rooms that served as apartments for Salesians, Salesian nuns or were used as catechetical classrooms. On the east side of the third floor,

<sup>7</sup> *Regulaminy Ogólne*, Rome 1986, Article 62, p. 289; Article 159, p. 363.

<sup>8</sup> *Atti dei Capitolo Generali* n. 120, p. 279; „Atti del Consiglio generale della Società Salesiana di san Giovanni Bosco”, 66(1985) n. 314, pp. 50–56; *Elementi giuridici e prassi amministrativa nel governo dell’ispettoria*, Roma 1987, pp. 152–162.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. A. Czajka, *Nowe budynki archiwalne: koncepcje, chronologie, inspiracje*, in: *Ochrona zasobu archiwów kościelnych*, ed. A. Laszuk, Warsaw 2012, p. 19.

<sup>10</sup> Oral report by Rev. Janusz Tomasiak, transcript of interview, Warsaw, 10 June 2014.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. H.E. Wyczawski, *Przygotowanie do studiów w archiwach kościelnych*, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska 1989, pp. 229–231; Oral report by Rev. W. Szulczynski, Warsaw, 3 September 2019.

one room with the dimensions of 10 x 12 meters has been allocated for archival storage. The storage space was sufficient and did not raise any major concerns. Excessive light in the room, due to the surface of the windows, and the difficulties associated with shading them turned out to be a sort of a drawback. Nevertheless, there were no major problems with maintaining a constant temperature and adequate humidity. A major problem, on the other hand, arose from the lack of a separate research and staff room. Out of necessity, the storeroom substituted for all these functions. The reconstituted provincial archive of a religious congregation with a new founding record initially received little attention from researchers. Two desks were inserted in the storage room for those using the archive. The Salesians, who were conducting scientific research, were allowed to temporarily take the archives to guest rooms, located in the religious house (rectory). The archival resources were organized in individual fonds and subfonds bearing the appropriate references. The files and documents were in binders in a file cabinet system and were stored in an upright position on metal rack shelves.<sup>12</sup>

The archive of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province, although existing since its inception, was formally erected as late as 24 May 1986 by Prov. Rev. Zdzisław Weder after the transfer of the entire collection to the religious house in Warsaw, Praga, at the Basilica of the Heart of Jesus. On 12 September 2013, he became the director of ASIW. The appointment attests to a certain independence and validity of this provincial agency and, in a sense, makes its status similar to the corresponding central archives in Poland. Prov. Rev. Andrzej Wujek approved the statute and regulations of this archive on the same day.<sup>13</sup> The location of the historical archive in the basement of the Provincial Government building is in accordance with the requirements of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which, in can. 486, §2, requires the Ordinary to properly equip the archive in the curia.<sup>14</sup> Three adjoining rooms have been separated for the Salesian archive, with the middle one serving as a reading room and research room.

The basic equipment in the two storerooms of the provincial archive consists of stationary metal library racks with sliding shelves. The third storage room has already been prepared for the installation of modern compact shelving in it.

### Reference library

Four desks (workstations) and a computer containing a reference library catalogue were prepared for the researchers in a 9 × 5 m room. A wooden bookcase with shelves containing basic dictionaries, encyclopaedias and sets of six monthlies was set up against one wall; the titles included: *Nasza Przeszłość*, *Archiwa*, *Bib-*

---

<sup>12</sup> Cf. J. Pietrzykowski, *Le risorse dell' Archivio Salesiano della Ispettorica di Varsavia*, paper delivered on 30 October 2001 in Madrid, at the ACSSA international conference [typescript in the author's collection].

<sup>13</sup> ASIW, Decree erecting the Provincial Archives, Warsaw, 24 May 1986, L.dz. 205/86; Appointment of Rev. Jan Pietrzykowski as Director of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province, Warsaw, 12 September 2013, L.dz. 252/2013.

<sup>14</sup> 'In the diocesan curia there is also to be a secret archive', Code of Canon Law, Poznań 1984, can. 489, p. 223.

*lioteki i Muzea Kościelne, Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowo-pastoralne* (currently a quarterly – *Seminare. Poszukiwania naukowe*). On the opposite side is a wooden cabinet with drawers of catalogues and inventory books, which are unfortunately already outdated. The research room / reading room is a space where files and documents from the provincial archive are made available.<sup>15</sup>

The main storeroom of the historical archive was located to the right of the research room, directly adjacent to it, in a separate, largest (9 x 11 m) room of the basement of the provincial house. The files and documents occupy 115 linear meters. The premises of the main storeroom also serve as an auxiliary and temporary reference library. The book collection consists of publications by and about Salesians both on national and international level. An important place is occupied by source publications and those on the history and development of the Salesian work. Valuable collections include the bound periodicals and normative acts *Atti del Capitolo Superiore della Società Salesiana* and, since 1967, *Atti del Consiglio Generale della Società Salesiana*. As far as worldwide monthly magazines are concerned, there is an incomplete collection of *Bollettino Salesiano*. Its Polish version was the *Wiadomości Salezjańskie* and, from 1916, *Pokłosie Salezjańskie*. In the interwar period, the Salesians in Poland also periodically published a magazine called *Młodzież Misyjna* and *Kłosy z Bożej Roli*. Of the post-war publications of a continuous nature, the most noteworthy is a monthly magazine, initially for internal use, with a changing title: *Nostra, Nostra. Biuletyn Salezjański, Biuletyn Salezjański Nostra, Biuletyn Salezjański, Don Bosco*, and periodically published *Ziarna* addressed to the youth. On the initiative of the Provincial Vicar and then Provincial Zbigniew Malinowski, the magazine *Komunikaty*, renamed to *Pro Memoria*, was published for 20 years for internal use. Among scientific foreign continuous publications, the following six monthlies have been completed: *Salesianum. Periodicum internationale trimestre editum a professoribus Pontificiae Studiorum Universitatis Salesianae – Roma* and *Ricerche Storiche Salesiane*.

In addition to constitutions and regulations, valuable sources include printed documents of general chapters, translated into Polish since 1965. Some provincial chapters have drawn up directories, which were then published in print and given to all members of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province. Like any church archive, the Salesian archive collects various types of directories, among them more than 20 annuals of *Annuario Pontificio*. The Archive of the Warsaw Province can boast of having a valuable complete collection of *Elenco Generale della Società di S. Francesco di Sales*, Torino, Roma (1888–1979) and *Elenco Salesiani di Don Bosco*, Roma 1980–2019. Here, by way of comparison, it should be noted that the Library of the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome (UPS) has only been in the possession of *Elenco Generale* since 1893.

The collection of the reference library includes typescripts of master's, bachelor's and doctoral theses of Salesians, as well as publications by those using the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province. A large part of these addresses the wide-ranging

<sup>15</sup> Cf. L. Wilczyński, *Warunki lokalowe przechowywania kościelnych materiałów archiwalnych*, in: *Ochrona zasobu archiwów kościelnych*, ed. A. Laszuk, Warsaw 2012, pp. 35–36.

activities of the Salesian Society in the pastoral, youth, school, missionary and artistic fields. Many typescripts are prepared by the Salesians for printing and are waiting for a publisher. These include ascetical conferences, practical aids related to parish leadership, catecheses, oratory and missionary work, as well as diaries and memoirs, biographies of altar candidates and more prominent members of the congregation. Of great interest among historians of the younger generation is the study by Rev. Jan Ślósarczyk *Historia prowincji św. Jacka Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego w Polsce* (vol. 1–7, Pogrzebień 1960–1969, typescript ASIW), in which the author described the history of all Salesian male and female establishments in Poland. Other major collections include the one prepared for publication by Rev. Wincenty Zaleski, Ph.D., *Mała encyklopedia hagiograficzna*.<sup>16</sup> The confessor at the Higher Seminary of the Salesian Society at Łąd, Rev. Paweł Golla, the writing legacy of Rev. Antoni Hlond, Ph.D. collected in 25 volumes.<sup>17</sup> Cleric Krzysztof Lis recorded Popes' statements about Poland and Poles, under the supervision of Rev. Stanisław Kosinski, M.A.<sup>18</sup>

### Postwar reconstruction of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province

The Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province in Warsaw is a fairly young historical archive. Its resources were burned on 4 September 1944 by the Germans during the pacification of the Warsaw Uprising in the Powiśle District.<sup>19</sup> The resources of the postwar archive of the central archive of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province were formed as a result of the meticulous work of historian Rev. Antoni Kolodziejczak, who was vicar of the Province in Łódź from 1965 to 1973. Together with the provincial secretaries – Rev. Janusz Tomasiak and then Rev. Henryk Jendryczka – he collected, organized and systemized the archival materials. The unquestionable merit of Rev. A. Kolodziejczak was the collection and entry into the books of the minutes of the meetings of the provincial councils, as well as the consolidation of the minutes of the conventions of the directors of religious houses. Thanks to the dedicated work of the first vicar of the province, many materials were saved from annihilation and the restoration of the historical archive began. It was not until 1967 that Rev. Czesław Madej was assigned to work in the central archives of the province.<sup>20</sup>

The greatest contribution to the organization and development of the Salesian Archives of the Warsaw Province was made by the former provincial of the St Stanislaus Kostka Province, Rev. Andrzej Świda, who dedicated himself to this task in 1972–1995. Although a chemist by training, he was competent in Salesian

<sup>16</sup> W. Zaleski, *Mała encyklopedia hagiograficzna*, issue 1–18, Jaciążek 1982 [typescript ASIW].

<sup>17</sup> *Ks. dr Antoni Hlond, salezjanin-kompozytor. Dokumenty – korespondencja*, vol. 1–25, collected by Rev. P. Golla, Łąd 1969–1976 [typescript ASIW].

<sup>18</sup> *Polska i Polacy w wypowiedziach papieży X-XX w.*, vol. 1–10, edited and collected by K. Lis, Łąd 1983 [typescript ASIW].

<sup>19</sup> ASIW, file: War losses, Questionnaires 1945, Warsaw 28 September 1945.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. J. Pietrzykowski, *Ksiądz Antoni Kolodziejczak (1909–1977) – salezjanin, wykładowca, dyrektor szkoły w Łodzi, przełożony domów formacyjnych, wikariusz inspektora*, „Polonia Maior Orientalis”, 3 (2016) pp. 177–178.

spirituality and the history of the Salesian Society in Poland.<sup>21</sup> The resource has been methodically organized, including the card file and book inventories. The archival materials are relatively young compared to the presence of the Salesian Society in Poland. The oldest ones are about 100 years old, such as the report of Rev. Antoni Baraniak on the visit of Rev. General Blessed Philip Rinaldi to the novitiate house in Czerwińsk nad Wisłą.

The collection of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province includes documentation produced as part of the congregation's post-World War II activities, surviving older archival materials transported from some of the closed premises, documents and files from former Salesian works closed or transferred to dioceses, e.g. parishes. Valuable acquisitions supplementing the collections of the central archive were duplicates of documents from teaching and educational institutions and pastoral centres, as well as from the general house in Turin and Rome. Among these archives, it is appropriate to mention documents of the erection of religious houses, parishes, property records, appointments of directors and parish priests, inventories, reports of canonical visitations conducted.

The resources interesting from the point of view of the history of the congregation in Poland and the Catholic Church include the memoirs of the Salesians from the war and occupation, as well as those written for the 10th anniversary of the congregation's ministry in the Western and Northern Territories. Rev. A. Świda collected and arranged the written accounts of eyewitnesses and participants in those events.

Audiovisual documentation is still not fully compiled and is being prepared to be made available to researchers. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Rev. Kazimierz Cichecki toured religious houses and recorded accounts and memories of senior priests with a portable reel-to-reel tape recorder. Unfortunately, only some of them were assigned as references. Most of these recordings, including interesting and valuable interviews with Rev. A. Hlond, are not used due to technical difficulties. A large part of the stored audiovisual documentation is occupied by microfilms, floppy disks, compact discs, videotapes, DVDs and religious films on reel-to-reel tapes. These materials are still a challenge to supervisors and are waiting to be lost to modern means of communication.

Another remarkable archival material related to the activities of the Salesians in Poland and the missions is a collection of old photographs. Rev. A. Świda sorted the photos and placed them in cardboard boxes in alphabetical order by various establishments. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these photographs lacks proper description. However, their value is still considerable, as some of the religious and utilitarian buildings visible in the photos have either been destroyed or have lost their original shape due to adaptation and reconstruction.

One smaller 9 x 5 m warehouse, located to the left of the reading room, has been separated for the music archive, which mainly stores the legacy of Salesian composers and musicians. Moreover, it contains collections of plays staged by amateur theatres operating at Salesian educational and pastoral institutions. The

---

<sup>21</sup> Cf. A. Świda, *Okruchy własnych wspomnień*, Łódź 1985 [typescript ASIW].



storeroom also includes published songbooks, canticles, motets, compact discs, book items and comprehensive biographies on the lives and activities of famous Salesian composers. Much effort to arrange the legacy of Rev. A. Hlond (Chlondowski) has been made by Prof. Maria Wacholc of the Academy of Music in Warsaw.

As the years went by, the archive material in the storeroom increased. This happened mainly due to the discontinuation of educational and pastoral institutions and works (Gościkowo-Paradyż, Frombork, Pluty, Skolity, Lublin at Misjonarska Street, Łódź – Theological Seminary, Salesian Institute of Christian Education, Zgierz, etc.) and taking over the legacy of deceased confreres.

### **Current structure of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province**

Recently, the concept of archival storage has been changed. First of all, the binders were removed and the files were put into folders, stored in cardboard boxes.

In the early 2000s, all windows were replaced with modern ones that have tinted safety double glazing. Every second window was additionally equipped with vents. All exterior doors have been replaced with metal, burglar-proof and fireproof doors. There are plans to upgrade electric lighting in the near future. Suitable fire extinguishers with fire blankets are used as firefighting equipment.

Due to the changes, the existing reference numbers have lost their validity, although the new ones have not yet been introduced. An extensive group of files relates to the territorial development of the Warsaw Province, the history of the establishments, apostolic activities and property.<sup>22</sup> This fond has been arranged in alphabetical order, with the files in the folders in chronological order. The majority of the archival material collected was about the oldest religious houses, such as: Różanystok, Czerwińsk, Sokołów Podlaski or Warsaw-Basilica. Valuable information can be found in the collection covering former facilities, among them: Wilno-Stefańska, Supraśl, Kurhan, Rev. Jan Siemiec Facility in Warsaw's Powiśle.

The importance, diversity and, above all, the continuous expansion of the archival resources have influenced the need to organize the collection. The factual layout has been preserved following the model of the General Archives in Rome and in accordance with the guidelines given in *Elementi giuridici*. Some of the fonds that make up the archive's resources have been disassembled. Due to the seizure, often in a violent manner, of monastic property and the suppression of school and educational works, the creation of office records (other than the writing of appeals), which were considered eligible for secrecy, was abandoned in some establishments so that they could not provide grounds for the repression of some brothers.

The most important and extensive part of the resources of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province is made up of materials produced and collected by the secretariat (office) of the province. The organization of the archival resource was largely influenced by the structure of the centralized congregation, especially the

<sup>22</sup> Cf. J. Wąsowicz, *Działalność naukowa i edukacyjna archiwum kościelnego na przykładzie Archiwum Salezjańskiego Inspektorii Pilskiej*, „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 102 (2014) pp. 328–329.

number and type of institutions operating within it, as well as the origin, number and quality of files from the General House in Turin and Rome, the various diocesan curia, government offices and its own chancellery, and correspondence. The material arrangement of fonds and subfonds is clear and corresponds to the forms of apostolic activity of the Salesian Society.

The archive's collection consists of the following fonds and subfonds:

- General House: Superior General, General Counselors, Secretary General, Delegate of the General Minister for Poland, General Chapters.

- Provincial Board: Provincials, Provincial Chapters, Provincial Commissions, Minutes of Provincial Councils, Conference of Major Superiors of Male Orders, Religious Consultation, Conference of Polish Salesian Provincial, Directors' Conventions, Episcopal Curia, Contacts with state authorities.

- Formation: Aspirantates, Scholastics, Novitiate in Czerwinski, Novitiate in Kutno-Woźniaków, Philosophical Studentate (Postnovitiate), Major Seminary, General Index, Ratio Studiorum, Formation Programs, Calendar of Classes (annual plans), Annual Reports on the activities of the Major Seminary, Continuing Formation Courses, Retreats of Confreres, Courses for Principals.

- Salesian Associates.

- Missions, Correspondence, Chronicle of Zambia by Rev. K. Cichecki, Chronicle of Novoyelnya by Rev. W. Dąbrowski.

- Mariasong.

- Major events: Coronation of the Image in Czerwińsk, Coronation of the Image in Różanystok, 75 years of the Salesian presence in Poland, Beatifications and canonizations, Pope's visit to the Basilica.

- Salesian establishments.

- Chaplaincies.

- Chronicles from individual establishments and pastoral announcements.

- Former Salesian establishments.

- Personal files of deceased confreres in alphabetical order.

- Posthumous memoirs of the Salesians in alphabetical order.

- Former Salesians in chronological order (not available).

### **Concluding remarks**

The archive arouses the interest of researchers in many fields of study: historians, educators concerned with education, schooling or charity, missiologists, people of culture interested in amateur theatre, etc. According to the circular letter of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church of 7 February 1997 on the pastoral function of church archives, the documentation gathered in the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province is a significant and valuable legacy. It stores and shows the meaning of Tradition. It allows us to reconstruct the life and apostolic, missionary and schooling work of the members of the congregation. It presents the awareness and continuity of the history of the Church's charism. The historical archive is a memorial to the Warsaw Province.

There is a belief that church archives are part of the national heritage, under their own autonomy.<sup>23</sup>

## REFERENCES

### Sources

Archivio Salesiano Centrale – Rome

E 961 Austria, decree of erection of 14 October 1905.

The Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province

Decree erecting the Provincial Archives, Warsaw, 24 May 1986, L.dz. 205/86.

Appointment of Rev. Jan Pietrzykowski as Director of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province, Warsaw, 12 September 2013, L.dz. 252/2013.

Circulars by Prov. Rev. W. Szulczynski, 1978–1984.

Regulations of the Salesian Archive of the Warsaw Province.

Personal file of Rev. W. Balawajder. Chronicle of Prov. Rev. Balawajder 20 December 1944–12 May 1945.

File: Division of the Polish Provinces Circular from Rev. T. Kopa and Rev. S. Pływaczek, Turin, 30 October 1933.

File: Division of Polish provinces 1979–1980. Decree of the erection of the Salesian Province under the name of St Adalbert with headquarters in Piła, 16 December 1979, L.dz. 10/80 issued by Rev. General E. Vigano.

File: War losses Questionnaires 1945.

Archive of New Files in Warsaw

ref. 911, Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment. Male Religious Orders, vol. 5, pp. 468–469.

„Atti dei Capitolo Superiore della Società Salesiana”, 23 (1943) issue 120, pp. 273–312.

„Atti del Consiglio Generale della Società Salesiana di san Giovanni Bosco”, 66 (1985) issue 314, pp. 50–58.

*Kodeks prawa kanonicznego*, Poznań 1984.

*Polska i Polacy w wypowiedziach papieży X-XX w.*, vol. 1–10, edited and collected by K. Lis, Łąd 1983 [typescript ASIW].

*Regulaminy ogólne*, Łódź 1972.

*Regulaminy ogólne*, Rome 1986.

*Regulaminy Towarzystwa Salezjańskiego*, Warsaw 1925.

### Studies

Czajka Anna, *Nowe budynki archiwalne: koncepcje, chronologie, inspiracje*, in: *Ochrona zasobu archiwów kościelnych*, ed. A. Laszuk, Warsaw 2012, pp. 18–28.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. J. Śrutwa, „List okólny Papieskiej Komisji ds. Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Kościoła”, z dnia 7 lutego 1997 roku na temat pastoralnej funkcji archiwów kościelnych (streszczenie), „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 70 (1998) pp. 232–233.

- Elementi giuridici e prassi amministrativa nel governo dell' ispezzoria*, Roma 1987.
- Krawiec Jan, *Powstanie Towarzystwa Św. Franciszka Salezego oraz jego organizacja i działalność na ziemiach polskich*, Kraków 2004.
- Ks. dr Antoni Hlond, *salezjanin-kompozytor. Dokumenty – korespondencja*, vol. 1–25, collected by Rev. P. Golla, Łąd 1969–1976 [typescript ASIW].
- Pietrzykowski Jan, *Ksiądz Antoni Kołodziejczak (1909–1977) – salezjanin, wykładowca, dyrektor szkoły w Łodzi, przełożony domów formacyjnych, wikariusz inspektora*, „Polonia Maior Orientalis”, 3 (2016) pp. 167–180.
- Pietrzykowski Jan, *Le risorse dell' Archivio Salesiano della Ispettoria di Varsavia*, Madrid 2001, pp. 1–4 [typescript in the author's collection].
- J. Pietrzykowski, *Towarzystwo Salezjańskie w Polsce w warunkach okupacji 1939–1945*, Warsaw 2015.
- Prejs Roland, *Struktura zasobu archiwów zakonów męskich*, „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 70 (1998) pp. 45–59.
- Śrutwa Jan, „List okólny Papieskiej Komisji ds. Dziedzictwa Kulturowego Kościoła”, z dnia 7 lutego 1997 roku na temat pastoralnej funkcji archiwów kościelnych (streszczenie), „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 70 (1998) pp. 231–236.
- Świda Andrzej, *Droga do samodzielności polskiej prowincji salezjańskiej*, Warsaw 1990.
- Świda Andrzej, *Okruchy własnych wspomnień*, Łódź 1985 [typescript ASIW].
- Trela Krystyna, *Struktura zasobu archiwów żeńskich zgromadzeń apostołskich*, „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 70 (1998) pp. 61–71.
- Wąsowicz Jarosław, *Działalność naukowa i edukacyjna archiwum kościelnego na przykładzie Archiwum Salezjańskiego Inspektorii Piłskiej*, „Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne”, 102 (2014) pp. 327–340.
- Wilczyński Leszek, *Warunki lokalowe przechowywania kościelnych materiałów archiwalnych*, in: *Ochrona zasobu archiwów kościelnych*, ed. A. Laszuk, Warsaw 2012, pp. 29–38.
- Wyczawski Hieronim Eugeniusz, *Przygotowanie do studiów w archiwach kościelnych*, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska 1989.
- Zaleski Wincenty, *Mała encyklopedia hagiograficzna*, issue 1–18, Jaciążek 1982 [typescript ASIW].
- Zimniak Stanisław, *Salesiani nella Mitteleuropa. Preistoria e storia della provincia Austro-Ungarica della Società di S. Francesco di Sales (1868-ca-1919)*, Roma 1997.

## ARCHIWUM SALEZJAŃSKIE INSPEKTORII WARSZAWSKIEJ – DZIEJE ZASOBU

### Abstrakt

Archiwum Salezjańskie Inspektorii Warszawskiej zawsze znajdowało się w siedzibie zarządu inspektorii (Oświęcim 1919–1922; Warszawa-Powisłe 1923–1944; Łódź, ul. Wodna 1945–1978, ul. Kopcińskiego 1978–1986; Warszawa-Praga 1986–) i początkowo opiekę nad nim sprawował ksiądz sekretarz inspektorialny. Praktycznie jako archiwum bieżące było ono związane z sekretariatem i przeznaczone zasadniczo do użytku wewnętrznego. O archiwum historycznym można mówić dopiero w latach 60. ubiegłego wieku, kiedy do

tego zadania w 1967 roku został oddelegowany ks. Czesław Madej. Podczas pacyfikacji przez Niemców dzielnicy Powiśle w Warszawie we wrześniu 1944 roku archiwum zostało spalone. Z ocalałych resztek i materiałów archiwalnych znajdujących się w placówkach salezjańskich odtworzono w części zasób archiwalny. Za właściwego organizatora archiwum uważa się ks. Andrzeja Świdę, który w latach 1972–1995 gromadził, porządkował i systematyzował poszczególne archiwalia. Zebrane akta i dokumenty umieścił w zespołach i podzespołach, uszeregowanych na wzór Salezjańskiego Archiwum Centralnego w Rzymie. W trzech sąsiadujących ze sobą pomieszczeniach (zbiory muzyczne, pracownia, magazyn główny) znajduje się też podręczna biblioteka zawierająca podstawowe czasopisma, słowniki, schematyzmy, książki o tematyce salezjańskiej, publikacje salezjanów drukowane i w maszynopisach oraz maszynopisy prac doktorskich i magisterskich.

Słowa kluczowe: Towarzystwo Salezjańskie; archiwum; biblioteka; Warszawa