

The history of the "Dzieło Nowego Tysiąclecia" Foundation

The idea for creating the Foundation was born after the pilgrimage of Pope John Pole II to Poland in 1999. A year later, the "Dzieło Nowego Tysiąclecia" ("The Work of the New Millennium") Foundation was established at the initiative of the Secretariat of the Polish Episcopal Conference. It is an organization, the activity of which is aimed at commemorating the pontificate of St. John Paul II through promoting the teaching of the Pope and supporting certain social projects, mainly in the field of education and culture.

Since March 2005 the Foundation has got the status of a public benefit organization. Since 2001, every year, the Sunday preceding the anniversary of Karol Wojtyła's ascension to the Throne of St. Peter is celebrated as The Pope Day. During that day there is church and public fundraising for the Foundation's scholarship fund. The National Organizing Committee supports the Foundation in organizing the celebrations.

In 2001 the Foundation organized the first formation and integration camp for the scholars. It took place in five cities: Ełk, Kołobrzeg, Przemyśl, Serpelice and Święta Katarzyna. At that time the Foundation had 500 young scholars coming from 5 dioceses: the drohiczyńska diocese, the ełcka diocese, the koszalińsko-kołobrzaska diocese, the przemyska diocese and the radomska diocese. After a few years, in 2007, the form of the camp changed. One camp was divided into two camps according to the age categories: one for junior high school and high school students and the other one for university students. A year later one more camp was organized – for high school graduates. Since then every year three camps are organized during the summer holiday period, for a total of 2300 scholars from all over Poland.

In the years 2002-2015 the Foundation, together with the Jagiellonian University and the University of Warsaw, organized the Bishop Jan Chrapek Academic Contest in which the prizes were scholarships and academic indexes – every year the Departments of Journalism of the two universities offered a total of 12 indexes to the laureates of this Contest. Fourteen editions of the Contest emerged 131 laureates. The aim of the contest was commemorating the person and the teaching

of bishop Jan Chrapek, who died tragically in 2001. In 2002 both Universities together with the Foundation organized one more contest: for the best students of the 4th year of journalism. The prizes were annual journalism internships in prestigious editorial offices of e.g. the "Rzeczpospolita" journal, the Polish Television and the Polsat television.

In 2007 the Foundation, together with four Polish Universities offering journalism studies, organized a national scientific conference "The passing away of John Paul II in the Polish media", which resulted in the edition of an extensive publication of the same title. Eight years later, the continuation of the session was organized – it was entitled "Greatness or authority? The image of John Paul II in the Polish media during His canonization". Similarly as in the case of the first part, the result of this conference was also the edition of a publication which included the papers of all the speakers.

From July 2011 to September 2012 the Foundation carried out the project "Sustainable Development for the Equalization of Educational Opportunities". The project was co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. It was addressed to high school graduates and university students gathered around the Foundation's scholarship program. Within the scope of the project, four educational camps which lasted one week were organized at the Scout Environmental Education Center in Funka and at the University of Bielsko-Biała. The people who participated in the camps took part in courses prepared by specialists. The aim of the project was broadening the participants' knowledge related to sustainable development, climate changes and the protection of biological diversity.

The graduates of the scholarship program decided to band together to form an Association of Graduates "Dzieło", which was registered in 2012. Thanks to joint work and commitment in 2015 the graduates opened the first kindergarten – "Lolek" (learn more: www.przedszkolelolek.pl; www.sa.dzielo.pl).