

Dzieje Szkoły Pijarskiej w Łukowie 1701-1833

The history of the Piarist School at Łuków 1701-1833

SUMMARY

The Piarist school at Łuków was established as a foundation of the local nobility, who spared neither money nor effort to maintain their own school. Whenever the existence of the school was threatened, as happened e.g. after a fire, they were ready to make great sacrifices. The concern for the school was passed on to the next generations whose, sense of responsibility for the school stemmed from the gratitude for the knowledge they had received there.

At the beginning of the 18th century a number of orders had their own schools, and among them the Piarist schools were not the leading ones. However, after fifty years of activities in Poland the Piarist teaching order began to make its presence felt ever more strongly. Thanks to private foundation, a new Piarist school would be established every 4 years, on average. After reforms in the middle of the 18th century, and then after the disbandment of the Jesuit schools, and subordination of schools to the regulations of the Committee for National Education, the Piarist schools reached the top of the rank. This position was strengthened during the period of the (Congress) Kingdom of Poland, when there was no secondary school that could be a match for the Piarist schools. This unchallengeable position was largely due to the rule of the order, as the Piarist order was the only one which made education their primary objective. For other orders this kind of activity was only of accessory nature.

The Łuków school contributed to the prestige of Piarist schooling. Endowed with a good material basis and enjoying the unfailing appreciation of young people, the school continued to develop. Instruction in the school was conducted by the most highly qualified staff, whose proper selection was ensured by the Piarist system of training for work at school. All those elements made the Łuków school one of the most dynamic centres of education in the Polish provinces. Among the teachers of the school were many members of the order who made a lasting contribution to literature and sciences; the names include Fabian Turkowski, Gracjan Piotrowski, Remigiusz Ładowski, Franciszek Siarczyński, Bazyli Bystrzycki, Celestyn Kaliszewski, Patrycy Skaradkiewicz, Szymon Bielski. Also among the graduates of the school were a number of eminent personages such as Krzysztof Kluk, Franciszek Salezy Jezierski, Bronisław Trentowski, Klemens Junosza Szaniawski.

The Łuków school underwent the natural cycle of evolution of educational institutions. Beginning as a college, it went through a number of stages of importance to become a province school. Achieving the status of a province school meant that no other school in the province had a similar standing, and the school was among the leading schools of the Congress Kingdom. This was a well deserved distinction and the crowning of the 130 years of the Piarists activities for the benefit of the youth of the Łuków district.