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The *Tato.Net* Initiative – A Program Developed by the Cyryl and Metody Foundation in Support of Contemporary Fatherhood

Program Inicjatywa *Tato.Net* Fundacji Cyryla i Metodego
jako wsparcie współczesnego ojcostwa

Abstract: This study aims to present the operation of the *Tato.Net* Initiative [Dad.Net] implemented by the Cyryl and Metody Foundation (hereafter referred to as the Foundation). The programme was launched in 2004 to promote conscious and responsible fatherhood among contemporary men through self-education and self-formation amidst a crisis in masculinity, brought on by modern civilisation, and its negative consequences with regard to fatherhood. The *Tato.Net* programme implements initiatives and projects to strengthen families through the empowering presence of the father, both in the physical and spiritual sense. The programme also engages in cooperation with social organisations and institutions that similarly advance the culture of responsible fatherhood. All actions undertaken by *Tato.Net* reflect the idea of fatherhood, with the project itself founded on two primary values: the empowerment of a family by the presence of the father and the promotion of a culture of responsible fatherhood. The paper presents different projects executed by the Foundation in a few countries.

Keywords: Cyryl and Metody Foundation; *Tato.Net* Initiative; crisis of masculinity and fatherhood; conscious and responsible fatherhood.

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Abstrakt: Celem niniejszego opracowania jest zaprezentowanie działalności programu Inicjatywa *Tato.Net* realizowanego przez fundację Cyryła i Metodego. Program uruchomiono w 2004 roku, a jego misją jest wspieranie w formowaniu postawy świadomego i odpowiedzialnego ojcostwa wśród współczesnych mężczyzn (samowychowania, autoformacji) w sytuacji cywilizacyjnego kryzysu męskości i jego negatywnych konsekwencji w sferze ojcostwa. *Tato.Net* realizuje inicjatywy i projekty kierowane do całych rodzin, aby kształtować rodziny silne obecnością ojca zarówno w sensie fizycznym, jak i duchowym. Współpracuje także z organizacjami i instytucjami społecznymi, których celem jest szerzenie kultury odpowiedzialnego ojcostwa. Wszystkim działaniom podejmowanym przez *Tato.Net* przyświeca idea ojcostwa, które potrzebuje być odkryte na nowo. Sam program opiera się na dwóch następujących wartościach: rodzina mocna obecnością ojca oraz budowanie kultury odpowiedzialnego ojcostwa. Tekst przedstawia różne projekty zrealizowane w kilku krajach przez omawianą fundację.

Słowa kluczowe: Fundacja Cyryła i Metodego; Inicjatywa *Tato.Net*; kryzys męskości i ojcostwa; świadome i odpowiedzialne ojcostwo.

...Man, by showing and living through the fatherhood of God himself on Earth, is called to secure an even development to all members of the family. He will perform the task through his magnanimous responsibility for the life conceived under Mother's heart, through attentive carrying out of the duty to bring up, shared with his spouse, through work which never breaks up the family but consolidates it in unity and steadiness, through offering testimony to a mature Christian life...

John Paul II (Jan Paweł II, 1981, p. 25)

1. Introduction

A family is a social group in which human beings are born, brought up and underwent initial socialisation. Man is thus a family being, and someone without a family is perceived as lonely, alienated or orphaned; lack of family is even seen as a form of socio-cultural-economic deprivation. Despite the constant evolution of the family structure, performed functions, roles and internal relations between its members, the family still remains of the highest value in a man's life (Kawula, 2019, p. 10). This has been proven by studies such as the 2019 research by CBOS [Centre for Public Opinion Research] involving a representative randomly selected group of adult Polish citizens

(928 subjects). According to 80% of the participants, the most important value they are directed by in everyday life is family happiness (Centrum Badań Opinii Społecznej, 2019, p. 2).

The changes in contemporary families, primarily those in the sphere of the division of parental roles, have led to increase in the number of scientific studies on the subject of fatherhood and, more precisely, the changing role of the father (Kądziołka, 2014, p. 54). On the one hand, researchers point to a crisis in masculinity in the (anti)culture (Melosik, 2006), including its negative consequences in the sphere of fatherhood; on the other, a new model of the father is increasingly referred to in the pedagogy of family (Familiology), which differs significantly from the earlier one (Rohr, 2023). The role of man as the main breadwinner and link to the social world has changed dramatically (Krajewska, 2008, p. 89). In a modern family, alongside the father, the mother too is a co-breadwinner. Man's priority in life is thus focused on the father's relationship with the child and no longer solely on his professional career (Augustyn, 2001, p. 244). Nowadays, fathers very often accompany mothers during deliveries and engage in the upbringing of their children. Man is fully conscious of the new role that he plays in the family and assumes responsibility therefor (Zimny, 2013, p. 32). Nonetheless, conscious and responsible fatherhood requires certain (self)formation (Augustyn, 2009; Balcer, 2021, pp. 71–110), which is neither simple nor short. It is therefore necessary to assist contemporary men in finding a new image and understanding of fatherhood, a social cause for which Cyryl and Metody Foundation, which implements the *Inicjatywa Tato.Net* [Dad.Net Initiative] programme, is one of the leading non-governmental organisations in Poland.

2. The rationale for launching *Tato.Net* Initiative programme

The *Tato.Net* Initiative programme was launched in the framework of the Cyryl and Metody Foundation's activity in 2004. This unique all-European project inspires men to treat fathering as a passion as well as the supreme life career. The mission of *Tato.Net* is to offer support to contemporary men in assuming conscious and responsible fatherhood. *Tato.Net* also implements initiatives and projects that strengthen families through the empowering presence of the father in both physical and spiritual senses. The programme cooperates with

social organisations and institutions aiming to promote a culture of responsible fatherhood. All activities undertaken by *Tato.Net* are founded on the idea of fatherhood that needs to be rediscovered. The very programme is based on the following two primary values: the empowering of the family through the presence of the father and the promotion of a culture of responsible fatherhood.¹

The Cyryl and Metody Foundation, as well as *Tato.Net*, was founded by Dariusz Cupiał. He adopted the programme established by Ken Canfield of the National Center for Fathering in the United States in 1990, investing it with a Polish scenario.² Dariusz Cupiał graduated from the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. He is a coach for fathers, a scholarship holder of the Institute For Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Saint John's University in Colleagueville, USA and a member of ASHOKA (association of innovators for the public)³ and the *Diakonia Światło-Życie* Association.⁴ He engages in the activity of the Family Council at the Ministry of Family and Social Policy as well as those of the National Council for Development – the Council in charge of Family, Education and Rearing under the auspices of the President of the Polish Republic. He has conducted over 2000 hours of classes designed for fathers, including over 250 hours for the prisoners serving their terms in penal institutions and remand centres. He is also the author of many articles and books, *inter alia*, *Na drodze ewangelizacji i ekumenii* [On the Road of Evangelization and Ecumenism] (1996, 220 pages), *Kolumbowie naszego pokolenia. Historie mężczyzn, którzy postawili na ojcostwo* [The Columbuses of Our Generation. Histories of Fathers who Focused on Fatherhood] (2015, 160 pages) and co-editor of

¹ Information on the Foundation is available at: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/centrum-prasowe/informacje-o-fundacji> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

² The National Center for Fathering, <https://fathers.com/> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

³ ASHOKA, the International Organization of Innovators for the Public, was established in 1980 by Bill Drayton in Washington. It is active in over 90 countries in the world, including Poland. Its mission is to build a world where each individual can be a creator for the sake of common good. The Organization seeks and brings together people aiming to introduce new, unconventional solutions to social problems. See: <https://www.ashoka.org/pl-pl/country/poland> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

⁴ The Association “Diakonia Światło-Życie” was called to life by the Polish Episcopal Conference in 2000. It is “a legal form of organization of the Diakonia of the *Life-Light* Movement established with the aim to be able to better serve with its charisma in building the Church and extending its mission in the world.” See: <https://www.oaza.pl/o-stowarzyszeniu/> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

the monograph *Czas na Tatę* [Time for Dad] (the third volume in the series “ABC. Analizy Badania Cele” [ARG. Analyses. Research. Goals], (2022, 236 pages).⁵

The *Tato.Net* team and the management consist of 9 people, 4 persons constitute the Board of the Cyryl and Metody Foundation, while the international program board *Tato.Net* engages altogether 10 people, including theologians, psychologists, pedagogues, sociologists, lawyers, founders and members of many NGOs and activists of governmental organisations. *Tato.Net* is also associated with 15 licensed coaches who run workshops focusing on the problem area of modern fathering.⁶ Notably, all the actions undertaken within the framework of the programme *Tato.Net Initiative* are addressed to men extending different forms of care to children, such as biological fathers, foster fathers, adoptive fathers and stepfathers.

3. Main areas of activity of the *Tato.Net Initiative* programme

The basic streams of *Tato.Net* activity include the following: running the Internet-based service www.tato.net, conducting workshops for fathers and organising a network of fathers' clubs, social campaigns, conferences, seminars, training courses addressed to different receivers and subjects who aim to raise the awareness of and disseminate knowledge on the role of the father in the family and society, as well as gathering knowledge and publishing monographs on fathering.⁷

The www.tato.net website offers information on workshops and training organised, many articles relating to fathering, the calendar of current events and links to access several interesting websites on fathering. The *Tato Blog* is also available here, where men exchange their fathering experiences.

Educational workshops organised by *Tato.Net* attract immense interest from fathers. While taking part in them, the participants analyse their (father's)

⁵ The founder of the Cyryl and Metody Foundation, initiator of *Tato.Net*: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/zespol/dr-dariusz-cupial> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

⁶ The team of *Tato.Net*: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/zespol> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

⁷ Information on the Foundation is available at: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/centrum-prasowe/informacje-o-fundacji> (accessed: 10.08.2023).

resources and plan concrete actions in the future. The workshops, in a practical way, enable the subjects to discover the values of being good and fulfilled fathers (Canfield, 2015, p. 271). They are realised in the following thematic blocks: *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathering*, *Closer – A Full Connection*, *A Talent Discoverer*, *A Great Adventure*, *A Steadfast Father* and *Father & Daughter – A New Look*. The authors of workshop programmes adapt them to the receivers' expectations. They cooperate with Municipal Centers of Assistance to Families, Municipal Centers of Social Assistance, schools, parishes, non-governmental and church organisations.⁸ The programme of the workshop titled *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathering* is based on the results of studies that proved that 'between fathers who have good relations with children and those whose relations are bad, there occur serious differences in seven areas' (Canfield, 2015, p. 239). These seven secrets are involvement, knowing the child, consistency and stability, respect for and love of the child's mother, leadership and protection, spiritual equipment and active listening. During the workshop, fathers learn how to:

1. maintain a balance between family life and professional work,
2. recognise the strong and weak sides of their own fathering,
3. use skills essential for strengthening the bond with the child at each stage of its development,
4. create and implement a practical plan of action for fathers and
5. ascertain how other men cope with the role of father.⁹

The workshop *Closer – A Full Connection* is designed for men who want to strengthen their fatherly competencies and be heroes to their sons and daughters. The project aims to pass on to the participants the methods of deepening the relationship between father and child. Classes are founded on the four pillars of responsible fatherhood: involvement, steadiness, knowing the child and protectiveness. Consequent to their participation in the workshop, fathers

1. realise how big their influence on their children is,
2. get to know better the strong and weak sides of their fathering,
3. learn to implement the four bases of good parenting, viz., involvement, consistency, knowledge and rearing,

⁸ Workshops *Tato.Net*: <https://tato.net/warsztaty> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

⁹ Workshop: *7 sekretów efektywnego ojcostwa*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/7-sekretow-efektywnego-ojcostwa> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

4. see which needs of their children they satisfy adequately and which they need to work on, to improve the level of satisfaction,
5. receive feedback from other fathers and discover the secret of good contact with the child and
6. get to know practical methods of building a father's plan of action.¹⁰

The workshop *A Talent Discoverer* is offered to fathers who desire to enhance their skills of discovering their children's talents. Fathers participating in the classes

1. realise what the life success of their children depends on and learn what discovering and developing individual gifts consists of,
2. learn how to make the child happy and satisfied with what he/she does,
3. learn how to support the future careers of their children in the best way and
4. obtain important information, acquire new skills and believe that their involvement can have an impact on the fate of future generations.¹¹

The *A Great Adventure* workshop covers field events during which fathers and their children can embark on a real expedition modelled on a trekking camp, with elements of survival school practice. This workshop aims to improve the relationship and cement the bond between father and child. This is the time when they can talk without hurry in isolation away from the Internet and computer games, with minimal contact with outside civilisation. This also offers time to build a stronger relationship based on physical effort, active relaxation, as well as special tasks taken up together, like rowing a boat, putting up a tent, keeping guard or cooking over a fire.

Thanks to such joint adventures, fathers

1. awaken latent interests in their children and show how to practically use their skills, e.g. canoeing,
2. teach their children how to move in the mountains and enhance their sense of direction,
3. live through adventures with their children, like white water rafting along a mountainous river and

¹⁰ Workshop: *Bliżej – pełna łączność*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/blizej-pejna-laczynosc> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

¹¹ Workshop: *Odkrywca talentów*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/odkrywca-talentow> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

4. become a model of perseverance, securing a sense of safety for their children during their joint expeditions to unknown territories.¹²

The *A Steadfast Father* workshop is addressed to fathers remaining under the care of different types of social assistance institutions (Municipal Department of Assistance to Family, penal institutions, job centres, hospitals, detoxification centres, etc.) and to fathers in other problematic family situations (juvenile fathers, single, divorced, ones whose contacts with their children have been limited in consequence of family court decisions, men taking care of children in replacement of the father, etc.).¹³ The workshop aims to shape the attitude of conscious and responsible fatherhood, irrespective of the situation in which the men have found themselves. In the course of such a workshop, fathers

1. learn how to cope with and fulfil fathers' duties,
2. find out about processes of reconciliation between family members,
3. learn to recognise their children's needs and
4. strengthen their competencies in the family.¹⁴

The workshop *Father & Daughter – A New Look* is addressed to fathers and their adolescent daughters (from 13 years to their marriage). It is based on research findings that confirm that daughters who have good relations with their fathers do better at school, work and interpersonal contacts. The workshop aims to strengthen and deepen the bond between fathers and their adolescent daughters and to get the men involved in forming common relationships based on acceptance, openness and appreciation. Thanks to participation in the workshop, fathers

1. ascertain the strong and weak aspects of their relationships with their daughters,
2. break stereotypes and discover a new language of communication and agreement, and
3. will be able to spend time with their daughters creatively, appreciating each other.¹⁵

¹² Workshop: *Wielka przygoda*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/wielka-przygoda> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

¹³ Workshop: *Ojciec niezłomny*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/ojciec-niezlomny> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

¹⁴ Ibidem (accessed: 15.08.2023).

¹⁵ Workshop: *Tato & córka – nowe spojrzenie*, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/tato-corka-nowe-spojrzzenie> (accessed: 15.08.2023).

Tato.Net also runs the School of *Tato.Net* coaches, within the framework of which are organised Training for Trainers (T4T) dedicated to conducting workshops with the *Tato.Net* method. Following a positive completion of a training course, the father obtains a certificate entitling him to run the following workshops for fathers: *Closer – A Full Connection* and *The 7 Secrets of Effective Fathering*. The training lasts for half a year, during which fathers

1. extend their coaching competencies (running training courses for adults),
2. learn the innovative method of working with fathers,
3. broaden their knowledge relating to the latest research and practices in the field of fathering, building relationships with children, psychology and
4. work in an egalitarian team of other dedicated fathers/coaches.¹⁶

The Fathers Clubs organised by *Tato.Net* also is extremely popular with fathers. They are locally active groups of fathers to whom *Tato.Net* workshops mark the beginning of the road.¹⁷ They are a form of mutual support men's group. Membership of the Club offers the benefit of exchanging experience, and good practices, as well as strengthening the awareness of fathers' roles in both the family and society. This is a place where fathers can take up local initiatives, such as picnics, rallies, festivities, runs, discussion meetings, etc. Fathers with varied fathering experiences and those finding themselves in different life situations can join the club (Canfield, 2015, p. 273). Each man prepares and carries out his plan of being an increasingly effective and fulfilled father. The establishment of a club can be initiated by any father. Those forming a club should jointly choose a father as the leader of the group. He can (but does not have to) make decisions concerning the selection of persons as the deputy leader, treasurer and secretary. The person chosen as the leader must meet the condition of his own participation in workshops. *Tato.Net* clubs can be set up

¹⁶ Szkoła Trenerów *Tato.Net*: <https://tato.net/warsztaty/szkola-trenerow-tato-net-278> (accessed: 26.08.2023).

¹⁷ 'Conducting a workshop is a good starting point to commence meetings of Fathers' Clubs, since fathers present at the meeting have the opportunity to experience *Tato.Net*. Participants of the workshop will be a group forming a Fathers' Club. To organise a workshop, you need to contact *Tato.Net* Office; see: *Ojcowski poradnik – Jak założyć i prowadzić Ojcowski Klub*, Inicjatywa *Tato.Net*, file:///C:/Users/JA/Downloads/poradnik_abc_ok-1.pdf (accessed: 26.08.2023).

at parishes, schools or other institutions. The number of Fathers' Clubs is still growing, with over 52 such clubs in Poland currently.

In Fathers' Clubs, fathers

1. gain practical skills and meet men who inspire them to be increasingly better dads,
2. learn how to solve problems such as reconciling professional work and family life, planning time for the nearest, maintaining close bonds with children and wives,
3. find the strong and weak sides of their own fatherhood and apply the method of small steps and
4. develop themselves socially, engaging their time to do useful activities. Together with others, they build a family-friendly local community.¹⁸

Additionally, *Tato.Net* also runs the Leaders' Academy, within the frames of which are organised training courses for current and future leaders of Fathers' Clubs. After the training, the participants acquire competencies and tools to set up a Fathers' Club, know their predispositions as leaders – their weak and strong aspects, as well as create a long-term plan for their development.¹⁹

In 2020, as part of the *Tato.Net* Initiative, the first centre of studies on fathering and family policy was established in Poland and Europe. Its mission was to collect knowledge and to prepare tools for different organisations and institutions to strengthen the family policy concerning fatherhood. The Centre organises an annual cycle of deepened studies on fathering and family problem areas. The project is called STATO (acronym for Statistics and Studies on Fathering) and based on a questionnaire-based survey dealing with the role and tasks to be performed by contemporary fathers. It is conducted with a representative all-Polish sample. Outcomes of the research comprise *Raporty o ojcostwie STATO* [The STATO reports on fathering] (up to now edited in 2020, 2021 and 2022), raport *Postawy Polaków wobec rodzicielstwa i ojcostwa* [The report on the attitudes of the Polish towards parenthood and fatherhood] (2023) as well as the expert publication under the title *ABC. Analizy Badania Cele* [ASA. Analyses, Studies, Aims], vol. 3 (2022). Apart from these publica-

¹⁸ *Ojcowskie Kluby*, <https://tato.net/ojcowskie-kluby/jak-zalozyc-ojcowski-klub> (accessed: 26.08.2023).

¹⁹ Akademia Liderów, <https://tato.net/warsztaty/trening-kompetencji-liderskich-326> (accessed: 26.08.2023).

tions, *Tato.Net* continues to edit monographs, audiobooks and e-books devoted to fathering. Their authors are researchers and practitioners dealing with the above-mentioned problem areas, including J.B. Stenson,²⁰ *Ojciec – strażnik rodziny* [Father–the guardian of the family] (2020), J. Payleitner,²¹ *52 rzeczy, których syn potrzebuje od taty* [The 52 Things that a Son Needs from a Dad] (2019), M. Watson,²² *Tato, czy wiesz, czego potrzebuje twoja córka?* [Dad, Do You Know what Your Daughter Needs?] (2019), K. Canfield,²³ *Siedem sekretów efektywnych ojców* [The Seven Secrets of Effective Fathers] (2015) and D. Kornas-Biela²⁴ (ed.), *Ojcostwo dzisiaj* [Fatherhood Today] (2014).

Numerous social campaigns devoted to contemporary fatherhood are organised by the activity of *Tato.Net*. For example, in 2022, a campaign called *Jak zostać tatą* [How to stay a father] was launched and run successfully. Short video programmes presented stories of fathers expressing great satisfaction with the role of a father, irrespective of the challenges that it posed. Besides the 30-second spots broadcast on Polish Radio and Television, meetings were organised for young and ‘fledgling’ fathers through the network of *Tato.Net* Fathers’ Clubs all over Poland. One of the goals there was to invite fathers to join the *Tato.Net* community that extends support to fathers (and mothers)

²⁰ J.B. Stenson – American author of guide-books for families, educator, co-founder of the school for boys *The Heights* based in Washington, creator and headmaster of the school Northridge Preparatory School in Chicago; see: <https://sklep.tato.net/produkt/ojciec-straznik-rodziny/> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

²¹ J. Payleitner – radio producer, speaker, many-year co-worker of the National Center for Fathering, author of books dealing with fathering, family and religion; see: <https://sklep.tato.net/produkt/52-rzeczy-ktorych-syn-potrzuje-od-taty/> (accessed 02.09.2023).

²² M. Watson – Bible scholar, psychologist of health, founder of the project Abba – the 9-month group forum which offers assistance to fathers in establishing bonds with daughters; see: <https://sklep.tato.net/produkt/tato-czy-wiesz-czego-potrzuje-twoja-corka/> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

²³ K. Canfield – psychologist, philosopher, founder of the National Center for Fathering in the United States (1990) and expert of the International Program Board of *Tato.Net*, author of many books dealing with fathering, specialist in the problem areas of family; see: <https://sklep.tato.net/produkt/siedem-sekretow-efektywnych-ojcow-ksiazka/> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

²⁴ D. Kornas-Biela – psychologist, pedagogue, author of numerous books, popular-science articles, with expert opinions and reviews concerning the problem area of fathering; see: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/zespol/dr-hab-dorota-kornas-biela> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

in developing parental competencies. The leading motto of the campaign was “You are not alone – you can learn to be Dad (and Mom).”²⁵

Every year, *Tato.Net* organises the International *Tato.Net* Forum, which attracts hundreds of fathers from all over the world, including participants from Austria, Czechia, Germany, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, the USA, etc. joining either in person or online. The meeting aims to search for best practices in building a happy family. This whole-day holiday of fatherhood is filled with lectures, discussion panels, workshops and informal fathering networking.²⁶ Speakers delivering lectures are domestic and foreign specialists representing different domains of science. The leading motto of this year’s XV Forum is *Sila & Czułość* [Power and Sensitivity]. During discussion panels, workshops and unofficial talks, the participants will concentrate on the following issues:

1. how to offer a firmer support to the child,
2. strengthening necessary competencies in the child and filling it with power and hope,
3. how to effectively strengthen one’s adaptative competencies,
4. flexible response to challenges, finding solutions, including unconventional ones, and becoming a wise guide and companion in a world that keeps changing, yet in which children can always count on their fathers.²⁷

On the eve of the opening of each Forum, a celebrative Gala MAX is held, during which the decisions of the Jury Committee of the International *Tato.Net* Programme Board are announced, followed by the winners being presented with unique prizes awarded in the following three categories:

1. individual, who, by the example of his life, shows the value and beauty of fatherhood,
2. work, a piece, which promotes and helps discover the significance of fatherhood in the public sphere and

²⁵ Social campaign: *Jak zostać tatą*, <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/centrum-prasowe/informacje-prasowe/jak-to-jest-zostac-tata-ogolnopolska-kampania-spoleczna-i-najwieksze-w-polsce-badania-na-temat-ojcostwa> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

²⁶ Informal fathers’ networking consists of building lasting bonds by fathers who adhere to similar values and wish to be increasingly better parents.

²⁷ International *Tato.Net* Forum: <https://forum.tato.net/> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

3. organisation or institution which particularly focuses on the social dimension of fatherhood in its activity.²⁸

Moreover, the TopDads distinction is announced during Gala MAX, awarded to the best advertisements that communicate a positive image of the father.²⁹

It is worth underlining that in 2023 *Tato.Net* has been honoured with the Award of the Włodzimierz Pietrzak Catholic Association, *Civitas Christiana*. The prize has been awarded sporadically since 1948 for outstanding scientific, artistic and literary activity and significant achievements in the sphere of formative, cultural and social activities, which testify to universal human and Christian values, as well as attitudes and accomplishments expressing them in the life of the nation.³⁰ Accordingly, *Tato.Net* has been acclaimed ‘for shaping attitudes of conscious and responsible fatherhood, contribution to the development of father’s competencies in contemporary men and undertaking actions which inspire to live through fatherhood as a passion of life.’³¹ On behalf of the Cyryl and Metody Foundation, the award for *Tato.Net* was received by its founder Dariusz Cupiał during the ceremony held at the Primate’s Palace in Warsaw on 15 June 2023.³²

4. Conclusion

For over 19 years now, *Tato.Net* has been creating a social movement, a unique space for discovering conscious and responsible fatherhood. It forms a community of fathers who inspire and, at the same time, support one another. This has a positive impact on strengthening their intrafamily relationships and reaching for practices as well as the experiences of the fathers themselves. It also stores relevant knowledge. Parallel to this, an interdisciplinary research

²⁸ Statuettes MAX, <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/statuetka-max> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

²⁹ The distinction TopDads: <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/wyroznienia-topdads> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

³⁰ The award of the Włodzimierz Pietrzak Catholic Association “Civitas Christiana,” <https://tato.net/o-tato-net/aktualnosci/tato-net-laureatem-nagrody-im-wlodzimierza-pietrzaka> (accessed: 02.09.2023).

³¹ Ibidem (accessed: 02.09.2023).

³² Ibidem (accessed: 02.09.2023).

team conducts analyses concerning contemporary fatherhood. Undoubtedly, religious inspirations make the formation of the members stronger, while research allows for the knowledge update on the changing conditions and needs of parents. It makes it possible too to discover, describe and analyse the perspective of the father and mother, determine facts and recognise the barriers and circumstances in which men realise their unique vocation to be conscious and responsible fathers (Kornas-Biela & Cupiał, 2021, p. 3). The fatherhood of today, after its dramatic recent evolution, is expressed primarily as acting in the service of children and family in the effort to bring oneself up.

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