



THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#10)

There is an interesting term called the “black box theory”. It speaks about an object which can be analyzed in terms of its input and output, but there is no knowledge of its internal workings. This theory can be explained in a very easy way: “The child who tries to open a door has to manipulate the handle (the input) so as to produce the desired movement at the latch (the output); and he has to learn how to control the one by the other without

being able to see the internal mechanism that links them. In our daily lives we are confronted at every turn with systems whose internal mechanisms are not fully open to inspection, and which must be treated by the methods appropriate to the Black Box.” (Ashby, W. Ross, *An Introduction to Cybernetics*, 86).

Many of us probably don’t know that in our Archives here in Rome we have more than 200 black boxes. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

(“The appointment of the chap called: Eichelgrubber or something as Provincial - #10)

A week ago we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the inauguration of all three provinces of our Congregation. In the last “newsletter” I included the letter of the new provincial of the Chicago Province wherein he recounts the day of inauguration saying that the celebration “was truly beautiful”. Today I would like to move to the Ontario-Kentucky Province to see how the new Province started there. General Mix appointed Fr. Alphonsus Eicheldinger as provincial and Fr. Hubert Gehl, Fr. Norbert Dentinger, Charles Brunch and Fr. Jerome Arnold as new provincial councillors. Unfortunately, Fr. Eicheldinger didn’t send any letter to the General with details regarding the installation ceremony, however he sent an interesting letter a few days before the opening a new Province which shows how well organized the O-K Province was from its very beginning (ACRR 12153). Fr. Eicheldinger shares with the General “a preview” of new Provincial stationery prepared even before the O-K Province existed ! As you can see the Provincial office was located at 94 Duke Street West in Kitchener. Fr. Alphonsus also makes reference to a funny mistake with regard to the spelling of his name. Was he joking about the mistake or did somebody at the Roman Curia really not know how to spell his last name? It’s difficult to say. Enjoy!



CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION

94 DUKE STREET
KITCHENER, ONTARIOARCHIVUM C. R.
No. 12153

March 21, 1948

Very Reverend and dear Father General,

This is a preview of the Provincial stationery! I hope you all like it. I received your formal appointment of the Provincial Council members. The only mistake that could be found is the appointment of the chap called: Eichelgrubber or something as Provincial. In all seriousness, I thank you and your Council very kindly and sincerely. I shall do my very best to fulfill the duties of this difficult task. I am confident the good Lord will give his graces and assistance, and make up for the many deficiencies I bring to the job. The instructions contained in your letter will be carried out as specified.

I do not know whether you have taken up the matter of the changes which I sent to you some time back. Perhaps you have, and I shall receive word from you soon. In either case I wish you would consider or reconsider the case of North Bay's Superior. I have been to North Bay recently, and we are sort of stumped about the appointment. (I did not see Bishop Dignan as he was out of town.) Here is our difficulty: Any response to feelers I put out to find the acceptability of anyone now at North Bay as Superior, drew no approbation of our choice of Fr. Frank Dentinger. In fact Fr. Kirwin asked me if Fr. Frank D. could be moved and exchanged as he seemed to be disgruntled and insistent on the questions of athletics which he handles. It is true that Fr. Frank D. running athletics is loaded and they should have a coach and gym. However I can see that his being disgruntled about it would cause Fr. Kirwin to ask to have someone else in his place. From my visit I do not think it would work out well to have Fr. Frank D. Superior. Taking Fr. Tony and Fr. Haefele out of North B. would leave Fr. Bill Graf. as the only older man among a staff of comparative youngsters. I talked this over with my councillors and we can think of nobody in place of Fr. Frank D. We think it should be an older man under the circumstances. Fr. Fred Keleher was to the second specialist in Toronto on Friday and as far as I know now nothing the matter at present with his heart. I think he is okay, and what he had was something temporary caused by something else maybe that has disappeared now. Father Fred K. was at North Bay at one time. I am sure he would be acceptable to Bishop and priests of the diocese. Has an Irish name. Kirwin by the way asks for Fr. Fred K. if Fr. Bulbrook goes to Pescara, because of Fr. Fred's knowledge of French. Fr. Fred K. wants to teach; knows French, good teacher; would be respected by staff; I think he would work with us and keep his house under control. True he gets moody and grumbles; but perhaps a job of responsibility might teach him a few things. At any rate we cannot think of anyone else under the circumstances there and elsewhere at the present time. What do you think? Would you agree to Fr. Keleher in place of Fr. Frank Dentinger? We would send Fr. Tony to St. Mary's parish Kit., he would sooner have parish work. Fr. Otto H. to St. Mary's College Ky. to take Fr. Walter Schnarr's place (Fr. Schnarr's father was burried yesterday). Fr. Carl Beninger to St. Cecilia's as the fourth man. Fr. Oberle to St. Mary's College Ky. Fr. Hoffarth to Hamilton in place of Fr. Fischer when he leaves. Fr. Fearon who arrived today to stay at S.J.C. (seems to be okay). Fr. Cushing to S.J.C. and Fr. Hayes to N.B.C. (knows French a little better). Fr. Bullbrook I think will go to

Pescara; he will give me a definite answer before Easter and I shall let you know immediately. Fr. Bullbrook asks to be moved from N. Bay if he doesn't go to Pescara; but I feel sure he will go to Pescara.

I hope I receive a copy of the Constitutions before Easter, and that with God's good assistance we will get off to a good start. We must wait until the new changes are in operation before we can really begin to work. I trust you people have not too many worries over there, and I am sorry to add to them with the problem stated above.

I hope the elections turn out okay in Italy. From the latest moves I believe everything will be under control. My regards to all at the Roman House. Again thanks for everything; God bless you and keep you!

Obediently yours in Xto Redivivo,

Alph. E.

P.S. Please tell Fr. Michael that the 3 yrs. subscriptions for National Geog. and Sunday Vis. \$21.00

I might be able to send several thousand dollars on Roman account shortly.

I hope you will let me know about the Masses I asked about in my last letter.

21.03.1948

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(ACRR 12153)