



THE TREASURE IN THE BLACK BOXES (#15)

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. 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...

(An energetic and masterly priest needed! #15)

In today’s newsletter from the Archives we move to Canada, to 1935. In the black box numbered 100 there is a letter from bishop McNally, the bishop of Hamilton, to Superior General Michael Jaglowicz CR. In his letter the bishop is asking the Congregation to take care of another parish in his Diocese (ACRR 39142).

Bishop John “McNally’s initial plan was to have the Resurrectionists involved in educational apostates in Hamilton, particularly at McMaster University, and to give them Polish and Italian parishes as their home bases. But as it turned out there were no Italian or Polish parishes available so he gave them St. Joseph’s parish on a temporary basis, as he explain to the clergy: ‘When I asked [them] to go to St. Joseph’s [in December, 1932] my only idea was to give them a pied a terre in this city, so as to prepare the way for our hoped for educational work here. My intention was to place them in Polish and Italian parishes when these would become vacant.’ Fr. Wilbert Mayer, C.R. took formal possession of the parish on the 5th. of March, 1933, and remained as pastor until November, 1935, when a Polish Parish, St. Stanislaw Kostka, became available” (Wahl, J. (2000), In the Hope of Resurrection, 91).

The letter presented today is about the chance of a new ministry at St. Stan’s Parish, about some diocesan politics, about the reasons of losing another parish, St. Joseph’s (that we lost but regained after 2 years), about a need of “an energetic and masterly priest” at St. Stan’s.

Today an “energetic and masterly priest” Fr. Michal Kruszewski, C.R. is the pastor of St. Stan’s. For those who have never been to St. Stan’s, I recommend that you visit its website to see a cool video made using a drone (www.stankostka.ca). Enjoy!

Diocese of Hamilton
Chancery Office
722 King Street West

Hamilton, Ont.
Oct. 10th. 1935.

The Very Reverend Michael Jaglowicz, C. R.,
Superior General,
II, Via S. Sebastianello, Rome, Italy.

My Dear Father Michael

For some time back I have been thinking of writing to you about changing a bit the position of your fathers in this city. When I asked them to go to St. Joseph's my only idea was to give them a pied à terre in this city, so as to prepare the way for our hoped-for educational work here. My intention was to place them in the Polish and Italian parishes when these would have become vacant. Both of them are good parishes, with less debt on the two combined than on St Joseph's.

The Polish parish is now open, and I am counting upon your Fathers to take it. It needs an energetic and masterly priest to succeed in it as a leader, and there is good material to work with among its people, when properly guided. The other parish will be available in time.

to a community

Some of the older diocesan clergy have voiced complaints about the giving of St. Joseph's that held already several parishes in the diocese, and these are friends and alumni of St. Jerome's, so that I feel that, in the interests of necessary harmony and cooperation, it would be best that, on taking St. Stanislaus as I hope you will do at once, you relinquish the care of St. Joseph's. The latter has serious disadvantages, including the care of two institutions, one for tubercular and one for insane patients, as well as our own hospital, and the burden of a debt of over eighty thousand dollars, while the parish is small in population. The change would release two of your men, much needed just now. Father Dentiger, who teaches Scripture at McMaster university, could assist at the Polish parish. Father Wilbert Meyer needs a good rest, as he has not been well for some time, and has had much worry over his mother's illness and death. If satisfied to make these changes of parishes, may I ask you to send me a brief cable saying so, as I wish to complete the clergy list for the new directory. Also please send the name of the new Polish pastor as soon as possible.

With most kindly and grateful memories of your last year's visit, and the hope of seeing you here soon again to confer upon our hoped for expansion of educational work, and with every kind wish and prayer for you, I am

Most cordially yours in Christo Rege,

J. J. Hall
Bishop of Hamilton