



THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#28)

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...

(Our Founders’ Day #28)

We are soon going to celebrate our Founders’ Day. The first official celebration of that day throughout the Community took place on November 18, 1951. Perhaps it is surprising as to why the General decided that the Founders Day was originally to be celebrated in November instead of on February 17 as it is today. First of all, November 18 is the anniversary of the death of Fr. Peter Semenenko. At that time, he was considered the most prominent figure in the history of the Congregation. So it is not surprising that when the General Chapter of 1947 gave the mandate to the new General Administration to introduce a cause of beatification of one of the Founders, they chose Fr. Peter first. The cause was introduced a year later and Father General John Mix decided to also establish an official Founders’ Day of which one of the purposes was to “spread devotion to Fr. Peter Semenenko”. Today I would like to share some advice of Fr. John Mix regarding the celebration of this important day for all of us...

“On November 18th, the sixty-fourth anniversary of the death of Father Semenenko, we, here in Rome, instituted *Our Founders’ Day* with a Solemn High Mass in our Church, in thanksgiving to Almighty God for His Goodness to us, in petition for a continuance of God’s blessing on our lives and work, and particularly for the early glorification of our Founders. In addition, on November 19 and again on November 20th, a period of fifteen minutes over the Vatican Radio was devoted to extolling the life and virtues of Father Semenenko.

It is our sincere and earnest wish that *Our Founders’ Day* be fittingly observed in all our houses each year on November 18th, or on a convenient day immediately before or soon after that date, with a Solemn High Mass for the intentions mentioned, with a talk also on the aims and purpose of our Congregation, and the lives of our Founders, particularly on the life and virtues of Father Semenenko. For this you have considerable material in the Annals of 1900-01-02, and in the «Articles» recently published.

In, the parishes where a Solemn High Mass is impossible because of the lack of a sufficient number of priests, at least a ‘Missa Cantata’ should be celebrated, with a suitable announcement and explanation in the parish bulletin, and an invitation in the parish bulletin and from the pulpit,

asking the faithful to participate, offering their prayers for God's blessing on our work, and in particular for the early glorification of our Founders. At this Mass also, where possible, there should be a talk as mentioned above.

We ask your loyalty and cooperation in using these means to make our Congregation better known and better loved, and to spread devotion to Father Semenenko, so that his work and ours may be better appreciated, and being better known, loved and appreciated, others may be inspired to join our ranks to work for the glory of God, their own sanctification, and the salvation of others through the education of youth and the care of souls." (John Mix, C.R. *Newsletter*, December 1950).

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C. R. NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER, 1950

Fr. Bernard Bak, Vice-Rector; Fr. Marion Kaleth, Superior of Newman High School House; Fr. Stanley Ross, Superior of the San Diego House.

The New Weber High School was solemnly dedicated October 15. His Em. Cardinal Stritch officiated. Both His Eminence and the Provincial addressed the large throng that gathered for the occasion. A program of music followed the ceremony, and « Open House » brought the celebration to a very happy close.

Both departments of Weber High School (Classical and Technical) went into operation after Labor Day. The New School has 600 students; Weber Tech, starting its first year, enrolled over 60 students.

V I E N N A

Father General made his second canonical visitation of the two churches of our Community at Vienna and Kahlenberg in the month of October. He found Father Niemier in poor health, and at the latter's request accepted his resignation as Superior of the Vienna House. Father Joseph Wyrwinski assumed the duties of Superior October 20.

« OUR FOUNDERS' DAY »

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In the parishes where a Solemn High Mass is impossible because of the lack of a sufficient number of priests, at least a ' Missa Cantata ' should be celebrated, with a suitable announcement and explanation in the parish bulletin, and an invitation in the parish bulletin and from the pulpit, asking the faithful to participate, offering their prayers for God's blessing on our work, and in particular for the early glorification of our Founders. At this Mass also, where possible, there should be a talk as mentioned above.

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