



## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (SPECIAL EDITION)

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. The boxes where we keep the treasures of our Congregation: letters, writings and reports. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

### (Fr. Paul Smolikowski's birthday)

Fr. Paul Smolikowski was born in February 4th, 1849, so exactly 169 years ago. Today I would like to share with you a short note written by Fr. Thaddeus Olejniczak CR (1877-1933). Fr. Thaddeus “served as rector of the major seminary; superior of the Roman house, member of the general council and rector of the Polish Pontifical College” (Iwicki J., *Resurrectionist Charism II*, 462).

The envelope #26 from black box 74 contains his notes collected for a biography of Fr. Paul Smolikowski. I found one particular note about the Servant of God. In an account written by Fr. Olejniczak, he relates a recollection of blessed Celine Borzęcka, the co-founders of the Sister of the Resurrection, about Fr. Paul and Fr. Peter Semenenko.

So today I invite you to an unknown sacristy where you can also witness this interesting scene...

“When M. Borzęcka had come to the sacristy one day, Fr. Semenenko pointed to Fr. Smolikowski who was kneeling after Holy Mass and said these significant and prophetic words: *This one will be a saint.*” (ACRR 27302)

By M. Bonzka byla pomezo  
naru u Zakraty, O. Severendo  
vkarat na Kberg ego po sky inity  
Gica Smolikon Riego i posidiet:  
te suerque i provore stava:  
u Ten lepric i Kig bym.

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