



## THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#45)

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...

### (Our Sisters #45)

Today we celebrate the memory of Blessed Celine Borzęcka, C.R. She was a wife, mother, widow, grandmother as well as a religious and co-foundress - along with her daughter Hedwig - of the Sisters of the Resurrection. The idea of forming a religious community by a mother and her daughter remains a phenomenon in the history of the Church.

In today’s newsletter, I would like to go back to the very beginning of the community founded by Mother Celine. After the death of her husband, Celine arrived in Rome on October 7, 1875. “The next day she attended Mass at the Resurrectionist Church of St. Claude in Piazza San Silvestro. She went to confession to a tall, heavy-set priest, whom, she guessed to be the General of the Resurrectionists, Father Peter Semenenko. This first spiritual encounter changed the entire course of her life. At the first meeting with Celine, Semenenko immediately sensed that he was dealing with a soul who had a special life mission. In fact, under Fr. Semenenko’s spiritual direction she became the corner stone of the Sisters of the Resurrection and the most faithful disciple of Resurrectionist spirituality”.

Of course, the founding of the new religious community did not happen immediately. It required time, formation and years of discernment. Before the profession of the first vows, Celine along with other devoted women began to live together in a small community. In 1883 Semenenko was exceedingly pleased with the development of the little group, he wrote, “I am very happy with our Sisters and the three conferences I preach to them every week. Mrs. Borzecka must be complimented for her dedication, perseverance, patience and faithfulness to the Word of God. Her daughter, Hedwig, is also a beautiful and worthy example to all”. By the end of the year Semenenko prepared a petition to the Holy Father, addressed in the name of Celine, asking permission to form a religious society...

We keep the first drafts of that petition in our Roman Archives...

“Celina Borzęcka, a noble Pole, prostrates herself to kiss Your Holiness’s feet. Humbly she presents that together with five other women (excluding those who are ready to join soon), began life together here in Rome under the direction of the Resurrectionist Fathers. After much reflection and prayer, thinking about common life, they wish to establish a religious association with the task of working together with the Fathers’ missions here and also in the East. We beg Your Holiness for your gracious permission to use the home oratory with the possibility of celebrating at least two Holy Masses every day. We also ask, and this is a supreme grace, to have the opportunity to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in their oratory”





Beatissimo Padre,

Celina Borzecka, nobile Polacca, prostrata al bacio dei piedi di Vostra Santità, espone umilmente che essa, con altre cinque persone (senza contare quelle che sono in procinto di venire), si sono riunite qui in Roma, sotto la direzione dei Padri della Risurrezione di N. S. Gesù Cristo, (dopo molte riflessioni e preghiere), in un saggio di vita comune, nell'intenzione di formare una società religiosa collo scopo di cooperare nelle missioni di detti Padri, anche nell'Oriente. Supplicano Vostra Santità di degnarsi concedere benevolmente ad esse l'uso dell'Oratorio domestico colla facoltà di celebrarvi almeno due Messe al giorno, e come grazia suprema, se è possibile, di conservarvi anche il S<sup>mo</sup> Sacramento. Che delle grazie ecc.

(prostrata... espone che  
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 (Sua per l'ubienza di 29 Dec. 1883.)