

SUMMARY

This dissertation deals with the Polish themes appearing in the Diary of Fr Peter Semenenko between 1851 and 1886. It consists of six chapters. The first chapter is a comprehensive monograph of Fr Peter Semenenko divided into three parts. The caesura of the first two is the year 1852, in which he began his pastoral work in the Polish community in Rome. The last part - besides a description of his death and funeral - is a study of the figure and work of Fr Semenenko. It also includes memories of the Resurrectionist congregation of its co-founder. The second chapter, dealing directly with the Diary, discusses Fr Semenenko's legacy stored in the Resurrectionist General Archive in Rome, the material structure of the Diary and its themes. A comparative analysis of this work with other diaries of the second half of the 19th century is also made. The following chapters include detailed study of its contents. Thus, the third chapter presents Fr Semenenko's activities among Poles abroad, particularly touching on his pastoral work, his contacts with the hierarchy and his contribution to bringing about the establishment of the Pontifical Polish College in Rome. The fourth chapter deals with his commitment to society in the Polish lands under partition. After an analysis of Fr Semenenko's travels to the country and his efforts made in congregations and the papal environment for the Polish Church, his selected relationships with the clergy and laity living in the country are shown. The fifth chapter shows Fr Semenenko's involvement in the formation of women's orders and congregations, with particular emphasis on those that had Polish women in their ranks or were founded by Poles. The sixth chapter discusses the history of his order and Fr Semenenko's key role in it from the beginning until his death in 1886. Having analysed the structures of the congregation, it shows his relationships in the light of the Diary with selected confreres and with the foundress of the Resurrectionist Sisters.

The work as a whole shows Fr Peter Semenenko strongly involved in Polish affairs, supporting his compatriots in various ways and exhorting them to love their country by seeking ways of its revival on the path of faith. His example can impress and inspire a patriotic attitude even today.

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