

Fr. Peter Semenenko, C.R.

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and Resurrectionist School of Spirituality

RESURRECTIONIST  
SCHOOL OF SPIRITUALITY

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**Resurrectionist spirituality**, is a school of spirituality, which was initiated by Bogdan Jański and specifically Peter Semenenko, and was continued by Jerome Kajsiewicz CR, Paul Smolikowski CR, blessed Marceline Darowska, as well as blessed Celine and Hedwige Borzęcka.

*Lexicon of Catholic Spirituality, Lublin, Poland 2002, p. 671-672.*

Fr. Peter  
Semenenko CR  
(1814-1886)



Servant of God  
Bogdan Jański  
(1807-1840)



Fr. Jerome  
Kajsiewicz CR  
(1812-1873)



Blessed Celine  
Borzęcka CR  
(1833-1913)



S.of G. Hedwig  
Borzęcka CR  
(1863-1906)

Blessed  
Marcelline  
Darowska  
(1827-1911)



S.of G. Josepha  
Karska  
(1823-1860)



**Sisters of the Resurrection  
(1891)**



**Sisters of the Immaculate  
Conception (1857)**





S. of G. Bogdan  
Jański (1807-1840)



Fr. Peter Semenenko CR  
(1814-1886)

Influence on spirituality of  
priests and seminarians living  
at Polish College in Rome



S. of G. Fr. Paul Smolikowski CR  
(1849-1926)



Saint Bishop Joseph  
Sebastian Pelczar  
(1842-1924)



Bishop Joseph Weber (CR)  
(1846-1918)



Blessed Fr. John Balicki  
(1869-1948)

Other  
Priests



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Resurrectionist spirituality  
puts an emphasis on the need of  
co-operating with grace  
and union with Jesus Christ,  
and even on mystical transformation  
in Him.

According to the school,  
the mystic concentrates round an idea of  
perfect giving oneself (surrender) to God  
and spiritual resurrection.

*Lexicon of Catholic Spirituality, Lublin, Poland 2002, p. 672.*

# Basic elements:

- Primacy of love.
- The need of introspection.
- Optimism.
- Personalizm.
- Trinitarian exemplarism.

# Primacy of love

- Whole christian's spiritual life is centred round the virtue of love, which is a participation in God's love and at, the same time, the foundation of sanctity (holiness).

# The need of introspection

- A person struggling for perfection should become acquainted with the truth about himself, and so realize his own:
  - Nothingness;
  - Misery (heritage of the original sin);
  - Self-activity;
  - Self-love.
- (A deeper knowledge of self, which brings to the fore man's misery, nothingness and complete dependence on God; a condemnation of self-activity in the supernatural life; a dying to the egocentric self)

# Optimism

- Christ's Paschal Mystery is a source (spring) of our optimism.

# Personalism

- Constant self-developement.
- Opening up on God and another persons.
- Christian's ideal is Jesus Christ, who unites Himself with a human person and ennobles (dignifies) him/her like strain grapeviene.

# Trinitarian exemplarism

- Everything modelled on the Holy Trinity.
- Three fases of formation of spiritual life:
  - Deeper knowledge and overcoming of human nature, contaminated by sin;
  - Cooperation with God's grace;
  - Union with God (Life in union with Christ).

# Fr. Semenenko's guiding souls

- In guiding souls, Fr. Semenenko's counsels and directives were wholly rooted in a profound understanding of man's nothingness and human misery. His spiritual direction emphasizes a decisive struggle against self-activity and was totally committed to God in what he termed a 'philosophy of trust'.
- Intimate union with Christ.
- Christ life in us.

Fr. Semenenko:

- 1. Deeper knowledge of one self.
- 2. Action of God's grace.
- 3. Christ's life in us and ours in Him.

# Prayer according to Fr. Semenenko

1. To Christ

2. With Christ

3. Christ prays in us

(transformation into Christ, mystical death)

# *Do you know what it means to follow Christ?*

*Fr. Peter Semenenko CR*

*It means:*

*to think like Him, talk like Him,  
feel like Him, act like Him.*

*Do not go to the right, when He goes to  
the left; nor to the left, when He goes to  
the right.*

*Do not stay behind, while He goes  
forward;  
nor go forward, when He stays behind .*

*Do not say “no”, when He says “yes”,  
nor “yes”, when he says “no”.*

*Do not love, what He hates;  
nor hate, what He loves.*

*Do not rejoice with His sorrow;  
nor sorrow with His rejoice.*

*Do not praise what He humbles;  
nor humble what He praises.*

*To have everything  
in common with Him:  
common pleasure,  
common suffering,  
common humiliations,  
common glory,  
common cross on earth,  
common happiness in heaven;  
everything, everything in common  
heart, mind, soul,  
desire, reason, will,  
time and eternity;  
everything in common,  
one, one, one in everything!*

*That means to follow Christ !  
That is the faith that redeems !*



*Piotr Semenenko*  
Przep. Gen. Congr. a Resurt. D. X. J. Christ

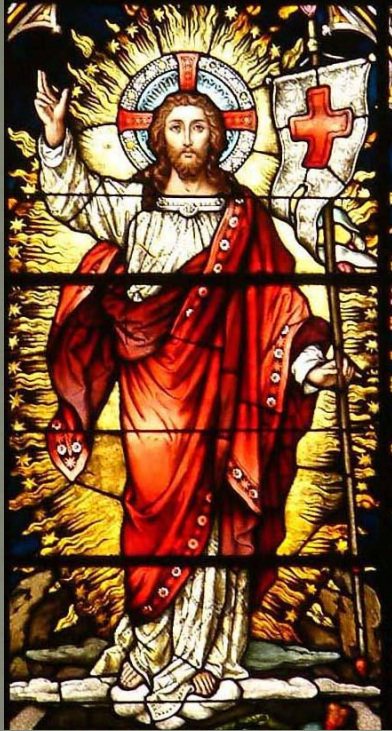
*Piotr Semenenko*

1814-1886

This presentation was prepared by  
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