

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Late December 2015 and Early January 2016. Moscow, and Perm Region, Russian Kingdom.

The Russian referendum results had been issued on a Friday morning. Like the responsible and self-disciplined professional that he was, the Tsar of All the Russias had decided to report for work on the next Monday morning, the fourteenth of December. He had arrived at the Black Virgin of Russia Ministry of Catholic Social Reorganization at nine o'clock, coming directly from the eight o'clock Tridentine morning Mass next door at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Bogmolov and President Polzin had arranged for Mikhail to occupy a top-floor corner office, overlooking the plaza in front of the cathedral. At nine o'clock, as his first royal edict as Tsar, Mikhail respectfully requested Archbishop Bogmolov to arrange Kiril's transfer from Detroit to Tsarskoe Selo. Then, at just five minutes after nine, Mikhail issued his second royal edict: a Russian samovar with fresh-brewed American coffee was henceforth to be available all day outside his office. A take-home pot from a nearby Starbuck's would suffice for the first day.

Mikhail held his first meeting with President Polzin, Patriarch Filaret, and Archbishop Bogmolov. The Tsar asked Polzin to become his Prime Minister in the new royal court. He announced his intention to govern from the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoe Selo just outside Saint Petersburg, so Polzin would need to plan on moving his family from Moscow to the former and future Russian capital. Polzin happily accepted, and both bishops nodded their approval. Mikhail intended to form a group of committees to study and prepare position papers on key aspects of social reorganization, and drew upon the vast collective wisdom of the three Russian leaders in selecting the best men and women to form the study and work groups. In view of the holiday season approaching, Mikhail set a target date of late January for the initial reports to be on his desk. He announced that all employees of the Ministry would be granted a two and a half week paid vacation beginning on Wednesday, December twenty-third, and continuing through Sunday, January tenth. This would include three national holidays: Roman Rite Christmas on December twenty-fifth; Russian New Year's Day and the Roman Rite feast of The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ, on January first; and Orthodox Rite Christmas on January seventh. Study group committees would be asked to think and pray about their assigned issues over the holidays, but would not be expected to do any formal work. All committee leaders were provided with Mikhail's private cell phone number, so that they could discuss ideas with him over the vacation.

Being a newcomer to Russia, Mikhail asked Prime Minister Polzin for assistance in planning the holiday season for his new family. His fiancée

Mariya and her parents were going to spend the holiday season with him in Russia, and he wanted to take them to a remote mansion where they could enjoy winter sports, but within reasonable distance of a cultural center. The new Prime Minister suggested the northern Ural city of Perm as a remote cultural center. He noted that during World War II, many of the artistic companies from Saint Petersburg had been relocated to Perm to protect them from the Nazi occupation. After the war, many had chosen to remain there, so that Perm rivaled Saint Petersburg and Moscow in its ballet, orchestral, and dramatic theater companies. It was also a major center for high-end shopping, and had a world-class airport. Within fifty to seventy-five kilometers one could drive to a variety of country mansions owned by wealthy Russians, some of whom (and Polzin knew which ones) would be genuinely delighted to make their country retreats available for the new Tsar. Polzin recommended one or two in particular, which were not too far from decent alpine ski resorts and downhill sledding sites, and also offered outstanding snowmobile trails.

Mikhail planned to host the Petersons in the Royal (formerly Presidential) Suite at the Hilton Leningradskaya for three days surrounding Roman Rite Christmas. They would attend midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Moscow, which by request of the Tsar would be celebrated by Archbishop Bogmolov as a High Pontifical Mass in the Traditional Latin Rite of the Roman Church, with orchestra and chorus performing a Mozart Mass. On the second day after Christmas they would fly to Perm, and spend ten days at a country mansion. They would fly back to Moscow on January fifth and return to the Hilton Leningradskaya, in time to attend the Orthodox Christmas Mass celebrated by Patriarch Filaret at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

Then, during their private days at the country mansion, Mikhail and Mariya had time together to walk in the sunshine on snowy country lanes, sip hot cider beside a crackling fireplace, enjoy hot coffee in the warming hut during breaks from alpine skiing at the local ski resort, and ride side by side in a horse-drawn sleigh. Downhill sledding and snowmobiling were also enjoyed, but these activities were less conducive to sharing their hearts. Mikhail and the Petersons traveled to the regional city of Perm for one night in a hotel on New Year's eve. They attended a New Year's eve matinee performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet by Perm Ballet, ranked by many experts as the third best ballet company in the world. On New Year's morning they attended the Roman Rite Mass for the feast of The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ, at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. That afternoon, before returning to the country, they attended a concert of Christmas and winter-themed classics by the Perm Opera and Ballet Symphony Orchestra. They met the local Roman Rite and Orthodox Rite bishops, the directors of the Perm ballet and orchestra, and a number of common people in restaurants, shops, and their hotel. All were warm and welcoming, and showed remarkable insight into

the transformation that Russia must undergo in order to become in fact what she already was in name and in the hearts of her people: a Catholic Confessional State.

The two lovers talked at length about their future life together. They reviewed the fact that when Mikhail brought Father Kiril to Russia for good, the devout Catholic families that formed the core of the Cova parish would be entirely lost without their beloved pastor. Although many government positions would be filled by Russian nobles and worthy Russian citizens, they would need a group of people whom they knew and trusted to form the core of their palace staff. In time they would learn to know, love, and trust many good native Russians, but most of them would adhere to the Orthodox Rite and Mikhail and Mariya both felt it would be helpful to balance them with a core of tradition-oriented Roman Rite Catholics. Mikhail explained that he already broached this subject with Kiril, and after a week of discussions with Mariya and her parents, aided by daily Mass and Rosary, the following beginning plan was drafted:

**Appointments to the Nobility of the Royal Court
of the Kingdom of Russia
By His Majesty Mikhail II, Tsar of All the Russias**

The following individuals and families will be appointed to the Russian nobility. They will be privately tutored in the Russian language as needed, and will be relocated to Russia at government expense. They will be housed in government-owned palaces and receive generous tax-free stipends for life, in exchange for their devoted service to the Russian Kingdom according to their interests and abilities. Any additional advanced education will be funded by the Crown, subject to approval by the Tsar.

Siblings of His Majesty the Tsar:

- **Father Kiril Romanov**, age 33, single, Roman Catholic priest, as Tsar's brother will be made a **Grand Duke**, but as a priest will not be eligible to succeed to the throne. He is asked to serve as the Tsarskoe Selo palace chapel **Roman Rite priest to the Tsar** and his family; as the **personal liaison between the Tsar and the Pope** in Rome; and as a **Royal Court composer** and music director.
- **Vladimir Romanov**, age 31, married to Olga, father of six children, organist and organ builder. As Tsar's brother will be made a **Grand Duke**, and until Mikhail fathers a child will be **next in line to inherit the throne**. Will be assigned an apartment in the Catherine Palace. Vladimir will be asked to serve as **Organ-Builder to the Crown**.
- **Olga Gavrilovna Romanov**, age 31, married to Vladimir, mother of six children, homemaker. As sister-in-law to the Tsar, will be made a **Grand Duchess**. Fulltime duties as a homeschooling mother.

- **Anastasia Nicholovna Romanov, Olga Nicholovna Romanov, and Alexandra Nicholovna Romanov.** As sisters of the Tsar, they will be made **Grand Duchesses**, and their **husbands** will be made **Grand Dukes**. They may relocate to Russia at government expense, to reside in royal palaces and to serve the Crown according to their abilities.

Parents of Her Majesty the Tsarina:

- **George Peterson (Petrovich)**, age 42, married to Katarina, Professor of Psychiatry. As father of Tsarina Mariya, will be made a **Grand Duke** and will live in the Catherine Palace. He may teach and practice at the University of Saint Petersburg.
- **Katarina Fyodovsky Peterson (Petrovna)**, age 40, married to George, Professor of Music. As, mother of the Tsarina, will be made a **Grand Duchess** and will live in the Catherine Palace. She may teach at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory and continue to travel worldwide as a concert artist.

Outstanding Catholic laymen:

- **Don Brown**, married with adult children, will be made a **Duke, a Royal Prince**, and his wife **Theresa** will be made a **Duchess, a Royal Princess**. They will be assigned suitable palace quarters in Tsarskoe Selo, and Moscow. **Don will be Advisor to the Tsar on Small Family-Owned Business Development in the Russian Kingdom.** They will be permitted to maintain dual citizenship in order to continue their philanthropic work in Detroit.
- **The Szczypiorski family** of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima (Cova) Parish in Detroit will be assigned apartments in the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo:
 - **Karl Szczypiorski**, age 50, married to Diane, father of six children, civil engineer. Karl will be made a **Duke, a Royal Prince**, and will serve as the **Director of Building Improvement and Maintenance for All Royal Palaces and Government Properties in the Russian Kingdom.**
 - **Diane Szczypiorski**, age 48, married to Karl, will be made a **Duchess, a Royal Princess**, and will be **Overseer of the Homeschool Support Group** for all the families residing in the **Tsarskoe Selo and Saint Petersburg royal palaces.**
 - **Mark Szczypiorski**, age 25, single, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will serve as **Royal Court Organist and Kapellmeister to His Majesty in the Saint Petersburg and Tsarskoe Selo royal palaces**, as **music tutor to the (future) royal children**, and as **Assistant Organ-Builder to His Majesty.**
 - **Luke Szczypiorski**, age 23, single, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will serve as **Athletic Trainer and Coach for the Royal Palace Guard** athletic teams, as **Tennis Coach to His Majesty Tsar Mikhail II**, and as **Music Director of the Royal Palace Guard Men's Glee Club.**

- **Jacob Szczypiorski**, age 21, single, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will be sent (at the Russian Kingdom's expense) to the world's best culinary institute in Switzerland to become trained as an executive chef. Jacob will then serve as **Executive Chef to His Majesty in the Palaces of the Russian Kingdom**.
- **Maria Szczypiorski**, age 19, single, will be made a **Royal Princess**, and will serve as the **nanny to the (future) royal children** and as **personal assistant to Her Majesty Tsarina Mariya**.
- **Joseph Szczypiorski**, age 15, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will **assist Father Kiril Romanov at daily Mass** and as a **personal assistant and errand boy for His Majesty Tsar Mikhail II**.
- **Joshua Szczypiorski**, age 13, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will **assist Father Kiril Romanov at daily Mass** and as a **personal assistant and errand boy for His Majesty Tsar Mikhail II**.
- **Sam Putin**, married to Catherine, ages classified. Sam will be made a **Duke, a royal prince**, and will be **Haircutter to the Tsar and the Royal Palace Staff** in Tsarskoe Selo. **Catherine** will be made a **Duchess, a royal princess**, and will be **Bookkeeper for the Royal Household** in the Alexander Palace at Tsarskoe Selo. They will be assigned appropriate quarters in the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo.
- **The Magagin family** of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima (Cova) Parish in Detroit will be assigned apartments in the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo:
 - **Charles Magagin**, age classified, married to Mary, will be made a **Duke, a royal prince**, and will be **Overseer of Maintenance for the Royal Household and the Tsarskoe Selo Catholic parish**.
 - **Mary Magagin**, age classified, married to Charles, will be made a **Duchess, a royal princess**, and will be **Overseer of Domestic Staff for the Royal Household and the Staff of the Tsarskoe Selo Catholic parish**.
 - **Amy Magagin**, age 22, single, will be made a **Royal Princess**, and will continue university studies.
 - **Henry Magagin**, age 21, single, will be made a **Royal Prince** and will become **Overseer of Mechanics for the Royal Fleet of Motor Vehicles**.
- **The Shoemaker family** of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima (Cova) Parish in Detroit will be assigned apartments in the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo:
 - **Frederick Shoemaker**, age 53, married to Katherine, will be made a **Duke, a Royal Prince**, and will serve as **Director of Electrical Systems Improvement and Maintenance for All Royal Palaces and Government Properties in the Russian Kingdom**.

- **Katherine Shoemaker**, age 51, married to Frederick, will be made a **Duchess, a Royal Princess**, and will become **Overseer of the Royal Resource Academy for Catholic Home Educators in the Russian Kingdom**.
- **Thomas Shoemaker**, age 29, married, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and his wife a **Royal Princess**. Thomas will serve as **Royal Court Organist and Kapellmeister to His Majesty in the Moscow royal palaces**.
- **Andrew Shoemaker**, age 27, married, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and his wife a **Royal Princess**. Andrew will be granted a year of advanced study in Russian language formation and Russian Law at the Saint Petersburg School of Law, and will then be asked to serve as **Overseer of the Russian Royal Academy of Solicitors and Barristers**, and as **personal legal counsel to His Majesty Tsar Mikhail II**.
- **Father Matthew Shoemaker**, age 25, single, Catholic Priest in the Roman Rite, will be made a **Royal Prince**, to serve as **the Moscow Kremlin Roman Rite priest to the Tsar** and his family; as the **Moscow-based personal liaison between the Tsar and the Catholic bishops of the Roman and Orthodox Rites**.
- **David Shoemaker**, age 23, single, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will serve as the **Director of Entertainment for the Royal Palaces** and also as **Movie-Maker to His Majesty the Tsar**. David will also collaborate with Father Kiril Romanov, and serve as **Producer to the Tsar of Original Catholic Musicals**.
- **Joseph Shoemaker**, age 21, single, will be made a **Royal Prince**, and will serve as **Personal Secretary to His Majesty** and **Master of Ceremonies for Royal Events**.

It was agreed that additional Catholic people from the Cova Parish, and a few from Saint Augustine Cathedral Parish in Kalamazoo, would also need to be added to the list of prospective appointments. Father Kiril had long relied upon the Shoemaker family as his faithful helpers in his parish, and he would find their presence in the royal court at Tsarskoe Selo a great joy. Mariya and Mark had been close friends with David and Joseph Shoemaker, and would find comfort in their presence. Mariya was delighted the Szczypiorskis and Shoemakers had already all agreed to move into the vast Catherine Palace, next door to the Alexander Palace, before Spring.

Mariya shared her private concerns about Mark with Mikhail. Their friendship had always been chaste, and so it would ever remain. But she could not imagine living without having him close by. Unlike Mikhail, who had two younger brothers and three older sisters to populate the royal courts, she was an only child, and Mark was the beloved brother she never had. In fact, all his brothers and his sister had been, to her, like the siblings

never born because of her mother's tragic emergency hysterectomy following Mariya's birth. With Mark as the royal palace Kappelmeister, and music tutor to the future royal children, her heart would be whole again.

As assistant organ builder to the Tsar, Mark could pursue his love of old-fashioned craftsmanship, and yet remain free to pursue a vocation to the priesthood if, in time, he became certain that was God's will for him. On the other hand, as a handsome young Prince closely attached to the household of the Tsar, he would be among the most eligible young bachelors in the Russian kingdom, and only time would tell what God might have in store for him.

Mikhail and Mariya's hearts began to be joyful as they envisioned working in a Christian kingdom with so many devout and virtuous Catholic souls to assist them. Mikhail already knew many people in Russia, but Mariya would be a newcomer and would value having beloved longtime friends surrounding her and assisting her in serving her new nation.

They began to see that the function of royal courts was to set a shining example of high culture and righteousness, so that the people of the nation might be inspired to follow their example. With this in mind, the American individuals whom they proposed to elevate to the status and duties of Russian Royalty were ideal.

Knowing that the vast majority of public servants throughout the kingdom would be native Russians, they also developed an initial list of Russian leaders who would hold places of power in the Tsar's Cabinet immediately upon his accession to the throne:

Appointments of Russian Officials to the Cabinet of the Russian Kingdom By His Majesty Mikhail II, Tsar of All the Russias

- **Vasily Alexandrovich Polzin**, former President of the Russian Federation, will become the Tsar's **Prime Minister** in the Russian Kingdom.
- **Daniil Yevgenyevich Mikhailov**, former Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, will become the Tsar's **Minister for Government Personnel** in the Russian Kingdom, and will be in charge of identifying Russian citizens fit to become skilled public servants.
- **Stepan Mikhailovich Ivanov**, former Chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, will become the **Chairman of the Royal Treasury** of the Russian Kingdom.
- **Grand Duchess Marina Mikhailovna Romanov**, former trustee of the Russian throne, will become **Overseer of Traditional Russian Nobility** and will be in charge of their assignments to positions of public service within the Russian Kingdom.

- **Grand Duke Grigory Mikhailovich Romanov**, former heir apparent to the Russian throne, will become the Tsar's **Minister of Defense**, overseeing the chiefs of the several branches of the Russian military.

When their political planning was complete, Mariya and Mikhail sat together on a loveseat in a book-lined den, beside the crackling fireplace, holding hands and sipping hot chocolate while winter winds howled and snowflakes swirled violently just outside the window. They happily discussed how their many American friends, already like extended family because of the close-knit fellowship at the Cova parish, would continue to be like a network of beloved friends and family within the vast palaces at Tsarskoe Selo.

They would make the cold old museums come to life again with the warmth of human love and the music of children's voices. Their many friends would someday become the progenitors of a new Russian nobility, a ruling class that would set the proper example of holiness of life, hard work and creativity, and dedication to the love of neighbor for the love of God. They would be anything but the kind of dissipated leisure class, engaged in nothing good either for themselves or for the kingdom, whose behavior had frustrated and deeply ashamed the last Tsar.

The spiritual corruption of many of the former Russian nobility had unquestionably helped to render the House of Romanov vulnerable to an anti-Christian revolution back in 1917. For, although Tsar Nicholas and Tsarina Alexandra had lived exemplary lives as Orthodox Rite Catholic saints, many of the other Grand Dukes and Grand Duchesses had been anything but examples of devout Faith and holy living.

Suddenly their reverie was interrupted by a sharp rapping on the open door frame of the den. One of the FSB security officers, a tense look on his worried countenance, indicated an urgent need to consult with His Majesty the Tsar. He informed Mikhail and Mariya that Interpol had intercepted extensive communications among members of a well-known private world leadership forum, indicating active discussions about methods of eliminating the new Tsar and working to infect Russia once again with secular humanist propaganda.

This would include pornographers, professional prostitution rings targeting community leaders, gay activists demanding same-sex "marriages", religious pluralists demanding "religious freedom", and academicians speaking out worldwide to belittle the Russian government for opening honest debate about evolution, human activity as a cause of global climate change, population control, Keynesian economics, and democracy. If they could, they would assassinate the Tsar. But in the meantime, they would seek to assassinate his character, and the reputations of key officials in his administration.

"The battle is now being joined," said Mikhail, "between the Catholic

Russian Kingdom of the Prince of the House of Romanov, and the secular humanist kingdom of the prince of this world.”

Mariya, having been studying Russian history, commented:

“Tsar Nicholas II was bitterly criticized because of his extensive network of secret police, who sought to ferret out nests of conspirators seeking to bring down the throne.”

“A kingdom is like a living body,” said Mikhail. “The human body has to protect itself against microscopic foreign invaders, and so has armies of white blood cells that function as foot soldiers, moving quickly to the site of any battle between the body and outside infiltrators, and attacking anything that is foreign.”

“That’s a neat analogy, Doctor Romanov,” smiled Mariya. “Sometimes I think I’ll miss having you work as a physician.”

“Actually, I am thinking about continuing to do medical mission work in remote areas of Russia if the security people can make it workable.”

“Right now I wouldn’t count on that, Your Majesty,” said the FSB officer.

Mikhail sighed, realizing the immense sacrifices that wielding power in a just manner would entail.

“Anyway, like the body, a kingdom must have an ‘immune system,’ a network of trustworthy and highly trained men, spies who can infiltrate socially subversive groups and expose their intentions to the king. The lust for power and wealth always drives certain men to seek ways of usurping legitimate authority.

“When they can, they will infiltrate the ranks of power through blackmail and bribery, reaching even to the ruler if they can. If the core power structure consists of virtuous men who are impervious to such schemes, they then turn to violence. Usually they will try spiritual violence first, through character assassination. If that fails, then they resort to physical assassination.”

“That is precisely what our intelligence suggests about these men, Your Majesty,” said the FSB officer.

“Personally, I dislike becoming involved in intrigue. Christians with benevolent intentions towards their fellow men often have difficulty being realistic about the conscious evil that some men willingly harbor in their hearts. However, I do have personal experience as a former Marine special operative. I myself have been sent on dangerous espionage missions. I understand that a kingdom has to call upon its finest and most brave young men – like this young officer – in order to protect itself from spiritual, political, and physical invasion.”

The FSB security officer smiled with pride and thanked the Tsar for his acknowledgment.

Mikhail sat in silence for a few moments, offering a mental prayer to Saint Longinus and to Saint Ignatius Loyola, soldiers who became saints. He asked these saints to intercede in the Royal Courts of Heaven on behalf

of the military and security forces of the new Russian Kingdom, and for the Tsar, their Commander-in-Chief.

The safe and secure days in the Russian countryside were now fast drawing to a close. Duty was calling, and Mikhail would henceforth have to divide his time between the warmth of hearth and home, and participation in the cold field of political, paramilitary, and military battles where kingdoms are kept or conquered.