

Afterword

In or about the year 2000 I received from Father Nicholas Gruner of The Fatima Center two tiny first-class relics of Blessed Jacinta and Blessed Francisco, two of the three shepherd children to whom Our Lady of Fatima appeared in 1917. They have resided in a small gold-plated reliquary in a place of honor on our living room mantle, next to a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Having been with us so many times during our family Rosary, I believe they have obtained grace for me to explore the message of Fatima in depth, and to imagine what could actually happen if specific obedience to Our Lady's requests brought forth fulfillment of the associated promises in our modern world.

But there is a story of historical artifacts as well. In 2004 my wife and I happened upon an exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico that profoundly captured my imagination: *Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family. Treasures from the Alexander Palace*. Sponsored by The American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation of Washington, D.C., the exhibit included a wide array of personal belongings of the last Russian Tsar and his family. Furniture, clothing, toys, photographs, paintings, decorative artworks, and handwritten diaries and letters (many in English, the Romanov family's private household language) all spoke to me of a lost world of elegance, grandeur, and faith under-girding everything else.

On the day when I toured the Santa Fe exhibit, surrounded by hundreds of personal belongings of these royal Russian Orthodox daily communicants, I felt profoundly moved that someday I must do what little I could to further the cause of Russia's healing. It occurred to me that there could be a certain symbolism in the very location where I was touring these Russian royal artifacts: in a city named by the Roman Catholic Spanish empire in honor of the Holy Faith. Our Lady of Fatima promised that it would be that Holy Catholic Faith that would someday bring Russia the healing that follows conversion.

Now six years have passed, and my study of the traditional Catholic Faith and of Russian history has continued. This novel represents a compilation of my current understanding, of what things we may hope will yet come to pass in Russia, and in our deeply troubled post-Christian world. Perhaps this labor of love – this effort to ponder, through fiction, what future blessings can be extrapolated from the whole truth about Fatima – has helped to fulfill that sense of urgency, to do what little I can to promote the cause of Russia's healing.

Acknowledgements

I am deeply appreciative of the following persons for helping to bring this book to publication.

Martha Austin, St. Mary's, KS

Timothy Austin, St. Mary's, KS

Suzanne Pearson, Arlington, VA

Michal Semin, Czech Republic

Catherine Winger, Welland, ON

Andrew Cesanek, Buffalo, NY

Dr. L. Jean Dunegan, Brighton, MI

Fr. Nicholas Gruner, Fort Erie, ON

Fr. Eduard Perrone, Detroit, MI

English Reader's Guide to Russian and Other Foreign Names

Since Russian names are spelled in the Cyrillic alphabet, they have to be “transliterated” into the Latin alphabet used for modern English. In this process, an effort is made to spell the names exactly as they should be pronounced, with no silent letters. The following table shows pronunciations for many of the names in *Russian Sunrise*. Italics designate syllables receiving emphasis in pronunciation.

Russian Name	Pronunciation	English Equivalent
Alexandra	ah-lek- <i>zahn</i> -druh	feminine form of Alexander
Alexandrovich	ah-lek- <i>zahn</i> -dro-vitch	son of Alexander
Anastasia	ah-nah- <i>stah</i> -see-ya	feminine form of Anastasius
Belarus	<i>byel</i> -ah-roos	White Russian
Bogmolov	<i>bawg</i> -mo-lawv	one who prays to God
Daniil	<i>dah</i> -nee-eel	Daniel
Eduardovich	eh-doo- <i>ar</i> -do-vitch	son of Edward
Filaret	<i>fee</i> -lah-ret	Filaret (virtue of love; goodness)
Fyodovsky	fee-oh- <i>dawv</i> -skee	Theodore-ish
Gavrilovna	gah-vreel- <i>awv</i> -nuh	daughter of Gabriel
Georgovna	Gay-or- <i>gohv</i> -nuh	daughter of George
Grigory	<i>gree</i> -go-ree	Gregory
Ivan	<i>eye</i> -van	John
Ivanov	<i>eye</i> -van-off	son of John
Katarina	kah-tah- <i>ree</i> -nuh	Katherine
Kiril	<i>keer</i> -ill	Cyril
Kuznetsov	kooz- <i>nyet</i> -soff	Smith
Marina	mah- <i>ree</i> -nuh	of the sea
Mariya	mah- <i>ree</i> -yah	Mary
Mikhail	<i>meek</i> -hyle	Michael
Mikhailov	<i>meek</i> -hyle-off	son of Michael
Mikhailovich	<i>meek</i> - <i>hyle</i> -o-vitch	son of Michael
Mikhailovna	<i>meek</i> -hyle- <i>awv</i> -nuh	daughter of Michael
Misha	<i>mee</i> -shah	Mike
Nicholas	<i>nee</i> -ko-lahss	Nicholas
Nicholaevich	<i>nee</i> -ko- <i>lie</i> -ye-vitch	son of Nicholas
Nicholovna	<i>nee</i> -ko- <i>lowv</i> -nuh	daughter of Nicholas
Oleg	<i>oh</i> -leg	Holy
Olga	<i>ohwl</i> -guh	Helga
Petrov	<i>pyeh</i> -trawv	Peterson
Petrovich	<i>pyeh</i> -tro-vitch	son of Peter
Polzin	<i>poll</i> -zeen	Merchant or businessman
Popov	<i>pah</i> -pawv	Priest
Rafael	rah- <i>fie</i> - <i>yel</i>	Raphael
Romanov	<i>ro</i> -mah-nawv	Romanov or Romanoff

Soloviev	sow- <i>low</i> -vee-yev	Nightingale
Stepan	<i>steh</i> -pon	Stephen
Vasily	<i>vah</i> -see-lee	Basil
Vladimir	<i>vla</i> -dyee-meer	Vladimir
Yevgenyevich	yev- <i>gain</i> -ee-yeh-vitch	son of Eugene

Other Names	Pronunciation	Language	Meaning
Battista	bah- <i>tee</i> -stah	Spanish	Baptist
Gottschalk	<i>gott</i> -shalk	German	Servant of God
Ignacio	ig- <i>nah</i> -see-oh	Spanish	Ignatius
Jacques	<i>zhah</i> -k	French	Jack
Michel	mee- <i>shell</i>	French	Michael
Ritter	<i>rit</i> -ter	German	Prince
Szczypiorski	sh-chee- <i>pyor</i> -skee	Polish	son of Simon

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