

## The Church and Tradition in the former Communist Bloc: Russia, Poland, and Romania.

### Joseph Shaw talks to FIUV contacts in three former Communist-bloc countries



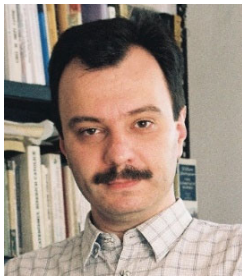
**From Russia: Oleg-Martin Martynov** of Una Voce Russia  
Oleg-Michaël Martynov (b. 1977) is a founding member of Una Voce Russia, and is on its governing Board. He is also a member of the FIUV Council .

Born and raised in a typical secular family in the last years of the USSR, he was baptized into the Catholic Church in his early 20s. He is married, with two grown-up children but no grandchildren yet, and is an English to Russian translator by trade.

**From Poland: Jarosław Syrkiewicz** (b.1971) was founding member of Una Voce Polonia and remains on their Board. Jarosław gained an MA in Economics (University of Economics - Katowice 1996), and works in IT.



**From Romania: Prof Robert Lazú Kmita**



Prof. Lazú Kmita is a Catholic philosopher and writer living in Romania. His works can be seen on the Academia website (English C.V. [here](#)); he has also written for *The Remnant* (e.g. [here](#)), *Gregorius Magnus* (e.g. on p. 32 [here](#)), *Polonia Christiana* (Poland), *Radici Cristiane* (Italy), *Second Spring* (Oxford) and many other journals. Also known as a Tolkien scholar, he is the author of a massive *Encyclopedia of J.R.R. Tolkien's World* (available only in Romanian) and many monographs, studies and articles. The Romanian edition of his first novel, *Insula fără anotimpuri* (*The Island without Seasons*) has been released in 2019. The Spanish edition, entitled *La Isla del Laberinto* (*The Island of the Labyrinth*), is also available since March, 2021 ([here](#)). The English edition will be published next year (2022).

**Correction:** Oleg-Michael mentioned that Stalin banned abortion in the Soviet Union: the correct date of this is 1938, not after the Second World War.