



CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED
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RACHMANINOV was in big trouble in 1918. He desperately needed to get his family away from Russia, where VLADIMIR LENIN had taken control. The communists destroyed the property into which Rachmaninov had sunk his life's investments: called "Ivanovka." He needed to escape to the United States! Pianist Ignaz Friedman, who admired Rachmaninov, immediately sent him a gift of \$2,000 [which in today's currency equals \$39,000] and Rachmaninov was able to escape!

Was He Grateful? • The violinist Nathan Milstein wrote that "Rachmaninov was grateful to Friedman all his life for that kindness." But was he? In June 1939, Friedman was desperately trying to get to the United States to escape the Nazi army (since he was Jewish). Friedman wrote letters asking for help, but none came. At that time, Rachmaninov was at the height of his fame and could have intervened.

We Want To Be Grateful • You know that we at CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED are involved in a struggle to help improve the state of Church music—to make it more reverent and sacred ("other"). We want to elevate worship, so music at Mass doesn't "sound like a toothpaste commercial" as Father Skeris said on EWTN. Your generosity makes our work possible; therefore, I invite you to send a message to my **private email address** (given below) and tell me whether you give permission to post your name on a special webpage which honors our monthly donors.

Sincerely, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Jeffrey M. Ostrowski, *President*
CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED
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