



*A Project of the Orthodox Church in America Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska
The Right Reverend BENJAMIN, Bishop of San Francisco and the West,
Administrator, Diocese of Alaska
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator*

**Report to St. Herman Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
August 2008**

Glory to Jesus Christ! Master bless.

Your Grace, Vladyka BENJAMIN, Father John, Members of the Board of Trustees –

It is through the grace and love of our Living Lord that I provide this report on the current accomplishments and status of the **Outreach Alaska** projects in support of St. Herman Theological Seminary. The following is for the time period of July 2007 to current (August 1, 2008):

Adopt A Seminarian:

- 7 sponsors participated to support 7 seminarians. Of these sponsors, one was a group of 7 clergy.
- \$15,800 was provided in sponsor fees. Of this amount, \$11,800 was directly paid to seminarians.
- Sponsors for Deacon Nicky Myers and Andrea Tepper paid their fees in the full amount of \$2,400 for the entire year. However, these persons did not complete the first semester and only received a total of \$800 each, leaving a balance in their accounts of \$1,600 each. These sponsors were given the option of having their balances returned or letting them stay with Outreach Alaska to be placed in the St. Juliana Food Pantry accounts. They both graciously agreed for the option to support the Food Pantry accounts – adding \$3,200 for the purchase of items for this project.
- A new set of gold vestments were provided to Rev. Fr. John Larson and a large icon by his sponsor on the occasion of his priestly ordination and his graduation from SHS.
- Commencement Announcements (125) were printed for this year and provided to Fr. John Larson, our graduate, and Fr. John Dunlop to be sent out to interested family and other parties.
- There will 4 seminary families sponsored through the 08/09 seminary year.
- One student will not complete his final year and graduate next year but will be assigned to the faculty instead. This will end his sponsorship program since he will no longer be classified as a student.
- All sponsors will provide \$200 per month to the seminarians.
- One student will not be sponsored because he will not meet the criteria to be able to serve the church in Alaska.
- **Outreach Alaska** sponsored a Ladies Luncheon for the wives of the seminarians, staff, and other invited guests. This was very well attended and a lot of support was provided to and by the ladies. Due to the issues in Alaska the past year, these women opened up a great deal of feelings and were willing to discuss many things that have bothered them for a long time. In conclusion, they all

wanted to try to stay in touch if support is needed in the upcoming year. The luncheon was catered by Mill Bay at the cost of \$200.30.

- General donations to Outreach Alaska made it possible for seminarians to receive added funds as gifts for Nativity and Pascha feasts:

NATIVITY - Wal-Mart Gift cards for all students totaling \$2,200.

PASCHA – (\$3,550) Checks in the amount of \$500 each to sponsored students and \$200 each for 1st year students.

COMMENCEMENTS AND OTHER GIFTS PURCHASED - \$1,950

St. Juliana Food Pantry:

- Since September, 2007, \$3,835 has been paid for food purchases to this project.
- Currently, there is a balance in this fund of \$2,118.00.
- People like giving to this project and some had placed this in their contribution budget.

212 First Seminary Scholarship Fund:

- There were no funds raised for this project this year. However, if I am able I do hope to resume this fundraising activity for the upcoming year.

IOCC Grant for RADACT Training:

- During my time in Kodiak for commencement this year, I visited with the students who had participated in the IOCC/RADACT project last year. IOCC is requesting an updated report from me on the outcomes/activities of those they funded to attend this workshop. Unfortunately, none of those funded are actively using the information/skills as substance abuse counselors or for furtherance in this area. Most have not been able since they are still attending SHS as seminarians. However, in our meeting they did provide good information and recommendations that will be of interest to IOCC and possibly furtherance of this project. I will be submitting the IOCC report by August 15, 2008.
- SHS reimbursed me for airline, lodging, rental car and other direct expenses for my travel to Kodiak this year in the amount of \$2,237.

This opportunity to serve the faculty and students of St. Herman Theological Seminary through the **Outreach Alaska** projects is very much appreciated. Thanks be to God for all that He has permitted us to do. May it continue and grow – according to His Holy Will.

Love and Prayers – Always
In Christ,

Respectfully Submitted,
August 9, 2008
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator
Outreach Alaska