



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

**Report to St. Herman Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
May 30, 2009**

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 **Outreach Alaska** projects in support of St. Herman Theological Seminary. The following is for the time period of July 2008 to current (May 30, 2009):

Adopt A Seminarian:

- 6 sponsors participated to support 6 seminarians. Of these sponsors, one was a Pan Orthodox group of 7 clergy – Dallas Clergy Brotherhood.
- \$12,200 was provided in sponsor fees to date. Of this amount, \$11,600 was directly paid to seminarians to date. A final payment of \$600 will be made to Father Gregory Parker at commencement as the remaining funds for this year's sponsor fees.
- Sponsors for Deacon Methodius Nicori and James Sipary paid their fees in the full amount of \$2,400 for the entire year. Since these funds have already been collected, in case the seminarians do not return for the next seminary year, the remainder of this year's summer sponsor fees will be requested of the donors to be assigned to the St. Julianna Food Pantry. If this occurs, it would add \$1,200 to the Food Pantry funds for the upcoming seminary year.
- A new set of gold vestments were provided to Rev. Fr. Gregory Parker and a large icon by his sponsor as commencement gifts totaling a sponsor expense of \$825 coordinated by **Outreach Alaska**.
- Commencement Announcements (125) were printed for this year and provided to Fr. Gregory Parker, our graduate, and Fr. John Dunlop to be sent out to the graduate's family and other supporters of SHS at an expense of \$162.64.
- Outreach Alaska will not add any students to the Adopt a Seminarian project for the upcoming year. There were 2 seminary families sponsored through the 09/10 seminary year – maintaining continuity for those who have participated in this project the past years – Subdeacon Andrei Tepper and Deacon Ishmael Andrew.
- All sponsors will continue to provide \$200 per month to the seminarians.
- I was not made aware of the return to SHS of Subdeacon Andrei Tepper until several months after he and his family arrived back in Kodiak. Therefore, it took some time to acquire them a sponsor.

Their sponsor fees did not begin until April resulting in only 2 months of payments this year. He now has 2 sponsors resulting in one request for him being very much delayed in their response and the other committing and sending the entire sponsor amount soon after being requested. This is the first time I have had 2 full paying sponsors for one family. Unless one of these sponsors will take on a different project for **Outreach Alaska**, Subdeacon Andrei will receive \$400 per month in sponsor fees. I hesitate to continue with this arrangement – but would rather keep him sponsored than lose one of the donors all together. At this time, he is receiving the \$200 per month as the project requires. This will continue until the sponsor arrangement is settled.

- 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 each sponsored student totaling \$500 (\$100 each for 5 seminarians).

PASCHA – Wal-Mart Gift cards for each sponsored student totaling \$600 (\$100 each for 6 seminarians)

St. Julianna Food Pantry:

- Since September, 2009, \$1,655 has been paid for food purchases to this project with one outstanding invoice not received to date.
- Currently, there is a balance in this fund of \$1,500.00.

Other Projects:

- Library Project Phase 3 – Purchased books as requested by SHS Librarian, Irenaios Anderson in the amount of \$624.00.
- Alcohol Group – Purchased 20 copies of “12 Steps to Transformation” to be used for Tuesday night Alcohol Study Group in the amount of \$249.00
- There were no funds raised for the **212 First Seminary Scholarship Fund** project this year.
- There were no costs to SHS for **Outreach Alaska** this year since no travel expenses accrued to date.
- The annual Ladies Luncheon was not provided since I did not travel to Kodiak this year for the commencement.

Outreach Alaska has supported SHS with various projects since 1999. The direct funding for seminarians through the Adopt a Seminarian project began in 2001 for the graduating class of 2002. With various projects for the Diocese of Alaska over the years, an accountant has assisted with financials for a monthly expense of \$25.00. This has been possible through the accounting/bookkeeping service that works for our agency, the **DUI Victim Center of Kansas**, and willingly took on the Alaska work at a very reasonable expense several years ago. The annual expense for this service is \$300. In addition, I provide all requisitions for accounts payable and coding for the revenues/expenses to correspond with the financial statements. Funds provided by our donors to the general fund and by sales from our convention/conference booths during summer months are used for the bookkeeping expenses. Until last year, the Diocese of Alaska provided annually \$2,000/\$2,500 to **Outreach Alaska**. Even though the

diocese usually budgeted \$5,000, this amount was never provided annually. These provided funds were used for supplies, lower 48 travel, etc. Most of the time utilized for financials/reports is expensed to projects for SHS. The past 2 years, all of the general expenses have been funded by donations without any support from DOA. Father John Dunlop has graciously offered to provide expenses for my travel to Alaska and did so last year when I came for my annual trip during commencement. At this time it is customary for me to meet with students and prepare them for the upcoming year as a recipient on the Adopt a Seminarian project. I also meet with the seminary women over a catered luncheon provided by **Outreach Alaska**. This gives them a chance to discuss their concerns and feelings about happenings and how they are doing as women at the seminary. I am sorry to have missed these meetings and commencement activities this year.

Since 1999, among other projects, **Outreach Alaska** has provided funding for the following at SHS:

- Remodeling of the Library inclusive of books and new floor and furnishings – refer to donor plaque on Library wall
- Construction and furnishings for the St. Julianna Food Pantry
- New tables and chairs for classrooms
- Discretionary Fund for SHS
- \$16,000 raised for First Missionaries Scholarship Fund
- \$9,100 raised from IOCC grant for RADACT Alcohol Training Certificate program for students
- A total of at least 26 seminaries and their families have been sponsored through the Adopt a Seminarian project.
- Linens Project – completely supplied all new bedding, towels, washcloths, etc for all rooms at SHS.

For the Diocese of Alaska, **Outreach Alaska** has been instrumental in Church Rebuilding projects, development of Sunday Schools, Vestments to Village Priests with OCMC, support of alcohol programs with IOCC, website for information at www.outreachalaska.org, and providing information to persons interested in attending annual pilgrimages to Spruce Island and other Alaska travels.

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,
May 30, 2009
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator
Outreach Alaska