



ANNUAL REPORT

**Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska Diocesan Assembly
Anchorage, Alaska
October 13, 2010**

MISSION: Respond to the call of our fellow countrymen, heirs to the spiritual legacy of St. Innocent as they struggle in America's Holy Land to preserve the Orthodox faith against the evil one, treacherous weather, and harsh subsistence lifestyle.

OBJECTIVE: To provide hope for the faithful of Alaska through major projects inclusive of organized prayer, theological education, and Church School programs. This will be accomplished in unity with all Orthodox jurisdictions by sharing our God-given treasures: financial means, time, talent, ability, and experience.

Your Grace, Vladyka BENJAMIN, beloved clergy, brothers and sisters in Christ,
Glory to Jesus Christ! Master, bless!

My prayers and hopes are with you all as you take on the business of this Holy Diocese and plan for another year of work in our Lord's Alaska Vineyard. Thanks be to God, for our donors to the **Outreach Alaska** projects. They make it possible for me to provide this report on our activities for the past year – October 2009 thru September, 2010:

Projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary:

- All seminarians available for the Adopt a Seminarian project were sponsored during the seminary years of 2009 and 2010. Again, **Outreach Alaska** provided seminarians with monthly sponsor checks in the amount of \$200 totaling more than \$2,400 for each family annually. There was one graduate in 2010 who was also given commencement gifts of new vestments and a large icon representing his sponsor parish. Sponsorship will continue this year for all seminarians who are enrolled in the classes from 2nd year through 4th year. Seminarian Nathan Anderson will be entering his second year at mid-term in January 2011 and will begin receiving his sponsor checks at that time. He will be the only new seminary student on this project for the 2010/11 seminary year – totaling 5 seminary families currently being sponsored. To date from October, 2009, \$14,000 was distributed to SHS seminarians in "Adopt a Seminarian" sponsor fees.
- **Outreach Alaska** provided commencement announcements to Father Ishmael as well as for Fr. John Dunlop, Dean for use to announce the SHS commencement.
- More than \$1,350 was given in Wal-Mart gift cards to the Adopt a Seminarian students for Nativity and Pascha. This was in addition to the monthly sponsor fees and was provided by general donations to Outreach Alaska.
- More than \$1,900 for expensed in payments to Safeway for purchases to stock the St. Juliana Food Pantry. This project is ongoing and funds are donated regularly for purchases. The Food Pantry assists married students and their families. It is my understanding that this project has been picked up by my local members of the Kodiak Orthodox and some of them are helping to stock this pantry. This explains the lower amount expensed from Outreach Alaska for this project.
- In May of 2010, **Outreach Alaska** sponsored a Ladies Luncheon for the women of the seminary and others who were our guests. This was very well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all. This has become an annual event and will be planned every year that I visit as long as I have the funds to provide this wonderful afternoon for the Ladies of the Seminary.

- **Library Project:** There were not requests for the library or other special needs from the seminary this year.
- **New Century Projects:**
There were no requests for special projects this year. It is very pleasing that St. Sophia in Bethel has finally completed and consecrated their new altar. At least, that is my understanding. This vision was the beginning of **Outreach Alaska** and is a blessing to all who love Holy Orthodoxy in Alaska – and all of America. Congratulations on the new St. Sophia Russian Orthodox Church and to all of their parish in Bethel and others in the Yukon/Kuskokwim diocese who gave so much and who worked diligently for more than 10 years to bring this to fruition.

GENESIS 28:18 - 22 “And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel..... And Jacob vowed a vow saying, If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” Glory to God!

I was not able to travel to our summer conference this year due to my time in Alaska and a shortage of funds. Therefore, there was no opportunity to connect with Orthodox Christians throughout the Diocese of Wichita and Mid America. This is usually where I raise extra funds for the Outreach Alaska projects. There has not been any change in our focus since last year. Currently there are no new projects for **Outreach Alaska** and no further expansion of our work. There have been some inquiries for “Sister Parish” placements. However, I have such little communication with Alaska anymore, that I am no longer informed of parishes that would meet the criteria to be connected with this program. The “Sister Parish” project has not been as successful as we had hoped due to the lack of follow-through from the Alaska parishes who have been assigned to participate with a lower 48 parish. The focus remains on maintaining the Adopt a Seminarian and St. Juliana Food Pantry projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary. Funding requested items for SHS Library will remain a commitment of this program as the SHS Library Project. When able, any expansion will be in the St. Innocent of Alaska Missionary Prayer Society.

All accounts for Outreach Alaska are kept at Intrust Bank in Wichita, KS. We maintain a checking and a saving account as a program of the Diocese of Alaska. Mary Ann Khoury is a volunteer maintaining all controls and records for this program. There is no financial compensation other than expenses for travel associated with Outreach Alaska. All supplies, basic needs to operate the program, raise funds, and monthly accounting is paid from the program receipts. Monthly financial reports are maintained by separate accounting measures paid for from the general funds of Outreach Alaska. The recording system is based on general practices of non profit fund accounting systems. All records for this program are maintained at 2421 N. Perry Ave, Wichita, KS 67204. At this report, Outreach Alaska is a self supporting program less any travel expenses for the coordinator.

In closing, I request your prayers for my health and continued work to support and enhance Holy Orthodoxy in our Lord’s Alaska Vineyard – for those who serve, according always to God’s Will.

Love and Prayers – Always,
In Christ,
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator

Submitted October 13, 2010
www.outreachalaska.org.