



ANNUAL REPORT

Orthodox Diocese of Alaska Diocesan Assembly
Anchorage, Alaska
September 1, 2013 – October 8, 2014
October 9, 2014

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 DAVID, 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 this report on our activities over the past year – September 2013 thru October 9, 2014. Please forgive this lengthy report. **Outreach Alaska** does a lot and there is much for you to know and me to report for this home based mission.

Projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary:

- All seminarians available for the Adopt a Seminarian project were sponsored during the 2013/14 seminary year. Again, **Outreach Alaska** provided seminarians with monthly sponsor checks in the amount of \$200 for families totaling more than \$2,400 for each family annually. We also implemented the new 2 tier plan that changed the single sponsor fee from \$200 per month to \$100 per month. There were 2 seminarians on the single plan each receiving \$1,200 during the year. **Total Sponsor Fees paid = \$20,200.**
- There were 3 graduates in May 2014 from SHS. Gifts were given to the 2 clergy as new vestments. A large icon, chosen by their sponsor was also presented to each graduate with a final sponsor check in the amount of \$600 for each. **Total amount paid for the gifts = \$2,151.50**
- Sponsorship will continue this year for all seminarians who are enrolled in the classes from 2nd year through 4th year. There are 4 married seminarians being fully sponsored this year beginning September 2014 – August 2015.
- This year we have a new first year seminarian in need of financial support with a family of 5 children. Since he is not in the second year of studies, I am considering him an "at need" student. One of the single students who left after only returning to seminary for a couple of weeks has left – not to complete his final year of studies. His sponsor has agreed to provide her donated fees for this request of "at need" support. This will be \$100 per month = \$1,200 paid September 2014 thru May 2015. If this new student returns next year, he will be placed on full sponsorship with the "Adopt a Seminarian" project and this sponsor has agreed to increase the donations to provide him and his family \$2,400 a year until he completes his senior year and graduates.
- **Outreach Alaska** provided printed commencement announcements for all 3 graduates and Fr. John Dunlop, Dean for use to announce the SHS commencement. **Total for this printing = \$193.94.**
- Wal-Mart gift cards were given to sponsored students for Nativity and Pascha. **Total Gift Cards = \$1,900**
- Safeway purchases to stock the St. Juliana Food Pantry were paid. **Total food purchases = \$3,931.66**

- The Annual Ladies Luncheon was again scheduled for Friday of Commencement weekend. Wives of the seminarians, staff, local supporters and guests attended. Bishop DAVID joined us and the catering was provided by Mill Bay. **Total Luncheon cost = \$400**
- **RADACT Project:** The grant request from IOCC was approved for the 1 week substance abuse training at the seminary in February. Dan Christopoulos of IOCC attended. Funds were received by **Outreach Alaska** for the expenses of this training. **Total Training Expense = \$3,160.**
- Several years ago, **Outreach Alaska** was given a very old icon with the request that it would be given to St. Herman Theological Seminary. It was given by a long time donor who is an international accountant and had found the icon in Belarus in the mid 1990s. This man had lived in Kodiak as a young boy and his father was head of the National Guard there. It was decided that this would be mounted appropriately and presented to SHS when a new bishop was given to Alaska. The Belarus Icon was presented to His Grace, Bishop DAVID and Fr. John Dunlop during the 2014 commencement. **Total paid for mounting and framing this ancient carved icon of Christ = \$304.14.**

In review, during the 2013/2014 Seminary Year, **Outreach Alaska** provided more than **\$32,241.24** for projects specific to St. Herman Theological Seminary.

Other Expenses: Last year the assembly approved \$5,000 in the budget for **Outreach Alaska**. The funds helped with expenses for me to attend the consecration of Bishop DAVID in February in Anchorage. I also attended the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid America Parish Life Conference in San Antonio, TX. (all fees, lodging, transportation, subsistence, booth supplies, etc). My brother traveled with me to help driving, setting up the vendor booth, and working the booth during the conference. Throughout the year costs of postage, brochure printing, website, accounting fees, and miscellaneous supplies were funded from this account. The expenses exceeded the budget provided by the diocese by \$1,576.69. This was paid from general donations to **Outreach Alaska**. I do not expect to exceed the budgeted amount the next year and feel the overage was due to the website fee of \$1,000 for a completely new design and some of the Anchorage travel expenses in February. **The Total Paid = \$6,576.69**

Spiritual Travel: **Outreach Alaska** is planning our first Spiritual Travel for 2015. The dates are July 30 – August 10, 2015. An option to go to Sitka will be added for those who have the extra days to travel until August 13. Please see the flyer included with this report for more details. This tour will be “Spiritual Travel – Walk the Path of the Saints”. We plan to bring people to Bethel and attend church/potluck with the St. Sophia parish and travel to Kwethluk for pilgrimage to the grave of Matushka Olga Michael. I will be contacting the Kuskokwim clergy to make arrangements for our time with them in August. We will also join the Spruce Island Pilgrimage in Kodiak. I am working with FOS Tours to develop this schedule and pricing. We are currently accepting a \$100 nonrefundable fee to hold a place for those who want to join this travel experiences. To date, there are 30 plus signed up as interested in coming to Alaska on this tour in 2015. We will limit the tour to 16-20 participants. You may contact me any time for more information on this upcoming Pilgrimage.

Outreach Alaska Website: The new website is nearly completed and will be live within a few weeks. There will be a donation capability available for anyone to contribute from the site. All news, etc will be updated and posted to the site as it develops. There will be some monthly expenses to maintain this site but I do not have the total amount at this time.

IOCC/Farah Foundation:

Dan Christopoulos of IOCC joined me in Anchorage in May to work together and brainstorm on how we would partner on projects for the diocese. We met with several people during our 3 days there before I traveled to Kodiak for SHS commencement. These projects will bring together IOCC and **Outreach Alaska** for furtherance of the work that will be done with the blessings of His Grace, Bishop DAVID. You recently experienced the IOCC Book Drop for private schools in Anchorage and Eagle River. These books are also available for you to take back to your parishes/villages. **Outreach Alaska** began a “Books to Villages” project several years ago. This is now being expanded with IOCC using their “Children’s Prayer Journal”. Approximately 150 current Prayer Journals have been delivered to the assembly. These are for you to take to your locations and use to pray for Orthodox children all over the world – teaching your children about international Orthodoxy. I hope to expand the “Books to

Villages” project in many ways to provide reading materials for youth in Alaska. My appreciation to Matushka Ana for her help in coordinating the Prayer Journals for your use. During my time there with Dan, I met with Janet Carter of RADACT. We discussed the model we would like to implement this year for the seminary and the inclusion of Fr. Victor Nick to present a clergy view of substance abuse in the training. This will be discussed more with His Grace and Fr. Victor as the training is further developed for 2015. I will be writing a grant to IOCC at Dan’s request for funding of a 3 week training to be provided after commencement in May 2015. This grant is expected to be for approximately \$15,000 – including the RADACT training and some payment for a follow-up weekly contact with the seminarians after they have returned to their home base villages. This may be done by Skype or other means that will be developed.

IOCC has committed some used dormitory furniture - slightly used and in excellent condition – for the seminary. The problem has been with the shipping. The costs will be \$10,000 to ship to Kodiak. The value of this furniture is expected to be \$100,000. IOCC did not have the total funds for shipping when the furniture was available in May this year. The furniture on hand was shipped to another recipient and we are now waiting for a second shipment to be received at IOCC. In the meantime, **Outreach Alaska** received a \$5,000 donation to pay half of the shipment when it does arrive. With winter coming, we now do not expect to have this completed for the seminary until spring. However, with this \$5,000 donation, there will not be any reason for IOCC to delay shipping to Kodiak when weather permits and the new furniture is received.

A grant request has also been submitted to the Virginia H. Farah Foundation in the amount of \$8,000. This will be to fund the attendance of His Grace, Bishop DAVID and Fr. John Dunlop to attend a one week (5 day) fundraising workshop. This is being provided by the Fundraising School, Center of Philanthropy thru Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana. A presentation from us is schedule to present our case for this grant on Tuesday, November 4 at 1:00 Alaska time. The presentation will be to the foundation Board of Trustees via Conference Call. If approved, the funds will pay for air travel, lodging, subsistence, registration fees, etc. the “Basic Principles of Fundraising” workshop. His Grace and Fr. John will then have newly acquired knowledge on how to put in place basic aspects for fundraising to increase the budget for the Diocese and the seminary.

In closing, I would request that the assembly approve again for the next year \$5,000 for various **Outreach Alaska** expenses. This will include mostly travel to the Antiochian Diocese Parish Life Conference in Denver in June, 2015 and to the All American Council in Atlanta in July, 2015. Approval is expected of the IOCC substance abuse grant for St. Herman Theological Seminary and the Virginia H. Farah Foundation grant during the next year. These 2 grants would be approximately \$23,000 in additional revenue for these 2 specific projects. The furniture for SHS is expected to be shipped in the spring of 2015 – an estimated value of \$100,000.

As reported last year, all accounts for **Outreach Alaska** are kept at Intrust Bank in Wichita, KS. All donations are tax deductible as **Outreach Alaska** is an institution doing business under the Diocese of Alaska. I, Mary Ann Khoury, am a volunteer maintaining all controls and records for this program. Monthly records are turned over to our accountant at Advanced Consulting Solutions for balancing of the monthly statement and recording of the R/E materials that are coded, etc. 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. 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,
Respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator – October 9, 2014.

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