



ANNUAL REPORT

Orthodox Diocese of Alaska Diocesan Assembly
Anchorage, Alaska
October 8, 2014 – November 1, 2015

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 all of the projects to be provided to the Diocese of Alaska.

Projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary

Adopt a Seminarian:

- Five seminarians were sponsored during the 2014/15 seminary year. **Total Sponsor Fees paid = \$10,800.**
- Father Alexander Joseph Larson – AAC – His sponsor wanted to send him to the All American Council in Atlanta. They provided all of the lodging, subsistence, airline travel, and registration for him to attend. The total provided by his sponsor was \$2,513.04. Outreach Alaska assisted this with payment for lodging in Anchorage for one night in the amount of \$187.04. Total provided for Fr. Joseph to attend the AAC = **2,700.08.**
- There were 2 graduates in May 2015 from SHS. A large icon, chosen by their sponsor was presented to each graduate with a final sponsor check in the amount of \$600 for each – included in the sponsor fees as indicated above. There were no vestments presented this year since neither of the graduates were ordained to the Holy Priesthood. **Total amount paid for the icon gifts = 98.00**
- Outreach Alaska provided printed commencement announcements for both graduates and Fr. John Dunlop, Dean for use to announce the SHS commencement. **Total for this printing = \$184.30**
- Wal-Mart gift cards in the amount of \$100 were given to sponsored students for both Nativity and Pascha. **Total Gift Cards = \$1,600**

St. Julianna Food Pantry:

Safeway purchases to stock the St. Juliana Food Pantry were paid. **Total food purchases \$2,414.32.**

Annual Ladies Luncheon: Since I was not able to travel for commencement this year, the Ladies Luncheon was not provided. I did travel to the seminary for the Orientation and first week of classes. During that time I was able to meet with each of the seminarians and make plans for their sponsorship program. I also participated in the orientation with a presentation on **Outreach Alaska** and what the mission has done and is currently doing for the diocese. Due to the class schedule and difficulty with catering during this week, we were not able to provide the Ladies Luncheon at this time rather than in May. This will be scheduled as usual during 2016 commencement week.

Other Items for the seminary:

- **Antidoron Bowl** – At the request of His Grace, Bishop David, a new Antidoron Bowl was purchased for the

All Saints Chapel at the seminary. **Total cost plus shipping from Greece = \$627.27**

- **Refrigerator and Washing machine** –

During my time in Kodiak this year, it was requested that I provide a new freezer for the refractory and a washing machine for the dormitory laundry room. The freezer was needed because there had not been enough freezer space to accommodate food for seminary needs – Ex. Seashare had offered fish donations but they had to be refused because there was no freezer space to accommodate the donations. Also, the washing machine was greatly needed to accommodate the needs of families to keep up with the cleaning of their clothes. I went to Spenards with Daria Simeonoff and we made a good deal on each of these items that were delivered the next day to the seminary. **Total cost for these 2 items was \$1,349.98.**

In review, during the 2014/2015 Seminary Year, Outreach Alaska provided more than \$19,773.95 for projects specific to St. Herman Theological Seminary.

Sponsorship will continue this seminary 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 2015 – August 2016. This will provide \$200 a month for each family equaling a total of \$9,600 in sponsor fees. Adopt a Seminarian will also sponsor 2 single students – Luke and Helena Levi. Luke is a Senior and will receive \$100 a month through May totaling \$1,200. Helena is a 3rd year student and will receive the same as Luke for this seminary year. She will be sponsored again for the next year, completing this sponsorship at commencement 2017.

New Century Projects - Partnering with IOCC

- **RADACT Project:**

The grant request from IOCC was approved in the amount of \$9,000 for the 3 week substance abuse training at the seminary in May. This was scheduled to begin the week following commencement. Dan Christopoulos of IOCC attended. Funds were received by **Outreach Alaska** for the expenses of this training with RADACT. This year it was decided with IOCC that in order for this training to be beneficial over the long haul, there should be a person in Alaska who would be a “boots on the ground” contact for those completing the training. Fr. Victor Nick, the diocesan Chancellor who has substance abuse counseling background was chosen to attend the training and be this person. He will work with IOCC on developing a program of follow-up over the next year. **Outreach Alaska** partnered with IOCC for this training by providing a \$1,000 stipend to Fr. Victor Nick for his time and future work with this substance abuse project. **Total Funds Provided by IOCC and Outreach Alaska for this training = \$10,000.**

- **Books to Villages**

This is now being expanded with IOCC using their “Children’s Prayer Journal”. Approximately 150 current Prayer Journals were delivered to the assembly last year. It was my understanding that they were all distributed to the clergy who attended the assembly but I have not been able to determine who acquired these materials or how they were used. Deacon Michael Trefon did send an email to the clergy while he was the assistant to Bishop DAVID requesting some input on what was being done with this project in the villages. I followed this request with my own email for information. To my knowledge, there was no response to his request. In order for projects to continue for Alaska, there must be a line of communication from you on how these projects are working/benefitting you as clergy. These Prayer Journals have been provided in the past, but I have never had any report on how they are being used. Since I have not report to verify they are being used, I am hesitant to continue providing this for the diocese. I hope they have been helpful. This project will be cancelled until I hear from you that there is a need and that they have been well accepted by your parish and your children. There were not funds expended for this project this year.

- **Furniture Donation**

Thanks to IOCC and Outreach Alaska, the seminary was in receipt of a huge donation of furniture. After receiving 32 completed sets of furniture, the seminary kept a number of beds, dressers, and desks to be used in the student housing. The surplus goods were distributed to other local non-profits and families. A youth group mission team from the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie, Oregon, did most of the heavy lifting and were assisted by parishioners from Holy Resurrection Cathedral as well as Kodiak's local Roman Catholic priest and volunteers from the Baptist Mission. It was a real community event! The grateful organizations that received the extra furniture included Native Village of Afognak, Kodiak Women's Crisis Center, Kodiak Island Housing Authority, Kodiak Baptist Mission, Kodiak Wildlife Refuge, and others. The value of this furniture is estimated at over

\$100,000. Shipping of this furniture was expected to cost \$10,000. Outreach Alaska provided \$5,000 to assist IOCC with the shipping costs. This was acquired from a generous donor. **Total cost from Outreach Alaska = \$5,000**

- **Farah Foundation Grant**

Our grant request to the Virginia H. Farah Foundation in the amount of \$8,000 was approved and the funds were received in January 2015. This was for all expenses to send Fr. John Dunlop and Bishop David to Indianapolis for a one week workshop on fundraising – Basics Techniques of Fundraising. This is a program of the Fundraising School at Perdue University. Both attended in June and completed the full week training. **Total funds for fundraising training = \$8,000**

- **Spiritual Travel:**

Outreach Alaska was not able to complete the first Spiritual Travel as was planned for 2015. We did not receive the necessary number of participants to take the trip. It is believed that this was due to the people who were attending the AAC and also due to the Antiochian Archdiocese Convention being scheduled at the same time as the AAC. Several persons indicated that they would be able to join us in 2016 so we are reworking the pilgrimage for next year. There have been several changes from what was originally planned. We will now meet in Seattle and travel to our first destination - Sitka. I have visited with Fr. Michael Oleksa and he will meet the group in Sitka where we will have a church service at the Bishop's House there followed by a presentation from him on Orthodoxy in Alaska. I still need to finalize with the Kuskokwim clergy the dates for the Kuskokwim Conference in 2016. It is my understanding that this will be in Bethel and we want to bring the pilgrims to Bethel at that time and attend the final day of the conference – if possible. We would then travel by skiff with the clergy to Kwethluk to the grave of Matushka Olga. As of this writing, I still need to verify some of this with the Kuskokwim clergy. Once that is accomplished, I will be able to complete the itinerary for 2016 and request reservations and down payments for the travel.

Other Expenses: Last year the assembly once again approved \$5,000 in the budget for **Outreach Alaska**. The funds helped with expenses for me to travel to the Denver area where I had a vendor booth for the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America Parish Life Conference. During the conference, I gave a workshop presentation on the upcoming Spiritual Travel that is being planned for late July/early August, 2016. "Walk the Path of the Saints" will bring Orthodox Christians from the lower 48 to the Diocese of Alaska and follow closely the path I took in 1999 when I first came to Alaska. At this conference we had a wonderful turnout for the workshop and acquired several potential participants for the 2016 Spiritual Travel. I also became acquainted with a woman who was very interested in the "Adopt a Seminarian" project and has become the sponsor for Luke and Helena Levi. I also attended the All American Council in Atlanta. Our vendor booth was very successful, selling out of nearly everything I had taken for the sales. Also, the networking introduced many new people who are potential pilgrimage participants – as well as future donors for the Food Pantry and other seminary projects. Once again, my brother traveled with me to both of these conferences. He helps with luggage and supplies, helps driving, setting up the vendor booth, and working the booth during the conferences. All conference and vendor fees, lodging, transportation, subsistence, booth supplies, etc were paid from this account. The total expended for both of the travels totaled \$7000.13. The expenses exceeded the budget provided by the diocese by \$2000.13. This was once again paid from general donations to **Outreach Alaska**. **Expenses for this travel were as follows: Denver = \$2,488.41 and Atlanta = \$4,511.72. Balancing out the expenses, Outreach Alaska paid \$2000.13.**

AAC:

An additional hotel room was offered to **Outreach Alaska** from Father Joseph's sponsor for anyone from the diocese attending the AAC. This was the result of someone from their parish making a room reservation and not being able to attend the conference. The room was already paid for and they thought it would help out the diocese if it was donated. His Grace requested that this be given to Father Victor Nick, the Chancellor for the diocese. **It was agreed and the amount of this in-kind donation was \$620.**

Outreach Alaska Website: The new website is completed and I think you will find it very helpful and informative. There is donation capability available for anyone to contribute from the site. Those who are inquiring by also contact me directly from the site with any questions they might have for **Outreach Alaska**. All news, etc will be updated and posted to the site as it develops. The monthly expenses for this site are now being paid through

general donations. If any of you would like to contribute to **Outreach Alaska**, you may do so on our site at outreachalaska.org.

Total amount of funds raised for Outreach Alaska projects during the reporting year = \$45,394.08.

I would request that the assembly approve again for the next year \$5,000 for **Outreach Alaska** travel expenses. The Antiochian Parish Life Conference in 2016 will be in Tulsa, OK and will be a much closer drive than Denver. I would also like to join you next year for the Diocesan Assembly in Anchorage and would use these funds for that travel, etc. So you will know, I have given my resignation for this program to Fr. John Dunlop and Bishop David. This is due to the reality that I am getting older and things are becoming harder for me to accomplish. I feel that if the **Outreach Alaska** program is to continue, we need to start soon to determine what the diocese wants this to become. I am including with this report the timeline I have provided to His Grace and Fr. John for diminishing my participation. Ongoing fundraising will continue until the end of my time with **Outreach Alaska** – May 2017. If there may be a person who will take over this project, I will be happy to help train in the things that have been successful for **Outreach Alaska**. The best candidate would be someone who is familiar with fundraising and nonprofit work. There are several options for you to consider as you will see from the timeline. My attendance next year at the Diocesan Assembly is mostly for me to see you all once again and say “Farewell” to you all – my Alaska friends. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions regarding this decision for **Outreach Alaska**. Commencement 2017 will end my time with you.

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 19, 20153

316-832-0734