



ANNUAL REPORT

**Orthodox Diocese of Alaska Diocesan Assembly
Anchorage, Alaska
November 1, 2015 - October 31, 2016**

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:

- Six seminarians were sponsored during the 2015/16 seminary year. **Total Sponsor Fees paid = \$9,900.**
- There were 4 sponsored graduates in May 2016 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 of the 3 family seminarians and \$300 to the single seminarian. Priests vestments were presented this year to Fr. Joseph Larson and Fr. Methodius Nicori as graduation gifts from their sponsors. An Icon of St. Luke was presented to Deacon Herman Madsen from his sponsor in celebration of his ordination to the diaconate. Sponsor gifts for seminarians: **Icons and vestments = \$2,239. Total sponsor year-end checks = \$2,100**
- **Outreach Alaska** provided printed commencement announcements for the graduates and Fr. John Dunlop, Dean for use to announce the SHS commencement. **Total for this printing = \$165.55**
- Wal-Mart gift cards in the amount of \$100 were given to sponsored students for both Nativity and Pascha. **Total Gift Cards = \$1,200**

St. Julianna Food Pantry:

Safeway purchases to stock the St. Juliana Food Pantry were paid. There was less spent this year due to fewer enrolled seminarians. **Total food purchases \$1,420.65.**

Annual Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies Luncheon was catered by Kodiak chef, Joel G. Chenet from Mill Bay Catering. There were about 17 ladies from the seminary (staff/families) and the Kodiak Orthodox community. His Grace Bishop DAVIS joined us for the luncheon. Dessert was shipped from Byblos Café in Wichita, KS. **Total Cost: \$365.00**

In review, during the 2015/2016 Seminary Year (November 1, 2015 – October 31, 2016), Outreach Alaska provided more than \$17,390.20 for projects specific to St. Herman Theological Seminary.

Sponsorship will continue this seminary year for 4 seminarians - 2 seniors, 1 junior, 1 graduated this year but is enrolled for an additional year for the CPE course. There are all being fully sponsored this year beginning September 2016 – August 2017. This will provide \$200 a month for each family equaling a total of \$9,600 in sponsor fees. Due to a lack of new students this year, no additional seminarians are available for sponsorship.

New Century Projects:

- **Partnering with IOCC**

Since 2002, **Outreach Alaska** has sponsored various projects with IOCC inclusive of substance abuse training for SHS students (2002, 2007, 2010-2015), Books to Villages Project sending the IOCC Prayer Journal to various locations in Alaska, Furniture for SHS, etc. This year in a conversation with Dan Christopoulos, he requested that Outreach Alaska no longer participate in the IOCC substance abuse project. This was agreed and IOCC is moving forward and doing a very good job with this project. As I am resigning from **Outreach Alaska** in May, 2017, there will be no new partnerships with IOCC for Alaska projects.

- **Spiritual Travel:**

Outreach Alaska worked with FOS Tours for over 3 years to try to promote a Spiritual Travel Tour to Alaska. The planned tour was exceptional and would have been a once in a lifetime opportunity for Orthodox Christians to experience the fullness of our faith in Alaska. The “Walk the Path of the Saints” Pilgrimage was planned originally for the summer of 2014. However, it was very difficult getting the word out and not enough people signed up to participate that year. Some changes were made for 2015, but due to the scheduling of the Archdiocese Conferences (AAC and Antiochian Convention) people who wanted to join the tour were not able due to the expense of the conferences and the timing of the tour conflicted with these scheduled church meetings/activities. Many wanted to go in 2016 and would have committed. I talked with FOS Tours and told them to get it worked out again so we could go this year. However, FOS Tours did not accommodate this and did not get the schedule and application information completed until May – requiring all registrations by June 1. This was not possible therefore the tour was cancelled. I worked very hard to make this a reality for many people, but the lack of participation on the part of the touring company for 2016 made it impossible to meet their deadline and I have decided to no longer work on this project. If anyone would like to pick this up and work with another tour company to get it pulled together, I would make all of the information available for the development of this wonderful Orthodox experience to our Holy Land in America – Alaska.

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 Tulsa, OK where I had a vendor booth for the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America Parish Life Conference. Once again, my brother traveled with me to help with my booth. 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 expensed for both of us for travel to Tulsa totaled \$2,347.00. This leaves a balance of \$2,653.00 from the funds provided by the diocese for summer travel. The balance has been accounted to the “General Operating” expenses fund and has been used for general expenses for **Outreach Alaska**: website, monthly accounting, supplies, technology and other expenses. This replaces the funds used from “General Operating” for overage expenses last year for travel that the \$5,000 budget did not meet.

I humbly appreciate the many years that the assembly has approved and provided \$5,000 to **Outreach Alaska**. Most of these funds have been used for summer travel to Orthodox conferences in order to promote **Outreach Alaska** throughout the lower 48 and to raise funds for our projects to the Diocese of Alaska, OCA. This has been the backbone of our fundraising and finding sponsors for the “Adopt a Seminarian” project for SHS. As I reported last year, I will be diminishing my **Outreach Alaska** work as of May, 2017. St. Herman Commencement 2017 will be the end of **Outreach Alaska** as I have been involved. To date, I am not aware of any discussion or plans to replace this **Outreach Alaska** for your diocese and do expect the end of this seminary year will be the closing of all of our projects. However, I would like to join you next year for the Diocesan Assembly in Anchorage. At that time, I would provide the diocese with a final financial report inclusive of what funds are designated for various projects (Adopt a Seminarian and the St. Julianna Food Pantry) and would present checks for these items to be utilized as designated by the donors. I would also distribute checks for the undesignated balances in accordance with the listed projects of **Outreach Alaska**. In order for me to make this final travel to Alaska, I would ask the assembly to approve an amount of \$2,500 for my air travel, lodging, subsistence, and ground transportation – if needed. Since I will not be continuing any projects past May 2017, I will not be traveling to the 2017 summer conferences. Rather, this time will be used to finalize all of the financial reports and prepare all of the donor information to be transferred to the diocese so that ongoing communication with our loyal donors may continue for the seminary and the diocese as needed. I will also use this time to notify donors of the change and provide them updated information on where to send any continued donations if they remain supportive of this work for Alaska. 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.

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 2, 2016

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