



*A Project of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Alaska*  
*The Right Reverend DAVID, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska*  
*Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator*  
**Report to St. Herman Theological Seminary Board of Trustees**  
**May 10, 2014**

Christ is Risen! Master, bless.

Your Grace, Vladyka DAVID, V. Rev. Father John Dunlop, and 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 for the time period of **May 15, 2013 to current (May 10, 2014)**:

**Adopt A Seminarian - \$22, 105.60**

- **9 sponsors participated to support \*9 seminarians:**  
\$16,600 - monthly sponsor fees.  
\$1,800 - presented to each of this year's 3 graduates at \$600 each.  
\$200 - expense for 1 graduation Icons presented to each of this year's 3 graduates – sponsor gift  
\$1,880 - Vestment sponsor gifts for this year's 2 graduating priests  
\$1,625.60 - to pay for the Leonty Wassllie Family to return to seminary in Sept 2013 (Not a usual cost of this program) 2 Donors gave \$1,000 and \$625.60

**St. Julianna Food Pantry - \$3,567.66**

- Paid invoices on food purchases for this project charged by SHS at the Kodiak Safeway. This was \$818.68 more than last year.

**IOCC - \$3,160**

- International Orthodox Christian Charities approved our grant request to pay for the RADACT one week training at SHS during January 2014. There were 3 workshops presented: 1 Day – Introduction to Addictive Behavior; 2 Day – Introduction to Client Counseling; 2 Day – Motivational Interviewing. Please see the attached final report to IOCC on this project. At this writing, IOCC is interested in supporting a statewide substance abuse effort with Outreach Alaska, St. Herman Theological Seminary, and the Diocese of Alaska. It would provide the training with a church perspective. More information on this will be forthcoming when it is all blessed by His Grace, Bishop David and the organization of this project is more in place.

**Other - \$3,762.20**

- **\$193.94** - printed Commencement Announcements (150), envelopes, and name cards for graduates. Fr. John Askoak, Fr. Jason Isaac, and Deacon Michael Trefon each received 25. Fr. John received 100 for the seminary mailing.
- **\$1,900** - General donations to **Outreach Alaska** made it possible for seminarians to receive added funds as gifts for Nativity and Pascha feasts:  
NATIVITY 2013 - \$900 for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each for 9 sponsored seminarians)  
PASCHA 2014- \$1,000 for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each 10 seminarians – 8 sponsored seminarians + 2 enrolled but not sponsored)

- **\$1,147.50 - Kitchen Project** approved by the Board of Trustees May, 2012 meeting. Purchased industrial complete service ware for 32 and serving pieces, etc.
- **\$220.76** - Dishes for use during annual Ladies Luncheon – purchased at Wal-Mart.
- **\$300 - Catering** for Ladies Luncheon paid to Mill Bay Catering.

Total funds raised for SHS projects through **Outreach Alaska** during the 2013/14 Seminary year were **\$34,221.06**. This is an increase from 2013 of **\$11,735.06**. The sponsor who was behind in sponsor fees at this same time last year owing \$2,400 for John Kudrin paid this in full during the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid America Parish Life Conference in June, 2013. This money replaced the funds that had been paid from the **Outreach Alaska** general funds and is current now for this sponsorship. However, this year we had another sponsor fall back on the payments for Jason Chocknok. I did not realize payments were not being received until soon after beginning the second semester in 2014. To date, **Outreach Alaska** has paid \$1,600 for this seminarian to have sponsor fees every month. I had problems communicating with the sponsor until prior to leaving for Alaska last week. I just learned that he was without a job from April last year and did not let me know that he would not be able to maintain his sponsor fees. At this writing, I am to meet with him and his wife in Anchorage to understand what he wants to do on this responsibility. He is expecting to be hired soon and wants to pay back the \$1,600 to **Outreach Alaska** and resume his sponsorship for Jason in September. This will depend on his employment. If he does not find a job, I will try to find a one year sponsor for Jason and his family for his last year 2014/15. **Outreach Alaska** will need to replace the spent funds through a general plea for contributions.

It is my understanding at this writing that there will not be any new 2<sup>nd</sup> year students applying for sponsorship. Last year, it was decided with Fr. John and Matushka Bea that the “Adopt a Seminarian” project would be a 2 tier project – Single sponsorship (\$100 per month) and Married sponsorship (\$200 per month). This was the first year to implement the 2 tier project. It has been very successful. There will be a transition for 2 seminarians next year. Erika Mary Johnson will marry 1<sup>st</sup> year student Herman Madsen prior to commencement. This will increase the sponsor to \$200 for this couple beginning September 2014. It has been accepted by Mary’s current sponsor to continue with this payment fee. Also, Oscar Olsen, III is getting married this summer. If he returns to seminary with his wife in September, his sponsor is also prepared to increase the monthly fee to \$200 for a married sponsorship. The St. Julianna Food Pantry should have a budget of \$5,000 every year. I will be traveling once again to the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid America this year. It will be in San Antonio and will provide a good venue for telling people the **Outreach Alaska** story and acquire booth sales as well as contributions. In past years, the AAC has been very successful for **Outreach Alaska**. It may be good to partner once again to attend these All American Councils in the future.

The “Adopt a Seminarian” project started in 2002–12 years ago. Since that time, seminarians have been financially supported annually by participating sponsors. Many of these sponsors have given more during the year than the sponsor fees. Some of the churches take up special collections and send financially to their specific seminarian. Even though these sponsors are committed to this program, not all seminarians complete their studies. Not all are serving the Diocese of Alaska, due to some personal difficulties. The hardest thing for me is to tell a sponsor that their seminarian will not complete what was started. We had such an incident this year when seminary student Leonty Wassilie did not return to Kodiak after being in the village during the Nativity. A family tragedy caused such grief for his family that Leonty just could not leave his family since they were not able emotionally to return. But, I am hopeful he will return as soon as he is able. His sponsor

had paid the year in full - \$2,400 - to **Outreach Alaska** and had a balance in the account of \$1,000. She was offered a refund but wished the funds to be used for a good purpose at the seminary. This \$1,000 funded the Pascha Gift Cards.

Coordinating these projects for the faculty and students of St. Herman Theological Seminary through **Outreach Alaska** is truly a blessing for me. **Outreach Alaska** started in 1999, nearly 15 years ago. Projects for the seminary began as early as 2001 – 13 years ago. There have been many other things accomplished over the years with the blessings of our Risen Lord. Sunday School Programs, Sister Parishes, Books to Villages, St. Sophia rebuilding project in Bethel, AK, Vestments to Village Priests, Publishing of Fr. Michael Oleksa's book "Alaska Missionary Spirituality", Fr. Michael Oleksa Speaking Tour – Alaska Visits the Heartland, The Alaska Museum in Anchorage (no longer exists), are some of the projects not connected to the seminary. Even though **Outreach Alaska** is not specific to the seminary, SHS has become a major part of our Alaska mission. 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,  
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator,  
**Outreach Alaska**  
May 10, 2014

\*The loss of Seminarian Leonty Wassilie brought the second semester participation down to 8 sponsors and 8 seminarians.