



A Project of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Alaska
The Right Reverend BENJAMIN, Bishop of San Francisco and the West,
Locum tenens, Diocese of Alaska
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator

Report to St. Herman Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
May 18, 2013

Christ is Risen! Master, bless.

Your Grace, Vladyka BENJAMIN, V. Rev. Father David Mahaffey, V. Rev. Father John Dunlop, 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 **June 1, 2012 to current (May 18, 2013)**:

Adopt A Seminarian - \$17,475

- **8 sponsors participated to support 8 seminarians:**
 - * **\$16,800** monthly sponsor fees of \$200 each month
 - \$600** presented to Nathan Anderson at graduation.
 - \$75** expense for 1 graduation Icon gift from “**Outreach Alaska**” – St. John of Damascus sponsor Parish

St. Julianna Food Pantry - \$2,748.98

- Paid invoices on food purchases for this project charged by SHS at the Kodiak Safeway.

Other - \$2,262.02

- **\$162.02** paid for printed Commencement Announcements (150), envelopes, and name cards for graduates. Fr. Michael Nicolai and Deacon Andrew Wassillie each received 25. Fr. John received 100 for the seminary mailing.
- **\$2,100** General donations to **Outreach Alaska** made it possible for seminarians to receive added funds as gifts for Nativity and Pascha feasts:
 - NATIVITY 2012 - **\$1,100** for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each for 11 seminarians-8 sponsored seminarians + 3 enrolled but not sponsored).
 - PASCHA 2013– **\$1,000** for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each 10 seminarians – 8 sponsored seminarians + 2 enrolled but not sponsored).

*One of the sponsors has not paid any of their fees to **Outreach Alaska** for the 2012/13 seminary year. A total of \$2,400 is owed. The monthly fees have been paid to the seminarian by **Outreach Alaska** and these funds are expected to be paid back very soon. This sponsor has participated since 2002 and has never defaulted. This being a very difficult year financially for many in our country, some parish members have not been able to meet their normal level of contribution. They are dedicated to the “Adopt a Seminarian” project and requested some time to get their funds together – after Pascha.

Total funds raised for SHS projects through **Outreach Alaska** during the 2012/13 Seminary year were **\$22,486**. This is a decrease from 2012 of **\$1,017.58**. However, the actual decrease amount is not reflecting the one sponsor who has not paid any fees yet for this year. That is still owed to the **Outreach Alaska** funds and must be replaced before the new seminary year begins. If this is not received, the sponsorship will be cancelled and a new sponsor will be needed for this seminarian. Additional students who qualify for the “Adopt a Seminarian” program will be accepted for the upcoming

year (August 2013 – May 2014). They must have completed the first year and be acceptable for assignment to the Diocese of Alaska. All sponsors will continue to provide \$200 per month to the seminarians. I expect it to be difficult to

sponsor all of the new seminarians for this project. However, I will be participating in a Diocesan Antiochian Parish Life Conference in Kansas City the first week of June. This will hopefully provide an opportunity to acquire new participation for the sponsorships and for new donations for the St. Juliana Food Pantry. I realize more is needed for this project and that a budget of \$5,000 should be raised each year to cover the costs of food. Without the exposure that these conferences and the AAC provide to our mission, it has made it more difficult to have a new and ongoing fundraising base developed for our work. The travel is most important and must be reestablished in order for the work accomplished for the seminary to continue and increase.

The “Adopt a Seminarian” project started in 2002–11 years ago. Since that time, 27 seminarians have been financially supported 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. One sent \$1,100 last year at the Nativity Feast. Even though these sponsors 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. But, most of them do graduate and are placed in the Diocese at some level of clergy. Of course, the Church needs not only clergy but those educated in the faith to take up all kinds of responsibilities to the parish – educators, Bible study leaders, choir directors, Altar Boys, Readers, and Parish Council Leaders. It is to all of this that these students aspire. God will choose where they will go for Him.

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 14 years ago. Next year will be the 12^h Anniversary of projects for SHS. There have been many other things that have been accomplished over the years. Please find attached a history of all that **Outreach Alaska** has done for the seminary – from the Linen Project when Vladyka Benjamin was the Dean to the Library Project and several others. 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,
May 18, 2013
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator
Outreach Alaska