



*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 9, 2015**

Christ is Risen! Master, bless.

Your Grace, Vladyka DAVID, V. Rev. Father John Dunlop, and Members of the St. Herman Theological Seminary Board of Trustees –

I am so sorry that I am not able to attend commencement this year and be with you for the celebration of the new graduates. It seems the new date is becoming harder for me to come to Alaska. However, it is my plan to come later for seminary orientation or for the All Saints of Alaska feast in September. I do look forward to meeting with the seminarians at that time and completing their sponsor assignments for the upcoming seminary year. 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 10, 2014 to current (May 9, 2015)**:

**Adopt A Seminarian - \$14,194.12 - 4 sponsors participated to support \*5 seminarians:**

- **\$9,300**- monthly sponsor fees.
- **\$1,200** - presented to each of this year's 2 graduates at \$600 each.
- **\$196.00** - expense for 2 graduation Icons presented to each of this year's 3 graduates – sponsor gift
- **\$500.00** Given to assist Deacon John Kudrin for flight to Boston for OISM.
- **\$1,500** Provided by the sponsors for Deacon Joseph Larson for him to attend the AAC. Outreach Alaska will pay the difference for meals, etc.
- **\$1,200** – Fr. Phanourios made a request for the James Keene family to have some support during their first year at seminary since they are such a large family and have need for their children. A special “At Need” category was developed for this family. The sponsor agreed to provide ½ the usual sponsor funds and this was paid quarterly at \$300. Now that James has completed his first year, the sponsor will fully sponsor his family at \$200 monthly.
- **\$298.12** - airline ticket for Oscar Olsen, III to return to his village for summer. This was in order for him to be home quickly to begin summer subsistence and not have to wait for his father to raise the funds for his travel. He agreed that if he does not return to seminary to complete his senior year, this will be paid back to **Outreach Alaska**.

**St. Julianna Food Pantry - \$2,956**

- Paid invoices on food purchases for this project charged by SHS at the Kodiak Safeway. This was \$611.66 less than last year – most likely due to a lower number of seminarians.

**IOCC - \$9,000**

International Orthodox Christian Charities approved our grant request to pay for the RADACT 3-week training at SHS. This will begin an expanded project partnering with Outreach Alaska during and beginning the week following 2015 commencement. As reported last year, IOCC is interested in supporting a statewide substance abuse effort with **Outreach Alaska**, St. Herman Theological Seminary, and the Diocese of Alaska. The RADACT Training this year will be the first step toward this statewide project. Fr. Victor Nick will be a part of

the RADACT Training in Kodiak and will be the person to follow-up with the clergy who complete the training. This will be further developed with Fr. Victor and staff from IOCC.

### **Outreach Alaska – \$14,000**

- **\$1,000** - Partnering with IOCC for the RADACT training, Outreach Alaska is providing \$1,000 to be paid to Fr. Victor Nick. This is for his time in Kodiak assisting with the 3-week training and presenting a priest perspective on the substance abuse training information.
- **\$8,000** - Virginia H. Farah Foundation - Grant awarded for Bishop David and Fr. John to attend the Fundraising School in Indianapolis for the “Basic Techniques of Fundraising” workshop in June. The grant was submitted to the foundation by **Outreach Alaska**.
- **\$5,000** – Anonymous **Outreach Alaska** donor gave these funds specific to assist IOCC with shipping expenses of donating lightly used dormitory furniture to the seminary. This will consist of 32 sets inclusive of a twin bed, desk, chair, chest, and mattress. IOCC has arranged for the shipping of this furniture and it is expected to be delivered to SHS by mid-May.

### **Other - \$2393.30**

- **\$184.30**- printed Commencement Announcements (150), envelopes, and name cards for graduates Deacon John Kudrin and Subdeacon Sergius Chocknok. Each received 25 announcements, envelopes and name tags for the announcements. Fr. John received 100 for the seminary mailing.
- **\$1,600** - General donations to **Outreach Alaska** made it possible for seminarians to receive added funds as gifts for Nativity and Pascha feasts:  
NATIVITY 2014 - **\$800** for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each for 8 seminarians)  
PASCHA 2015– **\$800** for Wal-Mart Gift cards (\$100 each for 8 seminarians)
- **\$609.00** - Antidoron Bowl purchased for seminary chapel.

Total funds raised for SHS projects through **Outreach Alaska** during the 2014/15 Seminary year were **\$42,543.42**. This is an increase from 2014 of **\$8,322.36**. Due to the lower number of seminarians sponsored this year – from 8 last year to 4 this year – a decrease could have been expected. However, the increase is due to the special projects that were funded this year with IOCC and **Outreach Alaska**. It is my understanding there will be one 2<sup>nd</sup> year student needing sponsorship in addition to James Keene for the upcoming seminary year. Fr. Phanourios requested that I include Luke Levi and his sister Elena Levi for the rest of their time at SHS. This will be 2 single sponsorships – Luke will be for his final year of studies (1 yr.) and Elena for her 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th years (2 yr.). It is my hope to have each of these sponsorships placed by September of this year. Oscar Olen, III did not follow-thru with his commitment to complete his senior year. He returned long enough to receive his first sponsor check, cash it, and then leave to go back to his village. Oscar was invoiced for repayment of his airline ticket purchased by **Outreach Alaska** for his return to his village during the summer, as was agreed. He was also invoiced for his \$400 sponsor fee. This was paid in full after he received his PDF check. General donations to **Outreach Alaska** are down. New donors need to be developed so we can maintain the projects we are not providing. St. Julianna Food Pantry should have a budget of \$5,000 every year. At this time, our funds are the lowest in several years. I will be traveling to Denver in June for the Antiochian Diocese of Wichita and Mid America and to the All American Council in Atlanta. This will increase our exposure and prayerfully provide some additional general donations to our accounts. In Denver, I will be doing a workshop for the pilgrimage that we hope to develop for summer 2016. **Outreach Alaska** will pay the booth registration fee for SHS to be with us at the AAC. We will share the space and have a very nice display area for the conference.

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This year a few times, seminarians called me to request financial assistance from their sponsors for things they needed. I explained that the sponsors were not really a resource for what they were requesting and suggested ways they could acquire the funds other than asking their sponsors. After talking with Fr. John about these requests, it has now been decided that part of my annual meetings with the seminarians will include an explanation that they should not expect the sponsors to provide anything other than the monthly fee and what is specified in the project "Guidelines". If they need additional funds, they should take the request to Fr. John and he will help guide them on how to handle this need. He will make the request to **Outreach Alaska** if it seems appropriate.

As we move into another seminary year at St. Herman Theological Seminary, I am excited to follow our special projects and see what outcomes will develop. The RADACT Substance Abuse project, the Fundraising training for Vladyko and Fr. John, as well as the delivery of the furniture to the seminary will be great things for the diocese. It will be wonderful to see what growth and improvements these projects will bring. Thank you all for the privilege to serve you and the Holy Orthodox Diocese of Sitka and Alaska. Please pray for me that Our Lord will give me the strength to continue with this work a little longer – according to His Holy Will.

Love and Prayers – Always, In Christ,  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator,  
**Outreach Alaska**  
May 10, 2014

\*One sponsor is supporting 2 seminarians with Mary Ericka and Herman Madsen.