



*"The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord." (Psalm 37:32)*  
Submitted by Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator – June 2017

*Please forgive my not keeping you posted on the news of **Outreach Alaska** since August 2014. I fell behind due to several personal things and consideration of upcoming changes to our mission. This newsletter will be the first of 2 editions that will bring you current on projects and activities of **Outreach Alaska** and some plans and changes for the future.*

*Since August 2014, I traveled to Kodiak in August of 2015 and May 2016. Unable to travel in May 2015 for commencement due to a scheduling conflict, I was asked instead to come to the seminary the end of August and participate in the Orientation for the upcoming seminary year – 2015/16. Since I was not able to participate in the 2015 commencement, Matushka Dr. Bea Dunlop, wife of seminary Dean, Dr. Very Rev. John Dunlop, was most happy to present the graduates their sponsor commencement gifts of an icon chosen by their sponsor and their final check of \$600.*



***Newly ordained Deacon John Kudrin**  
**Sponsored by Greater Dallas**  
**Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood***



***Matushka Bea Dunlop presenting sponsor gifts**  
**to Subdeacon Sergius Chocknok**  
**Sponsored by George and Nona Oweletuk and**  
**Dorothy Schaeff***

*Father David Rucker, OCMC Missions Specialist and Visiting Professor was the Commencement Speaker. His Grace, Bishop DAVID offered the Invocation and Benediction with Closing Comments and the Blessing. All gathered for the wonderful Commencement Banquet and entertainment following the commencement program.*



*His Grace, Bishop DAVID with Graduates and seminary staff.*

**June 2015:** Thanks to IOCC and **Outreach Alaska**, the seminary was in receipt of a huge donation of furniture. The furniture was donated to IOCC and then offered to St. Herman Theological Seminary through their USA projects. Due to the extreme costs of shipping, an anonymous donor gave half of the funds necessary to **Outreach Alaska** specific for this project. Without this committed **Outreach Alaska** donor, the gift to St. Herman Theological Seminary and others in the Kodiak area of Alaska, may not have received this most needed gift. 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 in the Kodiak area. A youth group mission team from the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie, Oregon, did most of the heavy lifting and was 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. Our gratitude and appreciation to those who give so generously to **Outreach Alaska** and to IOCC. This is a "New Century" project.



**Partnering with IOCC for Substance Abuse Treatment Counseling Training and other projects:**

***Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling Training – RADACT:***

*Training clergy while at St. Herman Theological Seminary in Kodiak to deal with the number one problem in Alaska – alcohol and drug abuse. IOCC provides funds for **Outreach Alaska** to organize this training/education for seminarians so they will be able to handle these issues when they are assigned to parishes in Alaska. Some will go on to complete certification in Substance Abuse counseling for employment in village Alaska.*

*Again this year, the partnership with IOCC provided a Three Week Training for seminarians and locals at St. Herman Theological Seminary inclusive of training with Fr. Victor Nick – Substance Abuse trained counselor in Alaska. This includes one year of follow-up with Fr. Victor for those who complete the course and are attached to parishes in Alaska.*



**August/September 2015:** *I arrived in Kodiak the last week of August and scheduled meetings with all of the returning seminarians who were participating on the “Adopt a Seminarian” Project. Each one updated me on their summer activities – mostly fishing and berry picking for subsistence living needed for the upcoming winter months. I was especially pleased to see that Deacon Methodius Nicori had returned to seminary to complete his studies after leaving several years ago. He and his wife, Matushka Elsie converted to Orthodoxy and quickly attended seminary in 2007. It was decided that they needed to return to their village to get more acquainted with Orthodoxy there since he had been a minister in the Moravian Church and not as acquainted with Orthodoxy as might be needed for him to serve the Holy Church in Alaska. This was a good decision for them bot. Now they are ready to complete seminary studies and prepare for whatever God’s Will is for them. He showed me a video he had put together on how Sunday Schools might be established in Orthodox churches in Alaska – a great need there. I participated in the Orientation with a slide show and presentation to the faculty*



and students on **Outreach Alaska** and how our projects serve the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska. Since I was not there in May for the Annual Ladies Luncheon that is always provided for the seminary and Orthodox community ladies during commencement weekend, this was planned during my visit the last week in August. All enjoyed being together at this time and seeing each other again after being gone for the summer months. Daria Simeonoff, Archivist for the seminary, approached me after the luncheon and said that she had a blessing from Fr. John Dunlop to make a request for a need at the seminary. She explained that they were in great need of a new chest freezer and clothes washing machine for the students' use. We went right to Spenard's Building Supply and I purchased both of these items for the seminary. The new appliances were delivered the next day and have been added to our "New Century" projects:



As we move through the Apostle Fast this year, I want to thank you so much for your support through prayer and financial contribution to **Outreach Alaska**. May you and all you love have a most fruitful fast with good health and a summer full of the blessings of Our Lord.

### **New Antidoron for the seminary chapel.**



During my Alaska travels in 2014, His Grace, Bishop DAVID asked me to purchase an Antidoron Bowl for the All Saints Chapel at the seminary. In February 2015, I finalized the purchase of the Antidoron Bowl he had chosen and it was shipped from Greece to Kodiak where the staff and seminarians assembled this new item for the chapel. This was added to the "New Century" projects and is beautifully placed in the chapel for all to see.

**Stay tuned – Upcoming, Outreach Alaska 2016!**

