



***St. Herman Theological Seminary Kodiak, Alaska Commencement – 2014***

**Submitted by Mary Ann Khoury**

Christ is Risen! As most of you know, I traveled again this year to Alaska the beginning of May. This is an annual time for me to come in order to conclude the Adopt a Seminarian projects and to participate in the seminary commencement. We had 3 graduates this year: Deacon Michael Trefon, sponsored by St. George Cathedral in Wichita, KS; Fr. Simeon Askoak, sponsored by St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington DC; Fr. Jason Isaac, sponsored by Olga Dunlop in Stanford, CA. The ceremony was on May 11 at 5:00 at St. Mary Parochial School. A wonderful commencement banquet was served by the St. Innocent Academy students and staff. This is a project of the Bulgarian Archdiocese and is a marvelous outreach to troubled young people from all over the United States. They work very closely with the seminary – praying together, working together, and learning together. His Grace Bishop David was the featured commencement speaker. Following the award of degrees, I spoke to the persons attending and presented a beautiful ancient carved icon of Christ to the seminary. It was sent to me from a long time **Outreach Alaska** donor about 5 years ago. He found this icon in Belarus in 1994 and wanted it to go to the seminary in Kodiak. With the new bishop in place, it was time for this to travel with me to Kodiak to be at the seminary, near the relics of St. Herman as they lay at peace in the cathedral just one block from the seminary. Andrea Lutov, the sponsor from Washington, DC traveled to Kodiak for the ceremonies and I invited her to present her parish gifts to Fr. Simeon. This included new vestments, a large icon of St. Nicholas, and the final sponsor fees of \$600. She also announced that her parish had taken a collection for Fr. Simeon that would be coming in the amount of +\$1,000. Following Andrea, I presented sponsor gifts of new vestments, a large icon of St. Innocent, and a check for \$600 to Fr. Jason. Deacon Michael was presented a large icon of St. George and his final sponsor check of \$600. Thanks to the Adopt a Seminarian sponsors, these 3 men had support for their families and have become 3 wonderful workers for our Holy Land in Alaska. Fr. Simeon will be on the Aleutian Chain living in Pilot Point where he will serve that parish and travel to Chignik Lake, Chugnik Bay, Perryville, and Port Heidon – a priest to 5 parishes each area having less than 150 population. Fr. Jason will go to the Lower Kuskokwim region and serve the parishes of Pitka's Point (125 population) and Mountain Village (500 population). He will also start a mission church in St. Mary, AK (750 population). Deacon Michael will go to Anchorage and be the bishop's Deacon. He is expected to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 3-4 years.



Graduates with their families and Bishop David



Beloved Fr. Juvenaly Repass with Belarus Icon of Christ

**Outreach Alaska contributions may be mailed to 2421 N. Perry Ave, Wichita, KS 67204**

