



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

News from Outreach Alaska

Thank you to Father Aaron and the St. Mary parish for praying for my safe travels following Divine Liturgy on February 16. I am sure those prayers helped me make it safely on this long trip. It was a very brief trip – the shortest in my 15 year ministry to Alaska. The purpose was to attend the consecration of the new bishop – Bishop David of Sitka and Alaska. His Grace invited me to attend and sent funds for my travel. There were very special guests from all over the world in attendance and I had the pleasure to be among the hierarchs and clergy who were transported from the hotel daily to the services and celebrations. Bishop BENJAMIN, OCA Bishop of the Diocese of the West and Locum Tenens for Alaska for the past 7 years, always welcomes me as "Alaska's Sittoo". It was a blessing to be with him again and to be with so many of the clergy of Alaska. Many of them were seminarians who were sponsored by our Adopt a Seminarian project since 2001 including our own Father Elia Larson. It was a joyous reunion for us all. The OCA Diocese of Alaska has prayed for a loving Master for many years. It was so uplifting to feel the hope that was present during the entire 2 day event. Hope as I have never experienced in Alaska before now. His Grace, David comes from a different background. Being a widowed priest, he has family – unusual for a bishop. They were all there including the Grandchild. Very different – the consecration of a bishop with children and grandchildren present. He will have an understanding of these married clergy which is so important in Alaska – where tradition is so closely tied to family. It brought thoughts of St. Innocent – a priest turned monk after the loss of his wife in Alaska. Being in Alaska with these clergy gave me the opportunity to discuss with them our "Spiritual Travel Pilgrimage" in August 2011. They are excited and ready to receive us in Bethel and provide Kuskokwim travel to Kwethluk for visitation to the grave of Mother Olga Michael. I will travel to Kodiak for St. Herman Theological Seminary commencement on May 11. We will have 3 graduates this year and a wedding of 2 of the seminarians on Sunday, May 4. During my time in Kodiak, it is planned for me to meet with His Grace and set a course for Outreach Alaska now that he is the new bishop. I look forward to meeting with him and developing some of the projects he has as new vision for the diocese. And, by the way, for those who do not know, our own Father Phanourios is now in Alaska serving the parishes in St. Paul and St. George in the Aleutian Islands. He had no clothes for Alaska work – being his mission work is in Fiji. Outreach Alaska sent him \$300 to purchase a coat and other necessary clothing items needed for the weather in this very remote region. Thank you all for your encouragement and prayers for Outreach Alaska.

**Outreach Alaska is an institution of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Alaska,
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