



*"The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord." (Psalm 37:32)  
Submitted by Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator - October, 2013*

AXIOS! On Wednesday, October 16, 2013, the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) Holy Synod of bishops elected Archimandrite David (Mahaffey) to fill the vacant Episcopal See of Sitka and Alaska. His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, Locum Tenens since the 2007 retirement of His Grace, Bishop NIKOLAI, presented Fr. Davis's name to the Holy Synod for canonical election. Fr. David was sent to Anchorage nearly a year ago to be the Diocesan Administrator and Chancellor. He has spent his time there learning about the Orthodox in Alaska as well as developing a positive vision for the seminary and for all that is Holy Orthodoxy in America's Holy Land. I was blessed to meet with Fr. David during my May Alaska travels and found him to be a kind and approachable man who truly loves the church. The faithful in Alaska have been waiting for God to send them the right person to be their new bishop and Fr. David has won their respect and their trust – not an easy thing in Alaska due to so much abuse over the past decades. On September 15, Delegates to the Assembly of the Diocese of Alaska nominated Father David to fill the vacant See. He is truly worthy. I look forward to having Bishop elect David as a prayerful leader for the **Outreach Alaska** mission. Read the full story at [oca.org](http://oca.org).

I am pleased to report that all of the eligible seminarians (9) for the "Adopt a Seminarian" project have been sponsored for the next year- Thanks be to God. Sponsors are St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Wichita, KS, St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Western Rite in Park City, KS, St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC, Father Gary Breton and Matushka Mary Buletza in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, St. John of Damascus Orthodox Church, San Diego, CA, George and Georgianna Owletuck, Chugiak, AK, Greater Dallas Clergy Brotherhood, Dallas, TX, Dorothy Schaeff, East Lansing, MI, and Mrs. Olga Dunlop, Stanford, CA. In order for me to have funds necessary to finance travel and other expenses for this continued missionary work, I am asking parishes to place a line item in their budget for donations to **Outreach Alaska**. These parishes are currently not participating in any projects and will only be asked to help provide general contribution that may be needed for the St. Juliana Food Pantry and other unfunded projects that may arise. I am also hoping to have more participation in the "St. Innocent Missionary Prayer Society" now that I am retired and have more time to be in touch with our original members. FOS Tours is coming close to finalizing our plans for the 2014 "Spiritual Travel Pilgrimage – In the Path of the American Saints". Please let me know if you might be interested in joining me for this 15 year celebration of my first trip to Alaska in 1999. It will not be for the faint at heart but will be show you Orthodoxy as you have never seen it in this country. **Outreach Alaska** will be partnering with IOCC to provide one week of substance abuse education to the seminarians of St. Herman Theological Seminary. This is scheduled for February, 2014 and will be funded by an IOCC US Programs grant. RADACT – the substance abuse counselor certification entity for the State of Alaska, will provide this training at St. Herman Theological Seminary in Kodiak. I thank God for all He has provided for this **Outreach Alaska** mission. Asking for your continued prayers that I will be able to maintain the work that will be pleasing to our Lord for His Alaska Vineyard – I remain your home-based missionary to Alaska.



***Bishop Elect Father David Mahaffey***

