



ANNUAL REPORT

**Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska Diocesan Assembly
Anchorage, Alaska
November 11, 2007**

MISSION: Respond to the call of our fellow countrymen, heirs to the spiritual legacy of St. Innocent as they struggle in America's Holy Land to preserve the Orthodox faith against the evil one, treacherous weather, and harsh subsistence lifestyle.

OBJECTIVE: To provide hope for the faithful of Alaska through major projects inclusive of organized prayer, theological education, and Church School programs. This will be accomplished in unity with all Orthodox jurisdictions by sharing our God-given treasures: financial means, time, talent, ability, and experience.

Your Grace, Vladyka NIKOLAI, beloved clergy, brothers and sisters in Christ,
Glory to Jesus Christ! Master, bless!

My prayers and hopes are with you all as you take on the business of this Holy Diocese and plan for another year of work in our Lord's Alaska Vineyard. Thanks be to God, for our donors to the **Outreach Alaska** projects. They make it possible for me to provide this report on our activities from January – October, 2007:

Projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary:

- All seminarians available for the Adopt a Seminarian project were sponsored through the second semester. Those who graduated received sponsor gifts during the Commencement Reception in June. There are 5 new students currently on this project and a total of 7 being sponsored this year. Each seminarian on this project receives a monthly sponsor fee of \$200 to assist with their expenses during the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Year at seminary. To date for 2007, \$14,600 have been distributed to the seminarians.
- **Outreach Alaska** provided commencement announcements to all of the 2007 graduates and the seminary. Graduating clergy for 2007 were given new vestments by their sponsors during the year.
- More \$4,000 has been raised to date for purchases to stock the St. Juliana Food Pantry. This project is ongoing and funds are donated regularly for purchases. The Food Pantry assists married students and their families.
- A total of \$14,000 was raised from January – June for the First Missionaries Scholarship funds. This makes a total of \$16,000 raised during the 2007 seminary year for this project. The goal for Outreach Alaska for this project was \$5,000 – exceeded by \$11,000.
- **Outreach Alaska** sponsored a Wedding Luncheon for Anastasia Nikolai prior to her marriage to Isaac Farha in Kodiak. Many women attended inclusive of the families and those at the seminary. She received nice gifts and quite a bit of cash for her wedding. **Outreach Alaska** provided all of the invitations for the guests and the meal, etc. served for the gathering.



After returning from Alaska in June, I traveled to Topeka, KS for the Parish Life Conference of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America. A booth was set-up in Topeka and sales generated over \$900 to our general accounts. Expenses were taken from the funds raised. The Fourth of July Holiday took me to Baltimore, MD for participation in the Parish Life Conference of 2 Antiochian Orthodox Dioceses - The Diocese of New York and Washington DC and the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the East. This was a great opportunity to reach Orthodox Christians from these areas who had not heard the message of **Outreach Alaska**. I was on a panel of missions including OCMC and Project Mexico. The panel made 3 presentations in different time frames. I was the featured speaker for the Antiochian Women's Luncheon. Many people attending in Baltimore showed great interest in the **Outreach Alaska** projects and approximately \$500 was raised. All expenses were paid for by the Baltimore conference. While in Baltimore I attended a staff meeting with IOCC and met with the USA Projects Coordinator regarding further collaboration for the Substance Abuse work in Alaska. IOCC considers **Outreach Alaska** a partner in their work and is positive about further participation.

Currently there are no new projects for **Outreach Alaska** and no further expansion of our work. The focus is on maintaining the Adopt a Seminarian and St. Juliana Food Pantry projects for St. Herman Theological Seminary. Any expansion will be in the St. Innocent of Alaska Missionary Prayer Society.

In last year's report it was stated that we were going to rent a small office for **Outreach Alaska**. Unfortunately, the funds were not available and this was not accomplished. The website is being updated as of this writing and most will be current by the time of your Diocesan Assembly. You may view our site at www.outreachalaska.org.

Submitted October 26, 2007 by
Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator