

St. Herman Seminary has begun its 37th year with 15 seminarians from around the U.S. and Diocese of Alaska. New seminarians include John Askoak from Russian Mission, Wassillie Guy from Napaskiak, Jason Isaac from Marshall, Jonathon Sawyer from Fairbanks, Deacon Innocent Philo from Walla Walla, Washington, Monk Timothy Takayuki from Tokyo, Japan and Michael Trefon from Nondalton. Our seminarians who are from the Diocese of Alaska continue to receive scholarship support which covers tuition and books. We are joined this year by a special monastic student Fr. Timothy from Japan and a woman monastic who is helping coordinate the women's group on campus this year. With the new seminarians, continuing seminarians along with their families this brings the total to 47 who live on campus. We are also thankful to have two senior students, Deacon Andrei Tepper and Ephrem Smith who will be graduating at the end of the school year and begin their labors for the Church in Alaska. At our Diocesan assembly three seminarians will be ordained: Deacon Andrei Tepper to the Holy Priesthood, Subdeacons Andrew Wassillie and Michael Nicolai to the Holy Diaconate.

The seminary recently hosted His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH who met with faculty and served with seminarians during September 18-19. The seminary also hosted the journalist Steve Quinn for a week in September. Mr. Quinn is writing a forthcoming feature article on the seminary and Native Alaskan seminarians in the publication *First Alaskans*. On its patronal feast of All Saints of Alaska the seminary hosted St. Innocent's Academy. The two communities also concelebrated for the feast of St. Innocent of Alaska in October and made a mission trip together to Port Lions. The two schools continue to collaborate in many areas.

This past summer during the 40th annual St. Herman pilgrimage the seminary welcomed Vladyka BENJAMIN and a special Russian delegation headed by His Eminence, Archbishop JUSTINIAN, Archbishop of Naro-Fominsk and Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the USA. Also present was Archimandrite Zacchaeus representative of the OCA to the Moscow Patriarchate. After touring the seminary and archives, Senator Alexander P. Torshin Vice-Speaker and First Deputy of the Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation presented gifts to clergy, professors and seminarians. From August 4-7 Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov SHS Adjunct Instructor led the first Diaconal Liturgical Practicum to be held in Kodiak. Seminarians joined participants from the Diocese of Alaska and Diocese of the West in learning elements of serving as deacons through classroom instruction, liturgical labs conducted in the seminary chapel and serving daily Divine Liturgies. In July, the seminary hosted Presbytera Renee Ritsi and OCMC missionaries as they prepared to minister at a Family Camp in Old Harbor. This month the seminary will host OCMC missionary Floyd Frantz from the Romanian Orthodox Church who specializes in Alcoholism and Substance Abuse treatment. Mr. Frantz will give weeklong seminar on recovery and 12 Step from the Orthodox perspective.

This year we have a full staff to cover all classes in our catalog with Archimandrite Juvenaly, Dr. Matushka Bea Dunlop, Deacon Irenaios Anderson and Mr. David Young of St. Innocent's Academy who teaches music. The seminary upper classmen continue to participate in the valuable KANA field work substance abuse program with Cisco Penamora. This field work is supplemented by Mrs. Janet Carter's RADACT course and highlights the seminary's commitment to battling the Alaskan

epidemic of alcoholism and substance abuse. Outreach Alaska and Mrs. Mary Ann Khoury, continues to coordinate parish sponsorships for second through fourth year students.

We are excited about our new incoming students. They are a wonderful group with great enthusiasm and maturity. We are grateful to the pastors of the diocese for encouraging candidates for ministry from their parishes. Please continue to recognize and recommend candidates who might make good seminarians.

St. Herman Seminary exists to serve the Diocese of Alaska. As mentioned earlier our students receive full scholarships including tuition, books and board from the seminary. This means that each year the seminary must raise the money to operate and meet our budget. Please ask your parish to financially support the work of the seminary. We should not always rely on those from the “Lower 48” to pay for our own students. Please consider financially supporting our school this year which will greatly help us meet our budget. We ask for your prayers on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest John Dunlop

Dean