

27 April 2010

Dear Fathers, Mothers and Parish Councils,

I now know the registration costs for the Matushki Retreat on May 7 – 9, 2010. Thanks to the generous donations from individuals, a \$75 fee will cover each woman's meals and lodging. There are currently 19 Matushki who have said they will attend the Retreat. I hope to hear positively from more of the Mothers soon.

The registration fee (\$75) could either be brought to the Retreat or mailed to the Diocesan Treasurer. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Alaska and be sure to indicate that it is for the Matushki Retreat and for which Matushka or Matushki. The address is: Diocese of Alaska, P O Box 210569, Anchorage, AK 99521-0569.

The basic agenda for the weekend is as follows (bring your Bible with you!):

Friday, May 7th

Everyone is to gather at St Innocent Cathedral by 9 am and we will travel together to the Holy Spirit Retreat Center at 10980 Hillside Drive (346.2343) by 9:30. After assigning rooms and having a short time to unpack, the retreat will begin with prayers around 10:30 that morning. Sessions will continue throughout the day until evening prayers at 9 pm.

Saturday, May 8th

This day will begin with breakfast from 8-9 am, followed by morning prayers and sessions continuing throughout the day. Vespers will be celebrated at the Retreat Center by Archpriest Nicholas Molodyko-Harris, our Spiritual Retreat Master. Confessions will be heard after Vespers and most likely at other times during the retreat. Lights out will be planned for 10:30 pm this night because we will have an early departure on Sunday.

Sunday, May 9th HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL!

Everyone will be asked to wake by 7 am. This should provide time for personal preparation and dressing down of your rooms (linen, trash, etc) and turning in of room keys. We hope to be loading up by 8 am to travel to St Innocent Cathedral for Divine Liturgy. The St Innocent Sisterhood women customarily prepare a meal for purchase after Liturgy. This meal will be provided to you as a part of the registration fee. After our meal, we will have a concluding session at the Cathedral. Then, you are on your own again, hopefully rejuvenated and spiritually refreshed, until your departure.

Our other Retreat guest is Matushka Jenny Schroedel, of St Juvenaly Mission in Kona, Hawaii. For those of you who like to "google," you can look her up, but briefly, she is a mother, an author and an accomplished Orthodox speaker. We are happy that His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, selected her as our special presenter.

I am excited to see my old friends again, and to finally get to meet our newest "Sisters."

Matushka Anna Andrew
Diocesan Secretary