

THE NORTH STAR

WINTER 2005

A PUBLICATION OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF ALASKA

VOLUME 4



35TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF
1970 - 2005
SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

THE NORTH STAR

Published three times a year with the blessing of His Grace, the Right Reverend NIKOLAI

Bishop of Sitka, Anchorage and Alaska

Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska

P.O. Box 210569

Anchorage, AK 99521-0569

Office: (907) 279-0025

Fax: (907) 279-9748

www.alaskanchurch.org

Publisher

His Grace, Bishop NIKOLAI

Editor-in-Chief

Priest Innocent Dresdow

Editorial Staff

Archpriest Chad Hatfield

Subdeacon Mark Harrison

Mrs. Anna Jarlson

Questions or comments? Send to:
thenorthstar@innokentii.org

His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI, and the editorial staff of The North Star wish to express their gratitude for the continued support of this publication. If you would like to contribute please send donations to the Chancery (address above) and mark your donation North Star. Thank you for your generous support that allows us to continue to publish and distribute The North Star throughout the world.

Ordination of Hieromonk Isidore at Saint Innocent Cathedral Anchorage, Alaska



IN THIS ISSUE

† JOY OF ALL ORTHODOX IN AMERICA A LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE RIGHT REVEREND NIKOLAI BISHOP OF SITKA, ANCHORAGE AND ALASKA	3
† AROUND THE DIOCESE ~ AT A GLANCE A CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS IN 2005	5
† ORDINATION OF HIEROMONK ISIDORE ARCHDEACON ISIDORE IS ORDAINED TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD	6
† 2004 DIOCESAN CONFERENCES ~ GALLERY VILLAGES COME TOGETHER IN THE LIVE OF THE CHURCH	7
† HOLY MARTYR VASILY THE LIFE OF SAINT VASILY WHO SERVED IN ALASKA & POLAND	8
† MEET A SEMINARIAN AN OUTREACH ALASKA PROFILE OF SEMINARIAN VASILY FISHER & FAMILY	12
† OCMC MISSION ALASKA ORTHODOX FAMILY WELLNESS WEEK BEING PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER	14
† SAINT HERMAN SEMINARY NEWS FUND-RAISING BY ILAASI BRINGS MUCH NEEDED LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS	15
† SAINT INNOCENT CATHEDRAL A GALLERY OF THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE INTERIOR	16

In the Life of the Church

ORDINATIONS

HIEROMONK ISIDORE (BRITAIN)

TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD NOVEMBER 6, 2004

RETIRED

ARCHPRIEST PAUL MERCULIEF

37 YEARS OF SERVICE DECEMBER 12, 2004

MEMORY ETERNAL

SUB-DEACON VASILII BOUWENS

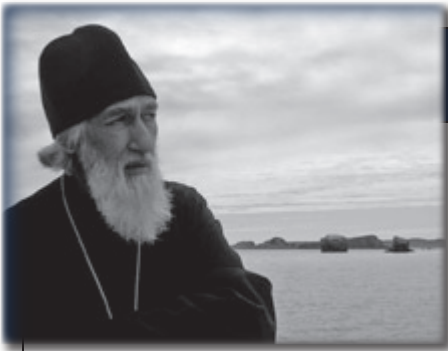
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA AUGUST 15, 2004

Three Saints Church
Old Harbor, Alaska



On the cover:

35th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Herman of Alaska. This newly written icon adorns St. Innocent Cathedral in Anchorage.



JOY OF ALL ORTHODOX IN AMERICA

An open letter to my Dear and Faithful Children of the God-protected Diocese of Alaska

Dear Faithful and supporters,

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

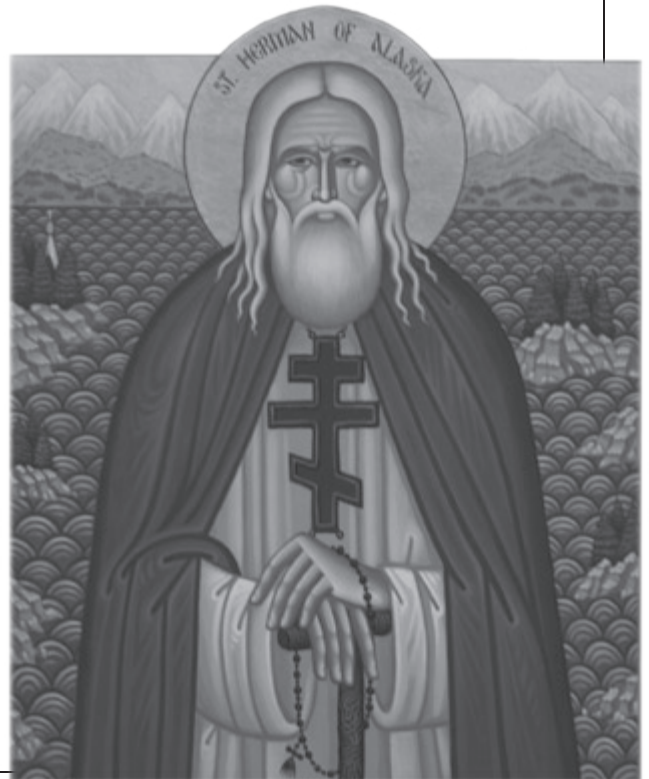
2005 marks the 35th Anniversary of the Canonization of our Venerable Father Herman of Alaska and All-America, and the 35th Anniversary of the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America. We are planning several major events of celebration in our Diocese: the consecration of Ss Sergius and Herman of Valaam Church; which has just been refurbished and was built in 1894 over the grave of St. Herman on Spruce Island. This will take place, God willing, on July 11, the Feast of Ss Sergius and Herman of Valaam, to be followed by the pilgrimage celebrating the Feast of Saint Herman on August 9th in Kodiak.

As a Diocese, we are preparing for these events by serving the Akathist to St. Herman every Thursday evening this year. We will join together, united in one church, in the prayers of the Akathist, that reveal to us the vision of St. Herman.

O Chosen Doer of Wonders, most glorious favorite of Christ, our God bearing Father Herman, Alaska's adornment, the joy of all Orthodox in America. We sing to you, our heavenly protector and powerful intercessor before God, these songs of praise. Cease not to pray for your children, who cry fervently to you: Rejoice our Venerable Father Herman of Alaska, America's most glorious doer of wonders.

I was a student at Seminary when the canonization took place and it is very humbling to note that I took monastic vows and was ordained a deacon on this Feast, the day of St. Herman's Glorification, on the same year and date. In those years I was in the Serbian Church and couldn't understand or accept that this Russian Metropolia could now dare to call itself the Orthodox Church in America. It wasn't until many years later that I realized Orthodoxy in America is indebted to St. Herman and all of the early missionaries who came here enduring great sacrifice in order to bring the Good News!

It says in the Akathist that St. Herman envisioned "an Episcopal Throne in this land." (*Ikos 11*) It doesn't say anything about multiple thrones, but one - an autocephalous Church in this land - one that came to be in 1970. I look back on those seminary years and years later when there was much hope for a united church in America. There were pan-Orthodox celebrations; Sunday of Orthodoxy gatherings were major events and the spirit among the faithful and clergy was elevated in this gathering of the Church. Now we look back just ten years later and find the gathering of bishops at Ligonier is hailed as the greatest event of American Orthodoxy! I wonder how the canonization of America's first saint is relegated to some lesser





Blessing the Sven Haakanson Airport
Old Harbor, Alaska

place in the life of Orthodoxy in America. Even Ligonier was hopeful to those of us who were serving the churches in multiple jurisdictions. Soon we were disappointed when hierarchs removed their names from the documents that were prepared; one on evangelism and the other on administrative unity.

Are we willing to truly pray the Akathist and submit ourselves to the vision of America's most wondrous Saint in realizing one Church? We don't need another Ligonier, we need a gathering in Kodiak at the relics of America's first Saint, a prayerful walk on Spruce Island and a willingness to accept the call of Jesus Christ for the sake of Orthodoxy - not disunited, but united!

My dear faithful we are in the beginning of a new year and the beginnings of our celebration for this most important event in American Orthodoxy. Let us pray the Akathist and let us move forward as missionaries sent *"to those sitting in darkness so that the light of Orthodoxy might illumine all the ends of the earth."* (First Ikos)

*O Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, North Star of Christ's Holy Church
the light of your holy life and great deeds, guides those who follow the Orthodox Way.
Together we lift high the Holy Cross, you planted firmly in America.
Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, singing His Holy Resurrection.*

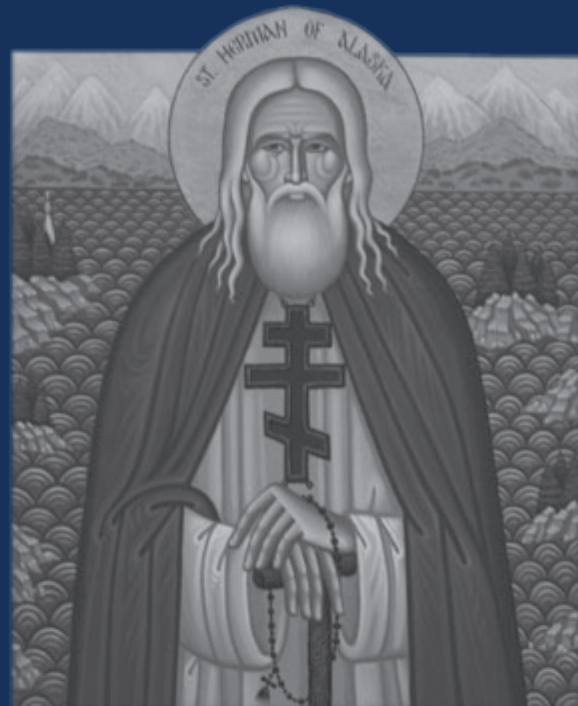
Love and Blessings,

+ Nikolai

NIKOLAI
Bishop of Sitka, Anchorage and Alaska



RODA Clergy and Honored Guests
with His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI in
the newly remodeled St. Innocent
Cathedral ~ Anchorage, Alaska



*O BLESSED FATHER HERMAN OF ALASKA
NORTH STAR OF CHRIST'S HOLY CHURCH
THE LIGHT OF YOUR HOLY LIFE AND GREAT DEEDS
GUIDES THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE ORTHODOX WAY
TOGETHER WE LIFT HIGH THE HOLY CROSS
YOU PLANTED FIRMLY IN AMERICA
LET ALL BEHOLD AND GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST
SINGING HIS HOLY RESURRECTION*

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF 1970 - 2005
SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA

EVENTS 2005

MARCH 8 - 10	CLERGY RETREAT CAMP BIRCHWOOD, CHUGIAK ALASKA
MAY 1	PASCHA
JUNE 3 - 5	SHS GRADUATION SAINT HERMAN SEMINARY, KODIAK ALASKA
JULY 11	CONSECRATION OF SS. SERGIUS & HERMAN OF VALAAM CHURCH SPRUCE ISLAND, ALASKA
JULY 17 - 22	ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL TORONTO, CANADA
TBA	MATUSHKA RETREAT
AUGUST 7 - 9	35TH ANNIVERSARY SAINT HERMAN PILGRIMAGE SPRUCE ISLAND, ALASKA
SEPT. 7 - NOV. 7	SITKA MOTHER OF GOD ICON NORTH AMERICA TOUR
SEPTEMBER 24	ALL-SAINTS OF ALASKA
NOV. 11 - 13	DIOCESE OF ALASKA - ASSEMBLY ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ORDINATION OF HIEROMONK ISIDORE

On November 6, 2004, His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI, ordained Archdeacon Isidore to the Holy Priesthood and appointed him Dean of Saint Innocent Orthodox Cathedral in Anchorage, Alaska. For pictures online visit:

http://www.alaskanchurch.org/html/diocesan_assembly_3_2004.html

Hieromonk Isidore, after serving faithfully as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Alaska, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI. The ordination took place during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, at the



conclusion of the Diocesan Assembly. In attendance along with all the clergy of the Diocese were visiting priests including Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Archpriest David Brum, Secretary to His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN, Archpriest John Udics from Philadelphia, PA, Archpriest Eugene Vansuch from Bethlehem, PA, Priest Stephen Soot from Albany, OR and Priest Michael Spainhoward from Apple Valley, CA. Honored guests also included Hieromonk Isidore's parents, brother and grandmother.

Immediately following the Divine Services a gourmet banquet was hosted by the Cathedral sisterhood to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cathedral and Hieromonk Isidore's ordination.

His Grace appointed Hieromonk Isidore as Dean of Saint Innocent Cathedral in Anchorage upon his ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

AXIOS!



Hieromonk Isidore with His Grace and family





BECOME A DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN DONOR
SIGN UP ONLINE:
WWW.ALASKANCHURCH.ORG/DONATE.PDF
OR CALL: (907) 279-0025

Tithing Theme of 2004 Conferences

The 2004 conferences were well attended and as usual people from all over the different regions of the Diocese gathered together with their Bishop and his clergy for the celebration of the Divine Services, fellowship and learning. The theme of the conferences was "tithing" and all told, conferences were held in Pilot Station, Napaskiak, New Stuyahok, and Iliamna. His Grace's homilies focused on the concept of tithing: what it is, and what it means for our lives as Orthodox



Holy Transfiguration Church~Pilot Station



Newly remodeled St. Jacob Church ~ Napaskiak

Christians. There was also much practical discussion on the method of tithing. The Archpriest Chad Hatfield attended several conferences as a representative of St. Herman Seminary and gave several educational talks. It should be noted that the 2003 Diocesan Assembly voted unanimously to make tithing the means of parochial and diocesan financial support.

The Conferences were initiated by diocesan clergy from the Interior in the 60's as a way of having gatherings in which faithful and clergy from an entire region could gather for opportunities for fellowship and sacramental prayer and learning. It also gave the few priests that were in Alaska (in the late sixties a few as eight priests) Since the 70's it has been a tradition for the Diocesan Hierarchy to attend these conferences.

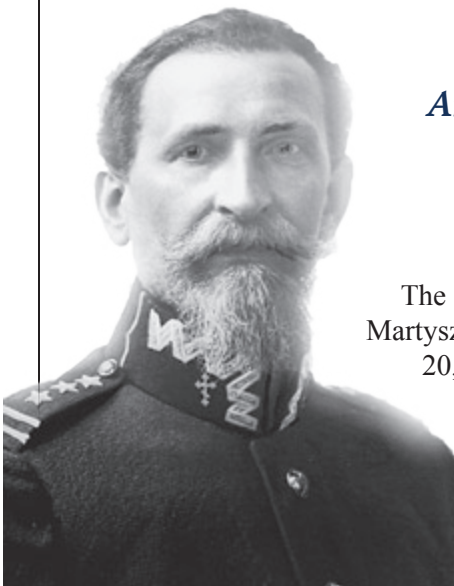


Ss Peter & Paul Church ~ St. Paul Is.



2004 DIOCESAN CONFERENCES

HOLY MARTYR VASILY...



+

***Holy Martyr
Archpriest Vasily
Martysz
(1874-1945)***

The Holy Martyr Vasily Martysz was born February 20, 1874 in Tertyn, in the Hrubieszow region, today in southeastern Poland. His father, Alexander, was a judge in Molczyce, near Pinsk, and after retiring, he was

ordained a priest and became rector of a local parish.

Education

In 1884, at the age of ten, Vasily made a short trip with his father to New York. There, while singing beautifully during a church service, he attracted the attention of Bishop Vladimir. The hierarch prophesized that young Vasily would become a priest and promised that when he was ordained, he would invite him to his diocese in America. After returning to his country, remembering the bishop's pronouncement, Vasily decided to follow his father and enter the priesthood. He began his theological education at the seminary in Chelm, where the rector was Bishop Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow.

Immediately after graduating in July 1899, Vasily married Olga Nowik and was ordained deacon. On

America

Orthodoxy had arrived in Alaska with the coming of the monastic mission from Valaam in 1794. At the start of the 20th century, climatic as well as social conditions in this vast territory remained difficult. In his pastoral work, Father Vasily met Russian settlers and indigenous inhabitants of the region, Eskimos and Aleuts. Quite often he also encountered gold rush pioneers.

Father Vasily's first parish was extensive. His headquarters was on Afognak, but included Spruce and Woody Islands, near Kodiak. There were several small wooden chapels, scattered on these islands. In 1901, as a result of his efforts, the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Virgin was constructed at Afognak. (Although the village was completely destroyed in the earthquake and tidal wave of 1964, the church building has remained to this day.)

Because of the long distances and severe climate, Father Vasily's priestly work was extremely difficult and required many sacrifices. Often he would leave home for several weeks, in order to celebrate the services, confess, baptize, marry and bury the dead, while traveling in a specially constructed kayak.

Even when he was at home, Father Vasily had very little time to devote to his dear family. Besides celebrating the services in church and serving the needs of his parishioners, he taught in the parish school and worked in two church homes for the poor. His family bore the difficult conditions and especially the climate with difficulty. His wife Olga, who had given birth to two daughters, stayed home. In 1902, the older daughter Vera was born at Afognak. Two

Often he would leave home for several weeks, in order to celebrate the services, confess, baptize, marry and bury the dead, while traveling in a specially constructed kayak.

December 10, 1900 he was ordained priest, and that month departed from Breman to America. The young couple expected to be assigned a parish in New York, but instead he was appointed to a parish in Alaska. Together with the newly appointed Bishop Tikhon, he began his missionary service in the land of St. Herman.

years later, after they moved into the town of Kodiak, their second daughter was born.

During his missionary service in Alaska, Father Vasily kept a diary. It has survived to this day as one of the few archives of his personal life. Fragments have been translated

...PRAY TO GOD FOR US

from Russian and published in Polish.

Because of the severe Alaskan climate, which especially effected Matushka Olga, and because of concern for the education of their children, the Martysz family transferred to the continental United States in 1906. As a farewell statement from Alaska that year, Father Vasily wrote an article for the *Russian Orthodox American Messenger*, "The Voice from Alaska" in which he appealed to the Orthodox Faithful across the USA to support the building of Orthodox churches in Alaska.

The family settled in Osceola Mills, in central Pennsylvania. Their first son, Basil, was born that same year and in 1908, soon after moving to Old Forge, PA, Helen, their youngest child was born. Father Vasily's work took him to Waterbury CN, to West Troy, NY and finally to Canada. He was assigned to Edmonton and then Vostok, where he became dean of the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba. In 1910, he celebrated his tenth anniversary in the Priesthood. His prolific and loving pastoral activity endeared him to his flock. Church authorities considered him a very effective, devoted and talented priest, while the faithful loved him sincerely, valuing his modesty and kindness.

Despite their comfortable lifestyle and the relatively large Orthodox community they served in western Canada, the couple longed for their homeland. They feared the loss of their ancestral identity and requested permission to return to Poland. After serving nearly twelve years in America, Father Martysz left the New World and returned to Europe in 1912.

Return

Initially Father Vasily and his family lived with relatives in Sosnowiec, where he eventually became rector of the parish and instructor in Religious Education at the local girls' high school. The peaceful life they enjoyed there lasted barely one year, since the outbreak of the First World War disrupted the lives of thousands. Clergy were considered civil servants who were ordered

to evacuate their homes, and move to safety inside Russia. At this critical time, Bishop Vladimir, their Archpastor and friend from Alaska, offered the Martysz family refuge in a small apartment within the St. Andronik Monastery in Moscow. From here, Father Vasily commuted daily to the distant parish at Valdai, where he taught religious education classes. When the Bolsheviks seized power, he lost this job and was forced to earn a living unloading railroad cars. His own life was endangered because Red Army soldiers often treated clergy with distinctive brutality.

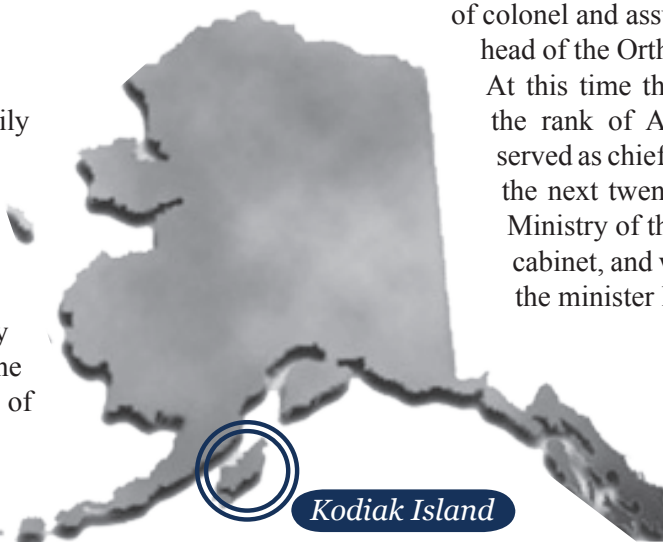


In 1919, at the end of the war, Polish refugees were granted permission to return to their former residences. Father Vasily and his family took this opportunity to return to Sosnowiec. They moved back into their former apartment, which had survived the devastation of the war. However, they did not remain for long, since that September Father Vasily was assigned to a position in the newly organized Polish Army, in charge of Orthodox Affairs in the Religious Ministry of the War Department. The whole family relocated to Warsaw. Father Vasily started the wearisome but important work of forming an Orthodox military chaplaincy. In 1921 he was promoted to the rank

of colonel and assumed responsibility as the head of the Orthodox military chaplaincy. At this time the church elevated him to the rank of Archpriest. Father Vasily served as chief of Orthodox chaplains for the next twenty five years. Within the Ministry of the Interior, he had his own cabinet, and was directly responsible to the minister himself.

Autocephaly

Father Vasily was also a chief advisor and close colleague of the



Metropolitan of Warsaw and All Poland, George (Jaroszewski), He participated in preparing all meetings of the Holy Synod and assisted Metropolitan George in his effort to obtain autocephaly for the Polish Orthodox Church. He accompanied the Metropolitan on the tragic day, February 8, 1923, when he was assassinated. The assassin had planned to kill Father Vasily as well, but he was captured before he could succeed. Father Vasily remained under police protection for some time, but attended to all the details of the Metropolitan's funeral, in which, under orders from Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, the First Regiment of the Szwolezers Regiment participated.



Father Vasily consequently zealously participated in the process of obtaining autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Poland, which was granted during the tenure of Metropolitan Dionisius (Waledynski) in 1925. Father Basil became the Metropolitan's closest advisor and confidant. He often accompanied the Metropolitan and acted as liaison with the Polish Head of State, Marshal Pilsudski. He was often invited to attend cabinet meetings at Belvedere, the Royal Castle, where on holidays he regularly signed the guest book.

conscientious and diligent servant, completely devoted to the Polish nation, expressed in his receiving a high distinction, the Order of *Polonia Restituta*, which is conferred upon him for his efforts in securing the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in Poland.”

Father Vasily retired from his government position in 1936. The couple decided to leave Warsaw and return to their home region, Hrubieszowska.

They built two houses in Teratyn, one for themselves and another for their widowed mothers. They did not enjoy this peaceful life for very long, because in 1939 the German Army invaded Poland. The village gradually declined. Their mothers both died. Matushka herself did not live to see the end of the war, but died in 1943. Father Vasily's youngest daughter, Helen, moved then into his house with her husband and daughter, in order to support him.

Father Martysz spent the difficult war years in Teratyn. On May 4, 1945, a few days before the surrender of Nazi Germany, his house was attacked. A female acquaintance warned him of the danger, but he replied, “I have done no harm to anyone and I will not run away from anyone.

“I have done no harm to anyone and I will not run away from anyone. Christ did not run away.”

In addition to his work as chief military chaplain, Father Vasily devoted much time to organizing pastoral ministry in the Ukrainian internment camps. In February 1921, Father Vasily appointed Father Peter Biton as chaplain for the camp in Aleksandrow Kujawski. He visited the Ukrainian internees himself and helped arrange camp churches. On July 8, 1921, he celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Ukrainian language for over 5,000 prisoners, while visiting this camp. His sermon, delivered in Ukrainian, greatly improved their morale. He also assisted in organizing chaplains' training courses in other Ukrainian army camps.

The Polish Secretary of the Army, Lucjan Zeligowski sent a congratulatory letter to Father Vasily on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination, December 7, 1925, stating “The virtues of this remarkably talented,

Christ did not run away.” Father Vasily did not fear and did not flee from his tormentors. He faced them bravely, in a Christ like way, accepting the crown of martyrdom. The villains, seeking gold and money, had no respect for his uniform as a colonel in the Polish Army, nor for his priestly vestments.

Martyrdom

The bandits broke into the house by breaking a window. With callous cruelty they tortured Father Vasily though his own crime was that he was an Orthodox priest. They beat his pregnant daughter Helen, causing her to miscarry. They beat Father Vasily for four hours, reviving him by throwing water on him when he lost consciousness. Atrociously tortured, he was finally murdered by a gun shot. The criminals threatened to shoot Helen as well, When she knelt before the icon of Christ and began to pray, the

executioner's arm and resolve weakened. Threatening to return to kill her as well, they left.

On Great and Holy Saturday, Father John Lewczuk celebrated the burial rites for Father Vasily in Chelm. He was buried at the local cemetery in Teratyn.

In October 1963, the earthly remains of Father Vasily Martysz were brought to Warsaw and solemnly reinterred in the Orthodox cemetery in the Wola district, next to his wife and mother-in-law. At the beginning of 2003, his holy relics were exhumed and placed in the church of St. John Climacus in Warsaw. The Holy Synod of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Poland promulgated the official Act of Canonization on March 20, 2003, and the rites glorifying

St. Vasily Martysz were celebrated in Chelm, June 7-8.

Orthodox Christians in the Polish Army have taken St. Vasily Martysz as their heavenly patron. They martyrdom of St. Vasily was the crowning accomplishment of his pious and dedicated life, a testimony to his amazing courage. He carried his cross without complaint to the end, accepting the crown of martyrdom as he had dedicated his life to Christ and the Holy Orthodox Faith.

*Written by Jaroslaw Charkiewicz
Translated by Magdalena Mularczyk &
Archpriest Michael Oleksa*



WONDERWORKING ICON TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

**THE SITKA MADONNA, SHE
IS CALLED, WILL TRAVEL
THE DIOCESE BEGINNING
THIS MARCH PRIOR TO A
TWO MONTH PILGRIMAGE OF THE LOWER FORTY-
EIGHT THAT BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 7TH AND
ENDS ON NOVEMBER 7TH**

***ALL REGIONS OF THE DIOCESE WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF
VENERATING AND PRAYING BEFORE THIS TREASURE IN THE
COMING MONTHS.***



MEET A SEMINARIAN



A Journey from Kwethluk to Kodiak...

Seminarian: Vasily William Fisher
Married to: Olga Olinka
Children: Nicolai & David
Village: Kwethluk *population*
Location: Lower Kuskokwim
Home Parish: St. Nicholas Church

Vasily completed his school years in Kwethluk and graduated from Kwethluk High School. In 1995 and 1996, he attended St. Herman Theological Seminary in Kodiak - completing two semesters. Vasily then attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks before being accepted at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. He found the lower 48 very different from his native life style in Alaska, and returned to Kwethluk in 2000. There he settled back to the life he had known in his home village. He worked as a substitute teacher and helped maintain the school's computer network.



Olga is the granddaughter of Matushka Olga Michael – said to be the first Native American woman to be considered for glorification in America. She is named “Olga” after her grandmother. Mother Olga passed to Memory Eternal before her granddaughter was born. However, she does know her through the stories of her deeds and from observing the many visitors to her grave in Kwethluk. Vasily and Olga

met in Kwethluk and had known each other in school. After they were married, Olga worked at the school as a Special Education teacher's aid. After two years she decided to quit her job in order to be home with their son, Nicolai.

His Grace Bishop NIKOLAI met with Vasily during the 2001 Kuskokwim Conference in Napaskiak, and began talking with him about returning to Saint Herman Theological Seminary. Vasily and Olga decided in 2003 that they would make the move to Kodiak. Preparations were made and the retirement fund, earned from Vasily's work at the school, was used

for the plane tickets from Kwethluk to Kodiak. They sold most of their household goods except the dishes and children's toys. These were given away to their neighbors in the village. They knew that there would be a new life in Kodiak and that the Lord would provide all that would be needed.

Vasily and Olga have made Kodiak home. They are moved by a deeper spirituality being so close to St. Herman. They plan to stay year round in Kodiak, remaining at the seminary during the summer months to assist with all of the summer activities. Vasily is expected to graduate with the class of 2007. Please keep the Fisher family in your prayers as well as the entire faculty and staff of Saint Herman Seminary. †

Village life in bush Alaska, means a subsistence lifestyle is an integral part of daily living. Being raised in the village, Vasily is naturally skilled in moose and caribou hunting, berry picking, fishing, and woodcutting. He was active in his parish of St. Nicholas participating as a Reader, Choir Director, and Sunday school teacher.



ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF: Russian Alaskan Liturgical Supply Online Store

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE...

- ◊ Shopping Cart
 - secure online ordering system
- ◊ Product photo Gallery
- ◊ Write a review or read a review
- ◊ Prompt shipment of your order
 - with email confirmation



www.russianliturgicalsupply.com
1-877-707-7257

MAKE AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT
Support Saint Herman Seminary
we need your help in equipping Alaska's
future clergy!

PROTOPRESBYTER JOSEPH KRETA SCHOLARSHIP

IN HONOR OF PROTOPRESBYTER JOSEPH KRETA A SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF EDUCATING ALASKA'S FUTURE CLERGY. CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE BY CONTACTING THE SEMINARY AT:

SAINT HERMAN SEMINARY
414 MISSION RD
KODIAK AK 99615
(907) 486-3524



SHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Saint Herman Seminary alumni association is active in supporting the ongoing efforts at the seminary. In 2003 the association announced the Associate Alumni Program. This offers an opportunity for anyone who did not attend SHS to become associate alumni. Annual dues are \$25 per year or \$500 for a life-time membership. These funds will be used to provide continuing education opportunities to Alaskan clergy. By joining this group members will receive an Associate Alumni Certificate issued at graduations and they will enjoy all of the privileges of regular alumni. This adoption by SHS is yet another way to support the work of Orthodoxy in Alaska. Applications can be obtained by calling or emailing Archpriest Chad Hatfield (907) 486-3524 frchad@hatfield.net

OCMC MISSION ALASKA

Orthodox Family Wellness Week ~ New Stuyahok, Alaska

What: Orthodox Family Wellness Week
When: June 13-19
Where: New Stuyahok, Alaska
Contact: www.ocmc.org (click the mission teams 2005 link)

Building on training received during an intensive week in which the clergy of the Diocese of Alaska participated in the Beauty for Ashes conference (a wellness initiative conference), an OCMC team of doctors, dentists, educators and youth workers is being formed join local clergy & lay leaders in southwestern Alaska this summer. They will offer an Orthodox Family Wellness Week in order to strengthen families in the community through spiritual, emotional & physical well-being.

Issues addressed will include, substance, emotional & verbal abuse, spiritual well-being and physical health in order to bring healing to communities broken by various forms of abuse.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact OCMC for information. Make an investment this summer and join in the healing and joy on the path of restoration.

A team will also serve in Old Harbor, located on Kodiak Island.

*“The Church’s business is salvation,
helping people reconcile with God,
receive His abundance, bless us for lives
that we all lead with him in the center.”*

-His Grace The Right Reverend NIKOLAI

OCMC Missionary Jim Calamas brought joy to Anchorage and Kodiak throughout the summer with his jubilant personality, gifted craftsmanship and untiring service

St. Sergius Church, New Stuyahok



Three Hierarchs ~ Bookstore ~

Offering Traditional
Coffins

and more...

come visit us on the web at
stlazarusalaska.com

or send for a free catalogue
PO Box 875910 ~ PMB #219
Wasilla, AK 99687
skufia@pci.net ~ 907-357-9693



St. Nicholas Church ~ Iguigig, Alaska

Ilaasi Funds Library Renewal

Funding for the year 2004, from Ilaasi Friends of St. Herman's, a fundraising arm of St. Herman Seminary, was dedicated to development of the St. Herman Seminary Library: an updated computer lab and library cataloging and circulation software, for students, faculty and researchers to quickly access the libraries resources.

With the Ilaasi funds raised thus far, the Seminary was able to purchase six new computers, a network laser printer and library software (Athena Library). Priest Innocent Dresdow assisted with computer hardware selection and installation.

After advising Subdeacon Mark Harrison, St. Herman Seminary Librarian on the library software purchase, Miss Eleana Silk, librarian at St. Vladimir Seminary, came to Kodiak to assist with the St. Herman Seminary library reorganization and circulation software development. Seminarian Brian Barber of St. Vladimir Seminary spent his summer internship with the St. Herman Library, assisting the library reorganization. Subdeacon Mark, Miss Silk and Mr. Barber worked diligently to sort and organize books, magazines and newspapers on the shelves; the library

development team established new library procedures and planned for the future library development. The library development team, with the blessing of His Grace, Bishop NIKOLAI Rector of St. Herman Seminary and Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Seminary Dean, brought all aspects of the library project together. New library furniture and a new library layout will provide a quiet, comfortable atmosphere for focused theological study.

What else can be done to assist St. Herman Seminary and the seminary library?

First, pray for the seminarians, their families and for the seminary faculty.

Second, become an active part of the seminary by joining or renewing your membership in Ilaasi, Friends of St. Herman's Seminary!

Third, the seminary needs donations of theological books, in good condition. Miss Silk

volunteered to provide a clearinghouse for books for St. Herman Seminary; only the books required by St. Herman's will be forwarded to Alaska, saving shipping expense. Any duplicate books received by St. Herman Seminary will go to the development of libraries in monastic communities within United States.

Please contact Miss Eleana Silk, 1-914-961-8313, ext. 365, for details on how to ship the theological books, or send your theological book donations to: The St. Herman Seminary Book Project, Attn: Eleana Silk, 575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707.

To assist St. Herman Seminary in other ways, please contact Mrs. Betty Y. Slanta, Executive Director, Ilaasi, Friends of St. Herman's Seminary, via e-mail: slanta@erols.com,

or write to: St. Herman Seminary
Ilaasi
414 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

When you donate to The North Star you help:

- ♦ Send it to nearly 8000 recipients world-wide
- ♦ Help offset printing and mailing costs
- ♦ Enable us to share with you life in the Diocese of Alaska
- ♦ Support the work of St. Herman Seminary

Please fill out the form below and send with your contribution
(checks payable to: RODA) All donations are tax-deductible

Thank You for your Generosity!

2005 KEYNOTE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

Archpriest Patrick Reardon editor of *Touchstone* magazine and well known author, will give the commencement address at graduation ceremonies on June 5, 2005 in Kodiak. He will also give a presentation on the Psalms during education day to be followed by a public evening presentation entitled: *Orthodoxy and the Book of Revelation*

Associate Dean Rdr. Paul Sidebottom



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Moving? or do you know somebody who wants to receive The North Star? Simply fill out and return the form below or easily submit address changes/additions online at: www.alaskanchurch.org and click the link to join our mailing list!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____

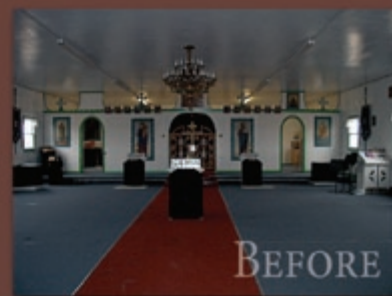
Email: _____

Mail to:
Russian Orthodox Diocese of Alaska
North Star Mailing
P.O. Box 210569
Anchorage, AK 99521-0569

AROUND THE DIOCESE O COME LET US WORSHIP



BEFORE



BEFORE



RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF ALASKA
P.O.Box 210569
ANCHORAGE, AK 99521-0569

FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT No. 699

ANCHORAGE

NAPASKIAK