



September 25, 2020  
*Hieromartyr Autonomus*

Greetings in the Lord!

In the Diocese of Alaska there is a great presence of the Lord among His beloved children. You can find this beautiful blessing from God if you visit His vineyard. You are welcome to His fruitful garden and are encouraged to feed of its fruit. You can feel the touch of His Love upon those who serve and lovingly follow Him. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ welcomed into His vineyard.

As bountiful as Christ's church may be, there are also great challenges we face in the Diocese of Alaska. Such challenges we face are: alcoholism, alcohol related assault and rape, suicide, violence towards women, and drug abuse all of which affects every age group and ethnicity.

We have a long and enduring love for our Diocese here at St. Herman's Seminary. We are dedicated to reaching out and presenting that Love in which Christ gifts to all of us. St. Herman teaches us with his prayer, "From this day forth, from this hour, from this minute, let us learn to Love God above all else, and to do His Holy Will." This teaching inspires us to realize that our salvation is with our brothers and sisters.


In this needful work, we are able to do as much as we can through the generous gift of those who give to Saint Herman Seminary in service to the Lord. Remembering the prayer of our beloved Bishop during the Divine Liturgy, "Lord, O Lord, look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vineyard which Thy right hand has planted, and establish it." We are, together as a family, working to produce more servants of Christ, through the help and prayers of all who give of their abundance.


St. Herman Seminary prepares each student by forming them in an environment that enables him or her to grow spiritually. The seminary is a community that is centered on prayer, having a daily practice of the cycle of church services, which helps them to focus on their education. The student experiences what a healthy community should be, and thereby should carry forward that experience to the communities that they will, by God's Grace, serve. One of the courses taught in St. Herman's is CPE – Clinical Pastoral Education. This 4<sup>th</sup> year course helps expose to the seminarians to fieldwork and chaplaincy. By accumulating hours in visiting patients at the local hospital, elders in an Elder House, visitations within community, the CPE course helps enable the student to get hands on experience for God's work.

We ask that you join us in this blessed work to help give to the members of the body of Christ, in the Diocese of Alaska, new hope. We ask you to give so that our needful work can continue at this time and for many years to come. May God Bless you, and keep you; and May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and give you Peace.

With Love in Christ,

*Saint Herman Seminary*

  
Facsimile  
Archbishop of Sitka and Alaska  
Rector of St. Herman Seminary

  
Archpriest Vasily Fisher  
Interim Dean of St. Herman Seminary