



# The Eagle

AUG.—SEPT., 1999

13-14  
№ 12-13

FRIENDS OF ST. INNOCENT'S ACADEMY

c/o ST. PAISIUS ABBEY, P.O. BOX 130  
FORESTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95436

## The Rock of Faith

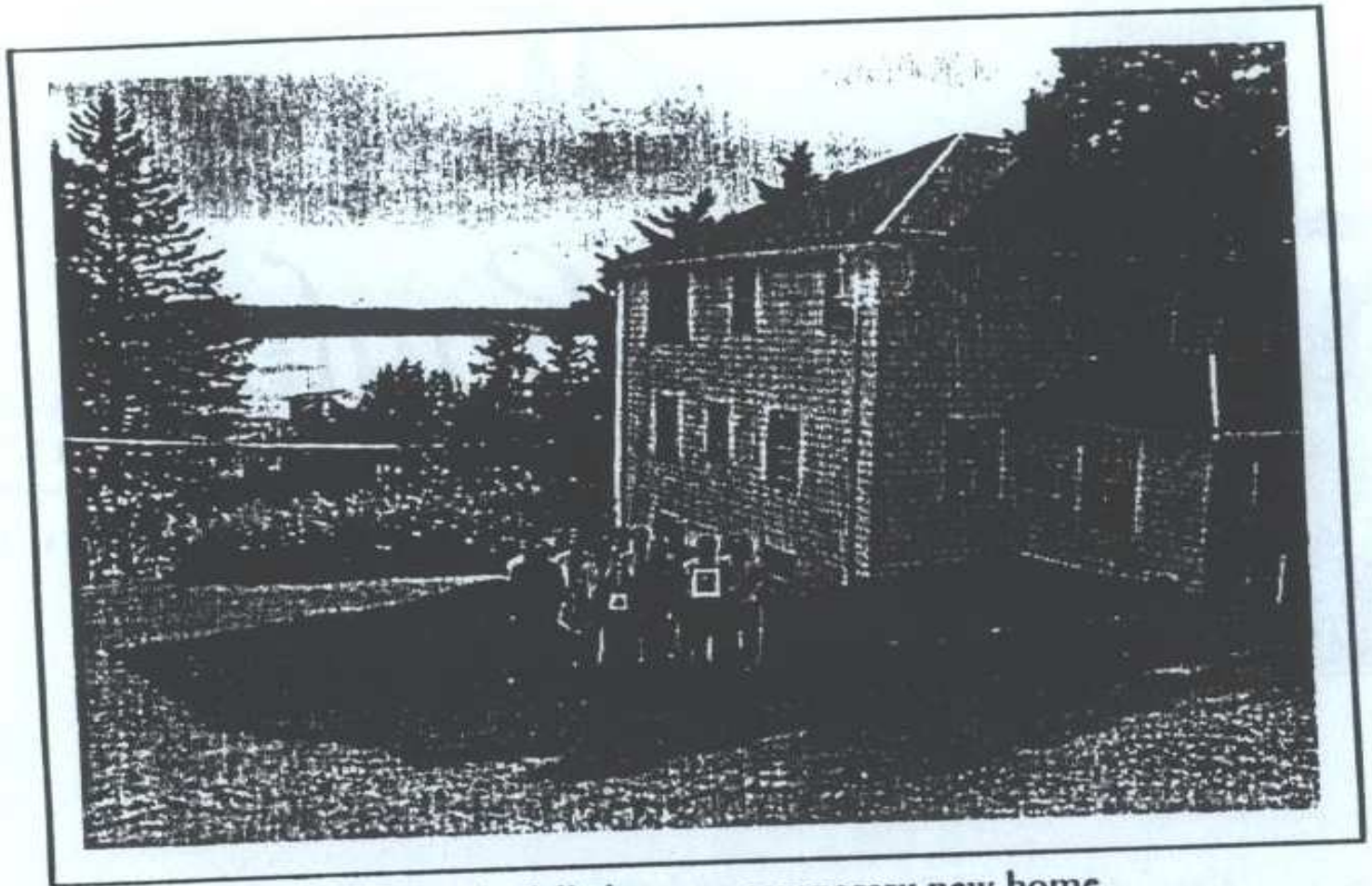
*Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,*

*A little over a year ago, we recall that a lease was signed on a building to house the newly-opening St. Innocent's Academy for young men. It was an act of faith, for there was no money for even the first month's rent, no income, and no means whereby to furnish a school and home for the twelve students waiting to move in. This first year has been a living testimony to the Apostle's words: Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen. What cannot be seen by men, is seen by God; and in a marvelous way, He provided all that was needed—at times, even to overflowing—to bring into reality the dreams hidden in the hearts of His servants, namely, to bring young souls to Christ and to Christian manhood. The miraculous testimonies of this abundance have been told throughout the year in The Eagle.*

*Now, at the beginning of its second year, God has provided yet further conditions wherein to work His wonders—for, once again, these laborers are handed the grace-bearing vessels of "weakness and poverty" wherein He might pour forth His abundance. In truth, out of "nothing" does He create and fill all things.*







At the Baptist Mission, our temporary new home.

*While waiting for God to bring forth a permanent home for the Academy, it has moved into temporary quarters suitable for the rest of the school year. May God grant them strength and vision to press on in this Godly work.*

—Abbess Michaila

### *The Move*

As we write this *Eagle* we are marching up the hill to our new temporary quarters. All is going smoothly and quickly. Our school days have begun in the midst of the move and are divided between prayer, studies, work, recreation, packing and unpacking. We are being housed for the next eight months in one of the beautiful historic houses of the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Being here is like being in the middle of an old New England Shaker village. It is a very peaceful atmosphere on a verdant hillside under the shade of large old trees. The site of the mission is about 500 yards from our former Academy building and shares the same stunning view of Shahafka Cove. This generous offer from the Kodiak Baptists was made to help





Anthony May surveying the bright blue Alaskan waters aboard "The Boat."

us while we relocate to a permanent facility. Even while we write these lines some inspiring possibilities are before us to consider.

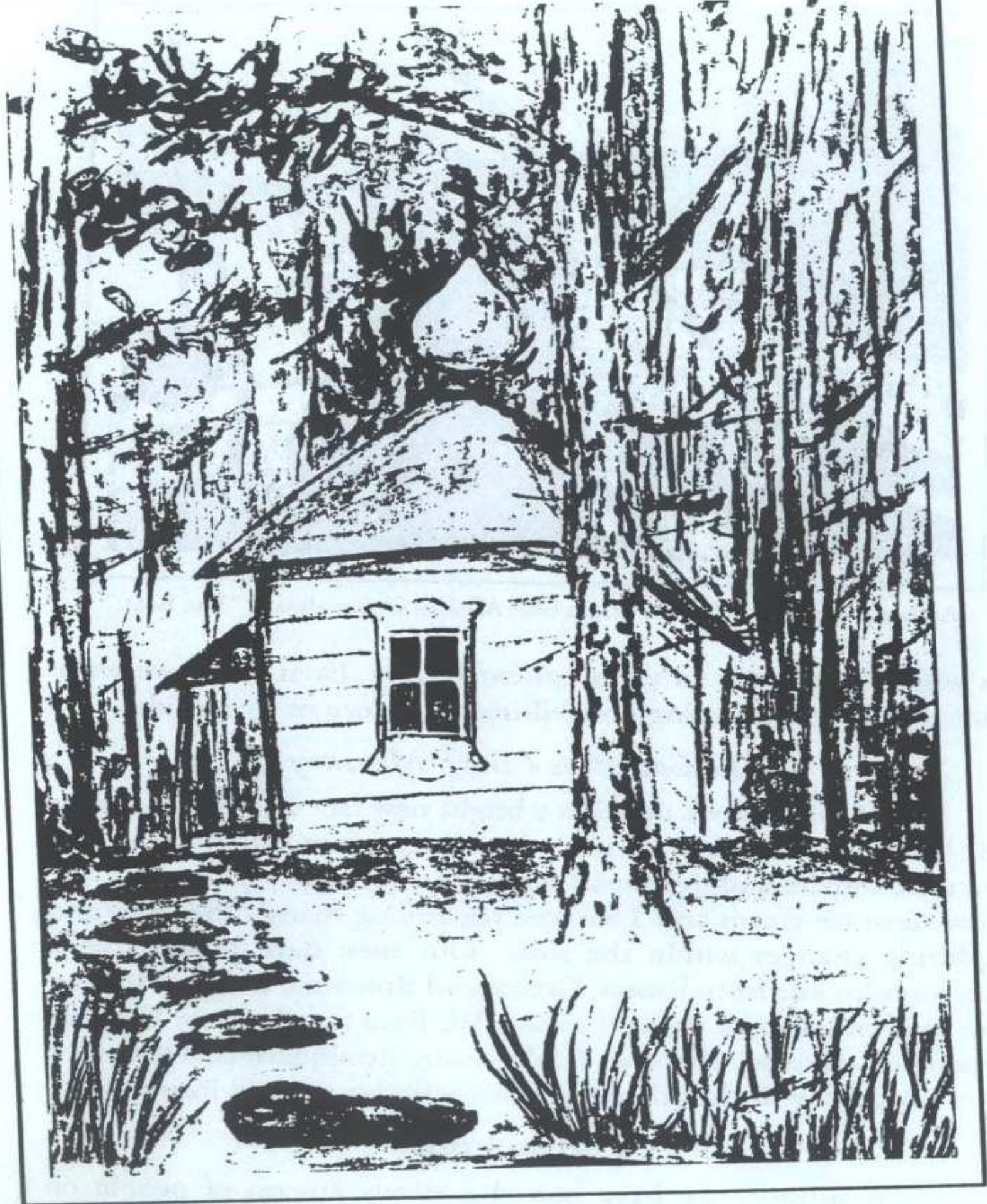
### *The Bookstore / Bush Ministry*

Our Monk's Rock now has a bright new face and it is changing the look of the outreach. Business has increased and attendance at all lectures, movies and live music nights has noticeably picked up. We now serve ice cream and Thai iced tea among many other new and uplifting changes within the store. Our men have brought back treasures for sale from Russia, Greece and Romania, and Fr. Herman has sent an influx of classical music. We have now become Kodiak's unofficial classical, chant and folk music headquarters. Next time you happen by Kodiak do drop in for refreshment and inspiration!

### *Pilgrim Visits*

This summer we have hosted a steady stream of people on pilgrimage to St. Herman's relics and holy sites. Among our own brotherhood to come and visit the Northern Isle were Steve Mandas and his son Peter from Virginia; also, from California, Martha and





The little chapel tucked in the trees,  
dedicated to the Meeting of the Lord, as depicted by  
one of the nuns.



Augustine Bille, and Allan and Donna Jones. They all had the opportunity to go out to Spruce Island and visit with the monastics there. They were blessed with some beautiful weather and all of them spent some significant time with us at the Academy. We present here some of their impressions:

*A Visit to Spruce Island—  
An Account by Alan and Donna Jones*

During my stay with the nuns on St. Nilus Island, Alan and Christopher stayed with the monks at St. Michael's Skete, along with Justin Wood and his son Josiah. On the third day the weather was good enough to get to St. Herman's part of Spruce Island, so two monks picked up the pilgrims to take them over in the skiff, the Archangel. We set off toward rugged Monk's Rock, passing puffins and seagulls.

At Icon Bay, where St. Herman stopped the tidal wave by placing an icon, the Archangel was brought to shore. Alan climbed out and held the boat, staying dry in his borrowed Extra-Tuffs, the ubiquitous rubber boots that everyone here wears. As I tried to climb out, a large wave buffeted us—and I plopped right into the water! Brr! The water here is so cold that 15 minutes' immersion will kill a person.

Fortunately, my synthetic clothes saved me as they dried quickly in the walk over to Monks' Lagoon. The monks went fishing while the pilgrims visited.

We visited the beautiful small chapel, the Meeting of the Lord, which was built by the monks and is painted all around with frescoes of the saints of America. We walked on the beach of Monks' Lagoon. We went up to the new monastery building, mostly completed just before the monks were forced to leave. There we were in for a shock! When pilgrims open the door to walk in, they are surprised to find that the monks left it fully furnished to live in! The





An excursion to St. Nilus' Island to see its new monastic dwelling. Nick and Dave Pestrikoff are standing to the left, next to our new Monk's Rock manager, Sr. Mary Butler.

new wood stove sits in the kitchen, split wood at its side. Clean dishes are in the dish dryer. Saws are neatly racked under the stairs. Tins of teas and spices are on the shelves. A Coleman lantern hangs from the ceiling. All is in good condition.

In the chapel area, the analogion and altar are dressed and icons are on the walls. The reader's stand is fully furnished with service books and bookmarks. A monastic veil hangs on a peg, next to a string of bells for the polyeleos. In the next room a good collection of books stands in bookshelves. A big box of first aid supplies sits on one shelf. Upstairs are sleeping bags and a small personal shrine.

It is hard to overemphasize the power of this example of nonpossessiveness!

While Alan and Christopher walked to St. Herman's holy well for water, I stayed at the new monastery and





Sean Sumstein, Caleb Wood, Fr. Paisius, Gabriel Woldegiorgis, and Captain Bill Spencer aboard the fishing charter vessel "The Boat."

swept, tidied, and placed fresh flowers on the analogion. Many other pilgrims have done the same before me, and perhaps you will too, when you go.

### *St. Innocent's Academy Is Moving*

When we returned from our pilgrimage we found that St. Innocent's Academy is definitely going to have to move. Justin Wood arranged for us to see the Baptist Mission building into which they will go.

Ayer Cottage is one of several buildings at the Kodiak Baptist Mission. Along with a nice kitchen, modest dining and living area, and five upstairs bedrooms for the students, there is a small private area for the DeLucias and some basement rooms for office space, laundry, and monastic quarters for visiting monks.

On our tour we were struck by the friendliness of the residents of this little Christian village. They have very nice



facilities including a shop, gym, and theater, which the students will be able to use. The Baptists are developing this property as a facility for at-risk youth, providing foster care.

We hope this might be a time for the next growth of the Academy to take place. There has long been a dream to have both an in-town campus and a farm campus, perhaps on Woody Island or another nearby rural area, where the young men could tend farm animals, garden, collect mushrooms, and have room to spread out.

Please pray for the Academy as it undergoes this transition, remembering the staff and students. Please pray for them to quickly get settled. Your prayers are much appreciated!



In our next issue we will be featuring some of the activities in a typical Academy day and some of the inspiring projects that our young men are beginning and will be carrying out throughout this school year. God bless you from the Northern lands of Saints Innocent and Herman.

—Fr. Deacon Paisius



An Alaskan puffin,  
illustrated by Doug Lindstrand