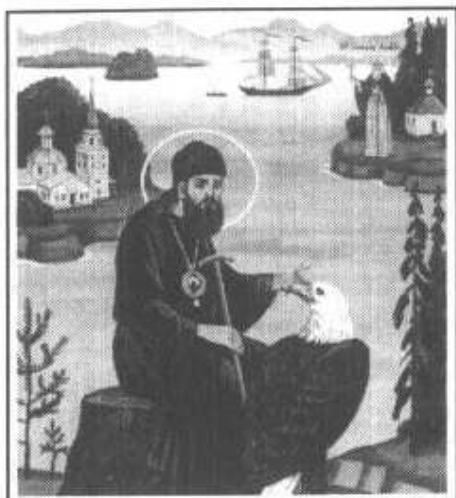




The Eagle

AUGUST, 2000

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FRIENDS OF ST. INNOCENT'S ACADEMY

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

ST. INNOCENT'S ACADEMY, P.O. Box 1517, Kodiak, AK 99615

Feast of the Transfiguration

This month the first fruits of the harvest are offered at the services for the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Kodiak is festively clothed in green, and the hills laden with fruiting berry bushes that glow with huge red and gold salmonberries.

The Academy has sent out some of its first fruits in the persons of four of our young men who are currently touring the "Lower 48." They are visiting parishes, bookstores, and missions, Midwest and East Coast and visiting the Memphis Family Conference, relying on prayer to get them from place to place. Please welcome them warmly if they come to your town!

August is our month to prepare for the new year which begins in September. We look forward to a number of new students, and to the return of our missionary quartet. We will have students in both the high school and college programs, as well as young men coming only for the vocational and spiritual training they receive here. Please keep us and them in your prayers; the harvest is ripening, and the laborers are few!

Donna Jones, Staff Member

"Folks"

by Mamas Pousson

In April, when our friend Johnny Pestrikoff was in the hospital, two students would be sent daily to read the Gospel to him. One day Gabriel and I went to read the Gospel. Johnny was downstairs in the cafeteria which is by the 'Care Center,' commonly referred to as the 'Old Folks' Home.' We went and gave him his reading in the cafeteria. A nurse who was there came up to us afterwards and said: "You know, if you were interested in coming and reading to the patients here, it would definitely be appreciated and welcomed."

Now I'm paraphrasing some, but that's basically what she said. I, of course, was excited and told her that I would ask Father Paisius, and if I got an affirmative that I would do it joyfully.

I was very inspired when I talked to Father about it. I was spouting ideas like a busted pipe, most of which wouldn't work, a couple of which did. That April we started a Bible study at the Old Folks' Home. Every Sunday at four o'clock a group of students (along with the sisters of St. Sophia's House) goes there bearing guitars, smiles and a King James Bible. Five to ten old folks usually come, a couple of which are Orthodox (and were baptized by Father Gerasim Schmaltz). We sing old hymns, troparions, and the sisters often play beautiful ballads. After the music, I open the Bible randomly and read a chapter, followed by a little talk on that chapter. We then usually close with a few more songs.

That's the basic format, although deviation can be expected depending on the day and the Spirit. Sometimes we sing the national anthem and sometimes we sing "Christ is Risen" in Georgian or Spanish. And, we always stay and just visit with the folks after its over. I think that's their favorite part, just plain, simple talking.

Every Monday night, I bring a movie and watch it with whoever shows up. Usually two to six people come to the movie. The movies are usually old black and whites, and always uplifting and with a good moral, whether it's Charlie Chaplin or Frank Capra.

We have been doing this now for going on four months and it's very fruitful. In a place where death often walks and the people are aware of their decreasing vitality, it's fruit enough just to share a piece of beauty and the Word of God, warming their hearts and brightening their eyes. God bless these old folks. ✠



Saint Sophia's House member Lucy Newton visit with a Care Center resident.

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Are you finished with your Academy videos? If you or your mission are finished, please send them on back so we can send them on to others. You may copy them freely first!

For the Academy's Visitor's guide, subscriptions to the Eagle, or information on our video, contact Alan and Donna Jones at St. Innocent's Academy, (907) 486-2529, e-mail alandonnaj@ak.net.

Contacting the Academy: Fr. Paisius De Lucia, Dean, (907) 486-4376, FAX 486-1758, St. Innocent's Academy, P.O. Box 1517, Kodiak, AK, 99615, e-mail: innocent@ptialaska.net.

Safety Training

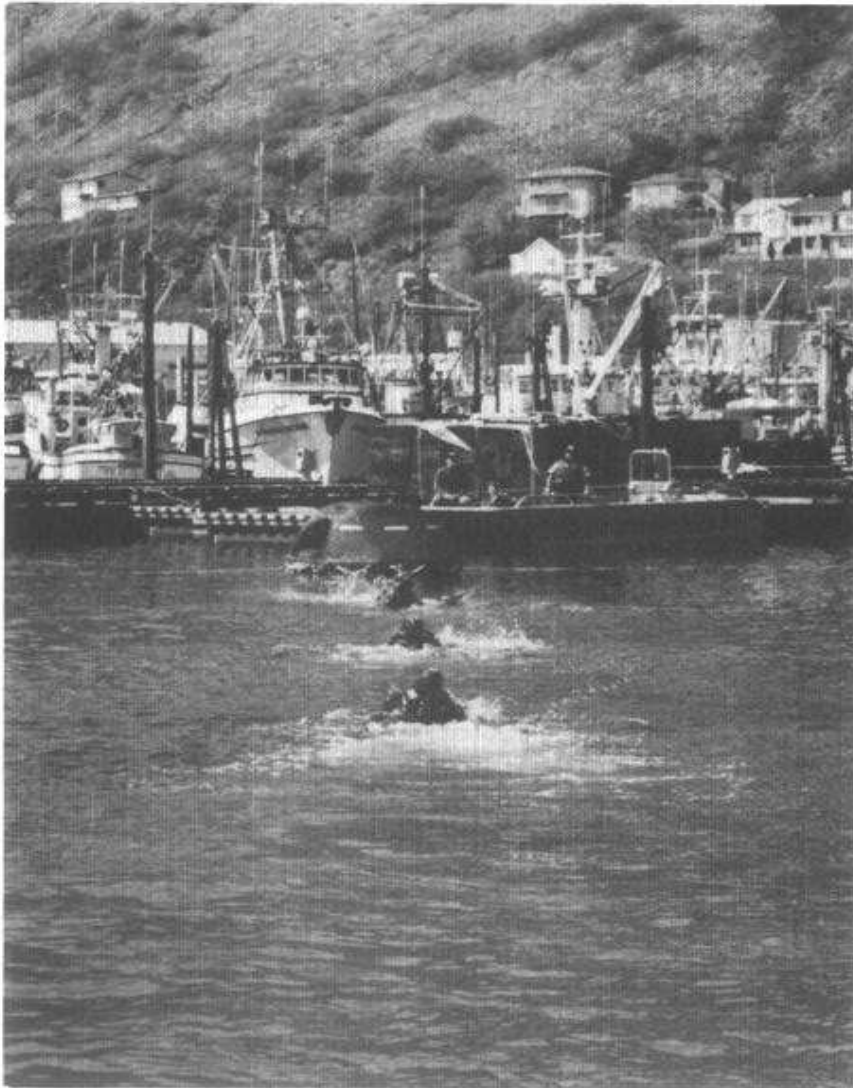
One important focus at the Academy is on safety training for both staff and students. Courses which have been offered include Coast Guard approved cold water safety, Red Cross first aid and CPR, kayaking, and navigation, as well individual and group instruction in shop safety, tool use and vehicle use.

Top right: A four man team of students (l.) Jon Pryor, Brendan Shettig, Caleb Wood, and Assistant Dean Justin Wood quickly suit up in the Kodiak CrabFest Survival Suit Race. (May, 2000)

Below: The team splashes through icy harbor water to enter the

survival raft. Survival suit drills like this one are essential to preparing sailors in cold northern waters to survive a boat sinking.

Bottom right: Lucy Newton of St. Sophia's House learns to run an outboard motor from Mr. Wood in the quiet waters of the channel between the Academy and nearby Woody Island.







The Way of the Cross is the Fountain of Youth

by a Disciple of Christ

I was recently struck by a comment I heard that many people who were zealous and idealistic in their youth to do great things for God, have, in their older years, settled into conventional ways of thinking adjusted to the ways of the world. They even impose such 'adjustments' upon their children, having somehow lost vision and our main purpose in this world.

When I was young, I remember observing old people in a pathetic state, especially when I went into a nursing home and would say to myself, "I don't want to be like that." I yearned to meet an older man or woman who, when you beheld them and looked into their eyes, shone forth kindness and wisdom. I wanted to find someone who was fully alive and could direct me in the way of truth, and thus, to become spiritually free.

When I discovered Jesus Christ and began to follow Him, I decided then that having *put my hand to the plow* I would never turn back. Now that I am older, I realize that the only way to keep one's soul supple is to follow Jesus Christ and to every day make the decision to sacrifice one's life for God's glory, which means walking the Way of the Cross. When the decision has been made to "die daily," as St. Paul says, then one is positioned to wait on the Lord, to trust in Him and in His divine Providence, to hearken unto Him, and to go wherever He leads on the narrow way to life.

If one continues to sacrifice oneself and live totally for God, then we weave the wedding garment of our soul. Wisdom is acquired. The eyes shine with light. One has found the true fountain of youth and wisdom which is the Holy Spirit. ✠



Above: The Academy was honored to be asked to sing at this year's Fishermen's Memorial service, held to commemorate those fishermen lost each year at sea. Photo courtesy of the Kodiak Daily Mirror.

Below: The children of St. Michael's School in Santa Rosa, California, assemble and mail 'The Eagle' each month as one of their service projects. The Academy is very grateful for their labors!





Pilgrim Sites of Spruce Island, Part 2.

Mt. St. Herman The highest mountain on Spruce Island can be seen from Kodiak. The remains of a large Orthodox cross can be seen if you climb to the top.

The Barabaras Three monastic cells built in the native Aleut style, with the roof and walls covered in flowering, mossy turf, are now empty, but stand in mute witness to past ascetic labors at Monk's Lagoon.

Fr. Gerasim's House, located inland from the beach of Monk's Lagoon. The interior of the house has been preserved with many of his possessions, furnishings, and icons. The old Russian style of his prayer shrines and the simplicity of his lifestyle are beautiful and touching. A sense of his presence can still be strongly felt.

The Kaluga Mother of God Chapel, was built over the site of St. Herman's cell by Fr. Gerasim.

St. Michael's Skete On the mountain above Sunny Cove, on Spruce Island's south side, stands the castle-like St. Michael's skete, home to monks year round. Llamas are used to carry wood and supplies up the steep hill to the skete.

St. Nilus Skete Nuns currently live, work, and pray on otherwise uninhabited Nelson Island, within sight of Monk's Rock to the east and Mt. Monashka (Mount Nun) across the bay on Kodiak Island to the south.

Many thanks to Seraphim Rose Press for donating the labor and materials to print 'The Eagle.'