



# The Eagle

NOVEMBER, 2000

No 27

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FRIENDS OF ST. INNOCENT'S ACADEMY

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

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

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## *Thanksgiving*

The Academy has special reason to give thanks this year as we have just completed our first week of harvesting potatoes and other vegetables at Kodiak's Faith Farms. Agriculture has always been one of our visions for the young men, in accord with St. Innocent's advice for balanced education. This is a first step toward the dream of having our own rural agricultural campus.

Outreach by the singing group, now enlarged with the addition of some new students, has extended to the Alaska Harbor-master's Convention, the Christian Youth Ministries Conference, the University of Alaska Regent's reception, and the Alaskan Toastmaster's Convention dinner. A concert for the Coast Guard will be coming in November.

At Monk's Rock, outreach to Kodiak young people has been refreshed with the beginning of a Socratic Circle discussion group followed by live music, meetings of the Pushkin Literary Society, and the installation of a good used book section whose proceeds will be used to support the Pushkin newsletter.

With this and so much more activity in the past month (including a visit from Andrew Kalford from Boston who is making a film documentary of the Academy) we are very grateful

giving thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ and to all of you for your support and prayers for our efforts with these young men attending our Academy.

Fr. Paisius De Lucia  
Dean

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*THE FOLLOWING are comments on the Academy made in Boston by Sam Dank and Christopher Jones during the August tour of the Lower 48. Transcribed from the video filmed by Andrew Kalford:*

*Christopher:*

“Father Paisius is very encouraging towards all the students (and their learning to sing). He has a pretty good ability to bring it out of them.

“Generally what we have found is that lots of people have things inside them that are surprising – from musical talents, to arts, to the ability to speak in front of others, to courage and the inner strength to stand up for what they believe in.

“We have been amazed at the flowering that you find in young men that seem to have nothing.... they come out of the world in their own heads, doing their own thing completely.

“We’ve found it is shocking how much good is in them, and how much can come out when you put them in the right environment, with the right people, working with them in the right way. That they just start to let loose all the things inside them that are good....it all comes out and starts to nourish other people as well.

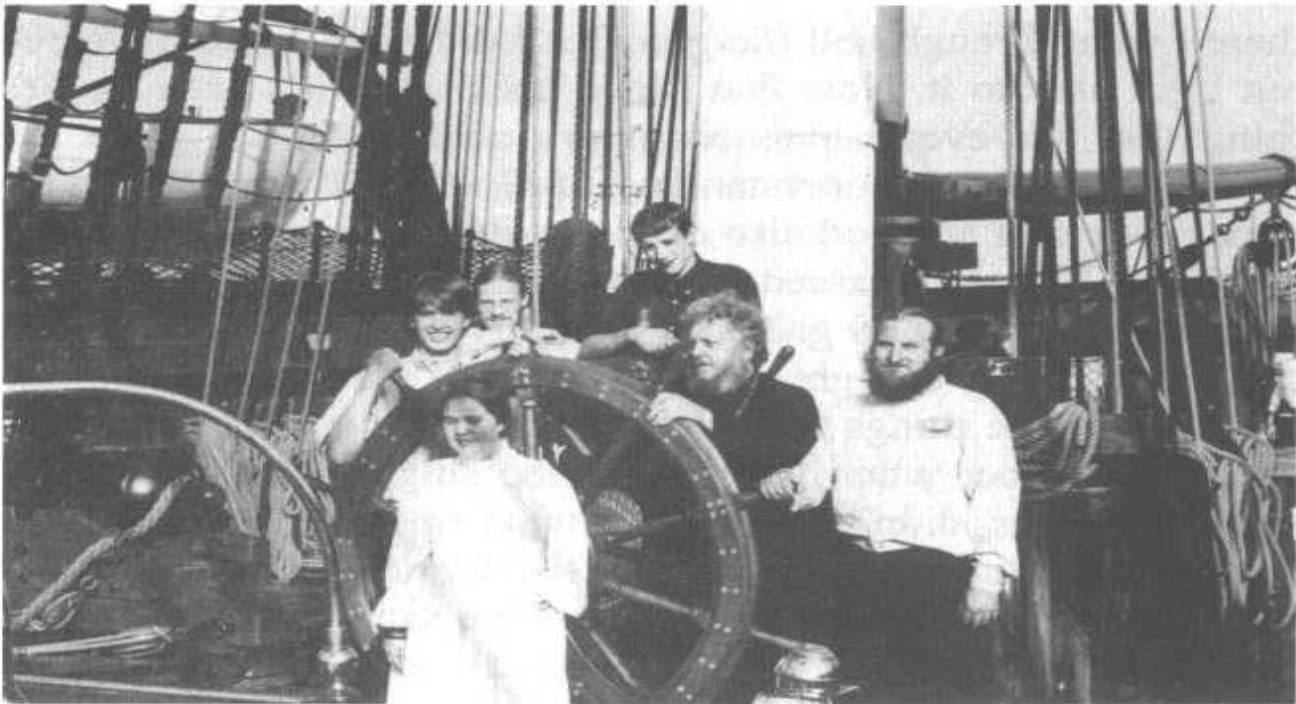
“We are all edified by what our brothers do for us.”

*Sam:*

“I’m Samuel Dank, more popularly known as Fr. James’ son, for all of you who know my father. I came up to the Academy about a year and four months ago...in pretty sad shape...kind of a nut...didn’t quite know what I was getting in to. When I first got



*At the Memphis, TN, Family Conference: The men sang, danced and spoke about the Academy. Their trip had begun in Chicago two weeks earlier. One last singing request came just when they were piling in the car to go. Next stop: Nashville, TN, Indianapolis, IN, and all points north.*



*In Boston, ME: a short time to relax. At the wheel of the U.S.S. Constitution in Boston Harbor. Center: Fr. James Robinson; standing before the wheel is daughter and assistant hostess Sarah. Next stop: Charlottesville, VA.*



*After two more stops in Richmond and Charlottesville VA, the men had to bring the truck they had borrowed back to the Baumans in Indianapolis. They had put 3,000 miles on it in the last eight days. Pictured above: Matushka Margaret (left), Fr. Stephen, Anna, and Stephanie. Next stop: Madison, WI.*

there I went through hell [*laughter*]....I did not want to be there... but I got used to it. Now that I look back on it, it's been the best thing that has ever happened in my entire life, bar none. It's brought me to new understanding of God and of myself, and of what a wretch I am, and also of the world around me. And one of the things I've also learned at the Academy is music. I've learned a lot about music, and gained a great love for music that I never had before, never thought could be had, and it's changed my life.

"One of the things that we use music for is as a missionary tool. I remember when we first started singing, just a bunch of rag-taggle boys, didn't quite know what we were doing, and we learned that first song we sang, 'What Wondrous Love is This.' It was around November of last year. We sang it for this Protestant church congregation, it was actually pretty incredible, the church was full, they had this arched church, it was really beautiful. Then we left and we were heading home, and someone said, 'Let's go to Walmart,' and *screeeeech* [*steering wheel motion*]. So we drove into the parking lot, and we walk up to the counter, and we sing this song, right in Walmart. I'm not used to this kind



*Madison, WI: Stacking wood as a thank-you to the Smebak family, who had invited the travelers for breakfast that morning. Next stop: home at last to Alaska!*

of thing, right? [*Laughter*] It was incredible. Some people were shocked, ‘What are these idiots doing’, and some people were actually really touched. It’s amazing what a powerful missionary tool it is. And so we have taken this full scale and have tried to go around the U.S. and bring that to other people, bring joy to other people, and I hope that some of that comes to you tonight.”

### *An Appeal*

You have read in this issue and the previous issue of the Eagle some accounts of the men’s tour of the East and Midwest. We have received many comments on their presence, maturity, enthusiasm, and joy from people who saw them. These are the fruits of our labors with these young men, and we have been glad to share



*The Matanuska Glacier, Alaska: A relief from hot weather awaits the men back in Alaska, as they take a day of rest after their labors. The glacier is a garden of ice mounds, lakes, and streams pouring down into caves, and made a good day of recreation after a month on the road. Then, back to Kodiak.*

them with you. We would ask you to read the following, and help support the work of the Academy in any way you can.

### **Eagle Scholarship Fund**

The tuition we receive, including that from the older men who are self-supporting, only pays for about 25% of the expenses to run the Academy. Most parents cannot pay all of the \$500 a month cost of sending a young man to the Academy, (which works out to just \$16 a day for room, board, and tuition). Our policy is that if the parents cannot pay the whole cost we ask them to get what help they can from friends, relatives, and their churches, and even this is usually not enough. However, no one has ever been turned away for lack of funds. We believe that God sends us our students, and He will also send us the money to support their education.

We try, with God's help, to raise the rest of our revenue through Academy work projects (the bulk of the rest) and pledges from our supporters. While learning how to work, and learning

work skills, are an essential part of the Academy program, the amount of time we spend on work projects in order to meet our expenses can get in the way of other parts of the young mens' education. Thus your participation is vital.

The money you pledge on the enclosed form will be used to establish an Eagle Scholarship Fund. Your pledge to this Fund will help support student, family, and the Academy. Please invest in the growth of a person made in the image and likeness of God. Thank you for your kindness!

### **Help Us Keep the Eagle Flying**

Many people have asked us what it would cost for them to subscribe to the Eagle. The Eagle has always been sent free of charge, and we would like that to continue. It is our main outreach, and one in which we try to give a flavor of our life here at the Academy. Please help us by your donation or your pledge on the enclosed form. Thank you!



*Kodiak, AK: A quick change on the plane into some clothes bought at an Anchorage thrift store makes for an unusual homecoming. Hawaiian shirts, yellow, blue and pink sunglasses, and colorful hats brighten the Kodiak Airport.*

Here is an e-mail the men received during the trip:

**From:** Fr. Paisius, St. Innocent's Academy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 16, 2000 8:07 PM  
**To:** Christopher, Michael, Sam, Anthony, Brendan  
**Subject:** Fw: Missionary 4 (5)

Dear Men,

Our family just returned from the mainland and have received your messages. It's all very inspiring news. I relayed all that Michael told me on the phone this evening (Wednesday) to everyone. We are all so excited and are praying for you daily without fail. Your work is helping the Academy and our whole brotherhood in ways I did not imagine. Please keep up the good work and remember to endure any hardships between you with the practice of Unseen Warfare. We can't wait to hear the full stories from all of you. I'm sure you are wondering what the rest of the missionary voyage will bring to you. Remember to volunteer to sing in hospitals and jails if possible and do not shun any of the "hard spots," you know, the teen centres of America. What about shopping malls? There would be some humbling moments there! Also God's Grace would come tumbling out. The darker the night, the brighter the Light. You will have jeers on earth but your applause will be in Heaven!!!! Endure all criticism like brave martyrs. Strike a hard blow against satan and his forces. He's wreaked enough havoc on our youth. Bring to the "captives" the Light of Jesus Christ and tell them about St. Herman and St. Innocent and Alaska.

With Love, Prayer, Complete Support, Pride in your Courage, Constant Prayer to Our Lord and His Most Holy Mother, we remain your loving Brothers and Sisters in Christ at the Academy that awaits your joyful return!!!!!!

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

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*To receive The Eagle, the Academy Visitor's Guide or videos, please contact Alan and Donna Jones (907) 486-2529, e-mail alandonnaj@ak.net (Note: This is a corrected address).*

*Our new website is at <http://www.ptialaska.net/~innocent>.*