

ALEUTIAN DEANERY REPORT 2017

Your Grace, archpriests, priests, deacons and faithful of the diocese.

Master Bless,

We had a busy summer this year in the Aleutian deanery. With the visitation of his Grace, bishop David during the feast day of Holy Pentecost, as well as celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Aleut evacuation and bombing of Dutch Harbor- June 3 and 4, along with parishioners from our deanery came and communities throughout Alaska and parishioners from lower 48. His grace along with veterans and evacuees attended different events that marked the occasion. One them was a flight tour in a WW2 float plane.

Also in July I made my first trip as dean to St. Paul to celebrate the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. With the parishioners we also celebrated Fr. John's one-year anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood. I hope and pray that God will grant him and his family many more blessed years. As he continues to serve faithfully St. Peter and St. George.

The parish of Holy Ascension was also visited by actor Sam Neil who is from New Zealand. visiting the cathedral and doing a film documentary on the voyages of Captain Cook. We gave him a tour of the cathedral and in return he prayed quietly for his, and the film crew's safe journey.

We were also visited by Fr. Evgeni and Fr. Evlogi, along with polar swimmers from Russia and one from China. They are the same swimmers who swam the Bering Strait from Russia to Alaska. They had come to Unalaska to celebrate the 220th anniversary of the birth of St. Innocent of Alaska. To mark the occasion, the polar swimmers swam in Illiulik Bay, from the grave yard to the cathedral, roughly 2.5 miles. They also swam the channel from Hog Island to the Grand Aleutian hotel, roughly 3 miles in length. They were aided by the harbor masters, in case of emergencies. We also had a Russian translator who is also a bilingual teacher in Unalaska school. Both fathers and I served Divine Liturgy together in Slavonic and in English at the St. Innocent chapel of the Cathedral, with the blessing of his Grace Bishop David.

Also, to mark the occasion, Fr. Evgeni, the swimmers, and I carried a steel cross, roughly 8 ft. In length, up Mt. Ballyhoo, which is approx. 1,300 ft. high. We planted it overlooking both Unalaska and Dutch Harbor.

As I continue to make pastoral visits through the deanery I ask for your holy prayers, as traveling can be unpredictable with flight services and weather.

St. Paul- 2 baptisms, 2 funerals

Atka- 0 baptisms, 0 funerals, 0 marriages

St. George- 1 funeral

Nikolski- 0 baptisms, 0 funerals, 0 marriages

Akutan- 1 baptism, 1 chrismation, 2 funerals

Unalaska- 1 chrismation

Asking for your archpastoral blessings, your sinful and unworthy servant Evon, Aleutian dean