

Orthodox patriarch honored by Alaska Pacific

His Holiness, Aleksy II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, was honored September 19 by Alaska Pacific University. During the first visit by the Patriarch of Moscow to Alaska, the university awarded His Holiness the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

The degree was presented in recognition of the Patriarch's courageous leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church during the Au-

gust, 1991, coup, and in recognition of his efforts to renew his church after seventy years of totalitarian suppression.

President F. Thomas Trotter, in announcing the award, noted that the Russian Orthodox Church is celebrating its bicentennial in Alaska.

"The influence of the first missionaries is still present in Alaska," Trotter said. "Alaska Pacific Uni-

versity, with its keen interest in religion and its historic ties with the United Methodist Church, and other religious bodies, is pleased to recognize Alaska's religious heritage by honoring the Patriarch on his historic visit."

The Patriarch made a special note of appreciation in accepting the honorary degree when he addressed the audience of more than 700.

"I accept this honor from Alaska Pacific University not for myself, but for the whole Russian Orthodox Church who brought education and the gospel to Alaska."

Mr. Larry Carr, chairman of the board of the university, was an honored guest on the stage during the ceremonies. Mr. Carr and President Trotter presented the degree and doctoral hood at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage. Also attending the ceremony were His

Beatitude, Theodosius, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America; the RT. Reverend Bishop Gregory, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska of the Orthodox Church in America; and The Most Reverend Archbishop Francis Hurley, Archbishop for the Roman Catholic Church and the vice-chairman of the board of the university, and several other notable guests.