

# Three graduate from St. Herman's Seminary

by Mike Rostad  
for the Tundra Times

KODIAK — Three students graduated from St. Herman's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kodiak recently.

Dr. Svetlana Feodorovna, a professor of history at the University of Moscow, was the keynote speaker at a special banquet in advance of the commencement, honoring the graduates.

Feodorovna, had been researching the archives at the seminary's St. Veniaminov Institute for her forthcoming books on Kodiak and Sitka.

The commencement took place at a ceremony following the Sunday morning liturgy at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church. The three students are Seraphim Rohlman, Michael Trefon and Thomas Moffatt.

At the service, graduate Rohlman was ordained to the diaconate and graduate Father Deacon Trefon to the priesthood.

Father Trefon has been assigned rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Nondalton. Father Deacon Rohlman will be serving the Transfiguration of Our Lord Church in Iliamna under Father David Askov, who also is a St. Herman's Seminary graduate.

Father Deacon Rohlman and Moffatt were granted bachelor of sacred theology degrees. The seminary dean, Father Joseph Kreta, says faculty members anticipate giving the school's first associate of arts degrees next year.

A majority of the students at St. Herman's are Alaska Natives who desire to serve the church as priests, deacons or readers. Many of them live



St. Herman's graduate Father Michael Trefon, above left, stands behind Bishop Gregory Afonsy at his ordination. Above right, graduate Father Deacon Seraphim Rohlman, his wife Matuhka-Kathrine and their daughter Efgenia.



subsistence lifestyles in their communities.

Some of the students are ordained into Holy Orders before they graduate.

Andrew Myers of Pilot Station was ordained into the diaconate April 29 and Sergie Active is scheduled to enter that office during the Kuskokwim River Church Conference in his home village of Kasigluk in August.

Victor Nick, a 1988 graduate of St. Herman's also will be ordained deacon at the conference. Father Deacon Myers and Sergie Active plan to return to St. Herman's this fall for their senior year.

St. Herman's Seminary was established in 1973 in response to the need for trained Native priests to serve

the 89 Orthodox parishes in Alaska. Originally located in Kenai, the school relocated to Kodiak in 1974.

Students met for classes in the Holy Resurrection Church basement and choir loft until a building was erected. Since then, two more buildings have gone up. Plans are being developed to expand the facilities.

Photos by Mike Rostad