

# Commencement at Saint Herman's Pastoral School

May 10 was Commencement Day at Saint Herman's Pastoral School in Kodiak. Following a Divine Liturgy at the Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church, seven students received certificates from His Grace, Gregory, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska, for having completed the one-year Church Reader's program.

They are Jonah Andrew (Kwethluk), Kalika Cyril (Napaskiak), Jimmy George, Jr. (Angoon), Alexander Nikolai (Napaskiak), Martin Nicolai (Kwethluk), Paul Nicolai (Kwethluk), and Ilarion Pletnikoff (St. Paul Island).

The one year program is an intensive curriculum of studies designed to train Church Readers who may lead Church services in the absence of a priest.

In addition to their theological studies, the students receive instruction in alcoholics and marriage counselling and

complete a course of supervised field work.

Next year Saint Herman's expects to graduate its first student to have completed the full four-year program of preparation for the Holy Priesthood.

Father Deacon Michael Williams of Sitka enrolled in the School when it first opened at Wildwood Station in Kenai, and will enter his fourth year of studies next fall.

On May 11 a graduation banquet was held to honor the students. Archpriest Joseph P. Kreta, Dean of St. Herman's led the festivities at which Kodiak Mayor Tommy Frost, Attorney Roy Madsen, His Grace, Bishop Gregory, and other guests and members of the faculty addressed

the students.

In his remarks to the gathering, Father Kreta noted that next year when his students return, the new dormitory and classroom building is expected to be completed.

In addition to the resident faculty, which includes Father Kreta, Father Paul Merculief and Sister Victoria, Father Michael Oleksa of Dillingham, a visiting lecturer, was also present for the commencement exercises.

Next fall Saint Herman's will add two new full time faculty members to its staff: Miss Janet Maximoff of Youngstown, Ohio (instructor in music) and Dr. John Breck of Paris, France (Professor of Scripture and patristics).