

Alaska Native Language Center News

A Patron Saint for Alaskan Linguists

The Alaska Native Language Center received the following note from Fr. Michael Oleksa, formerly of Dillingham, now located at Old Harbor on Kodiak Island:

"It was announced at Montreal that Veniamenov was officially added to the canon of saints as 'Saint Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleutians and Apostle to America' on October 6, 1977. I'm sure our booklet on him was well received in Moscow. It was his tremendous work among the Aleuts that received the most attention, especially his linguistic achievements. Quyana!"

The booklet referred to is called "Father John Veniaminov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aq-llu," written by Fr. Oleksa in English and translated into Central Yup'ik by Marie Blanchett of the Yup'ik Language Workshop in Bethel in July 1975. Designed for elementary school use, the booklet tells of the life of Veniamenov and Netsvetov and their work in bringing the Orthodox religion to Alaska and studying Alaska Native languages. It was submitted as one of the documents in support of the canonization of Veniamenov.

Yup'ik Teacher Here for Training

Bobby Andrews of Wood River, near Dillingham, spent the week of October 31-November 4 at ANLC for orientation and training for teaching Yup'ik as a second language. In cooperation with Johanna Bouker, director of the University's (REA) Dillingham Extension Center, Bobby is exploring the possibility of teaching courses for the center in Dillingham. He visited classes in the U of A's Alaska Native Language Program and worked intensively with Steven Jacobson and Irene Reed to acquire necessary skills for his new career.