

I was blessed to be the official photographer for his Eminence's consecration as Bishop of Sitka and Alaska. He called me his photopresbyter. Since that time, he ordained me reader and subdeacon. Then he sent me to St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. Finally, he ordained me and assigned me to be his deacon; and I have travelled with him to several places in Alaska.

His Eminence loved the Liturgy. It was always important to him that the liturgy flow up to heaven and be beautiful. The prayer of the washing of hands, "I will wash my hands in innocence, and go about thine altar, O Lord, that I may hear the voice of thy praise and tell of all thy miracles. O Lord, I love the beauty of Thy house and the place where thy glory dwells" exemplifies his approach to serving Christ and His Church. In all that he did, Vladika sought to teach the miracles of Christ and to love and exclaim the beauty of Christ's house.

He was a teacher. His love for education was evident in all that he did. We often spoke of education and he was always concerned for the education of the faithful in all walks of life. He was always thinking about how best to serve St. Herman's Seminary and support his seminarians. He was always passing on lessons and ideas to support our diocesan clergy in the education of the faithful—and especially the children.

His support for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and its profound impact on the spiritual development of the young ran as strong and fierce as the rivers that mark the Diocese of Alaska. His smile of joy was radiant, and time became meaningless when he had children asking questions of their Archbishop about the Church. Our last trip to New Halen, Alaska was a classic example as one hour stretched to two and the children just kept asking about the Church and Christ and their Archbishop; and Vladika loved every minute with them!

I never went anywhere in Alaska with him where he would not be able to tell me about the people in the parish and keep up to date on their lives. He always knew the names of all his clergy, their families, and their extended families. I must confess that he often overwhelmed me with his knowledge of the people of Alaska their families and lives—and when he didn't quite know, he was always asking to fill in what he was missing! Every chance he could get to do blessings, weddings, funerals, and whatever he could to serve the faithful of Alaska he would take. I never saw him more disappointed than when "weather" prevented him from being able to make a wedding, ordination, or funeral. His desire to travel and visit and pastor for the people of Alaska was evident.

I cannot express how important Vladika David is to me or how much I will grieve his loss. I am an unworthy and inadequate deacon, but Vladika has blessed me despite my shortcomings. It has been a blessing to serve him, and I will ALWAYS remember him.

Your Eminence, Master Bless! May your memory be eternal!

-Reverend Deacon Peter Kamilos-