



The Alaskan Shepherd



Volume 48 Number 4

June 2010

Some give by going to the Missions

Some go by giving to the Missions

Without both there are no Missions

YEAR OF THE ALASKAN PRIEST: Part V FATHERS STANISLAW JASZEK AND ROMAN CALY

Sister Marian Leaf, O.S.F., joined the Alaskan Franciscan Sisters in 2006, as Parish Facilitator in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. Both she and Father Stanislaw Jaszek minister to the villages of Aniak, Holy Cross, Kalskag, Pilot Station, and Mountain Village. Sr. Marian was thrilled to learn about a planned article featuring Fr. Stan. She sent the following comments about Fr. Stan, adding that he was far too humble and modest to mention his worthy attributes and that he does not want to be in the spotlight. She writes: *Fr. Stan has an abundance of talent. He is a talented carpenter and he has been making many things since childhood. When he was in South Africa, he built several churches in his outstations as well as building the rectory at the main parish. He was also involved in the construction of St. Bernard Church in Stebbins, Alaska. He is a gifted photographer. He has an eye for the beauty of creation, from the 'bigness' of Alaskan nature scenes to the tiniest bug on a flower; he allows his attention to focus on whatever is around him. After cropping and working with a photo, he does his own matting and, at times, his own framing. You*



Fr. Stan Jaszek and Adult Faith Director, Patrick Tam, watch "break-up" on the Kuskokwim River in 2009. --Photo by Sr. Marian Leaf, O.S.F.

should see the display on the walls of his home-base Pilot Station! All who enter are immediately drawn into his photography.

Fr. Stan enjoys new projects and puts his whole self into whatever he is doing. He devotes his time to extensive research to gain as much information and knowledge regarding whatever project he plans to create. He designs



This photo was taken in November 2009, on the occasion of a casual dinner gathering in Bishop Donald J. Kettler's home.

1) Bishop Donald J. Kettler 2) Father Stanislaw Jaszek 3) Father Gregg D. Wood, S.J. 4) Father Roman P. Caly 5) Father Frederick C. Bayler 6) Father Theodore E. Kestler, S.J. 7) Father Kasparaj Mallavarapu 8) Father Charles J. Peterson, S.J. 9) Father John B. Martinek 10) Father Normand A. Pepin, S.J. 11) Father Jack de Verteuil 12) Father Joseph Hemmer, O.F.M. 13) Father Patrick D. Bergquist 14) Father Ross A. Tozzi 15) Father Thomas G. Provinsal, S.J. 16) Father Robert Fath 17) Father Sean P. Thomson 18) Father Miroslaw Woznica

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and creatively adapts it to his needs. As he works on building or constructing the object, he works almost contemplatively for long stretches of time, never hurried, but truly enjoying the experience of creating something real from an idea. Whatever his talent/hobby, he is meticulous in his work from the beginning to the end.

Fr. Stan also enjoys hiking, kayaking, camping, motorcycling, and bicycling. When back home in Poland, he often travels to other European countries on either his bicycle or motorcycle.

But, this is all merely a summary of what Fr. Stan does. Who he is, is a whole lot more. I wish I could find just the right words to do him justice. His parishioners know him as a genuine and sincere person with a quiet strength. I have heard comments of how they appreciate his preaching and enjoy his company when in their village. Because of his gentle approach to people, several of our parishes have shown evidence of a gradual growth and strengthening of their faith community. You can see it in the increasing number of people requesting the Sacraments, especially those of Confirmation and Marriage, where previously the given parish might have gone as long as ten years without the celebration of these Sacraments.

Fr. Stan has the ability to see into the "heart of the matter," and, although a man of few words, when he speaks, he usually hits the truth underneath whatever is being discussed. I find him tremendously supportive and encouraging to work with, and I appreciate (and learn from) the unique and insightful perspective he brings. He has a good sense of humor and enjoys a good laugh, yet is reserved and content to be out of the spotlight. He can fix almost anything! He is well respected among our ministers. He values and encourages the work of our Native parish ministers and is affirming and responsive to their needs and challenges. He doesn't do what someone else can do but rather enables the gifts and skills of others to contribute to the "building of the kingdom." In so doing, he validates their life and the life of the Spirit within them. I couldn't ask for a better team partner in serving our parish communities and sincerely doubt I would have made four years in Alaska if it weren't for the man Fr. Stan is. Peace! Marian

Stanislaw was born on September 7, 1964, to Wladyslaw and Bronislawa Jaszek, in Frampol, a small town in the South-East part of Poland, located about 40 miles south from the city of Lublin. Frampol has 1,440 inhabitants. The town was founded in 1705. In 1869 it lost its official status as a town, to recover it only in 1993. During World War II, 90% of the town's buildings were destroyed in a raid carried out by the Luftwaffe on September 13, 1939. During the German occupation, the town's significant Jewish community perished in the Holocaust. The town never fully



Fr. Stan Jaszek and his Adult Faith class in Aniak, Alaska, receive bible donations made possible by Alaskan Shepherd donors in 2009. --Photo by Sr. Marian Leaf, O.S.F.

recovered and its population today is less than half of what it was before the war.

Fr. Stan's two brothers and two sisters and parents still live on a farm in Kocudza, about 10 miles from Frampol. The farmhouse was built by his mother's parents in 1929. This area of the country, a heavily forested land, is primarily agricultural. Known also to be a very ecologically clean area, Kocudza is about 15 miles from the Roztocze National Park. The Park is located in eastern Poland, in Lublin Voivodeship. It protects the most valuable natural areas of the middle part of the Roztocze range. The Park was created in 1974. Its current size is 32.75 sq miles, of which forests occupy the majority. The Park has its headquarters in Zwierzyniec and is considered to be ecologically the cleanest part of Poland.

During Stan's early academic years, the Polish education system of that time required all children to attend an elementary school for 8 years and then three years of vocational school or four years of high school. Stan, falling under this system, chose a math and physics profile for his high school years.

Following high school, Stan enrolled in the Metropolitan Major Seminary, in Lublin, in 1983. Because that Seminary is part of the Catholic University in Lublin, Fr. Stan was able to obtain a master's degree in Theology, with his thesis on the concepts of divinity in Taoism.

While he was still in the Seminary, Stan felt an increasing interest in missionary work. It was due to this interest that Stan joined a missionary group of fellow seminarians with similar interests. For the last two years in the Seminary, Stan led that group. For 18 months while in the Seminary, he was also an assistant to the local hospital chaplaincy. Each week, on Sunday, he would go to the hospital, (which contained about 1000 beds), to bring Communion to the sick, and to talk with the patients. Stanislaw Jaszek was ordained a priest on December 10, 1988.

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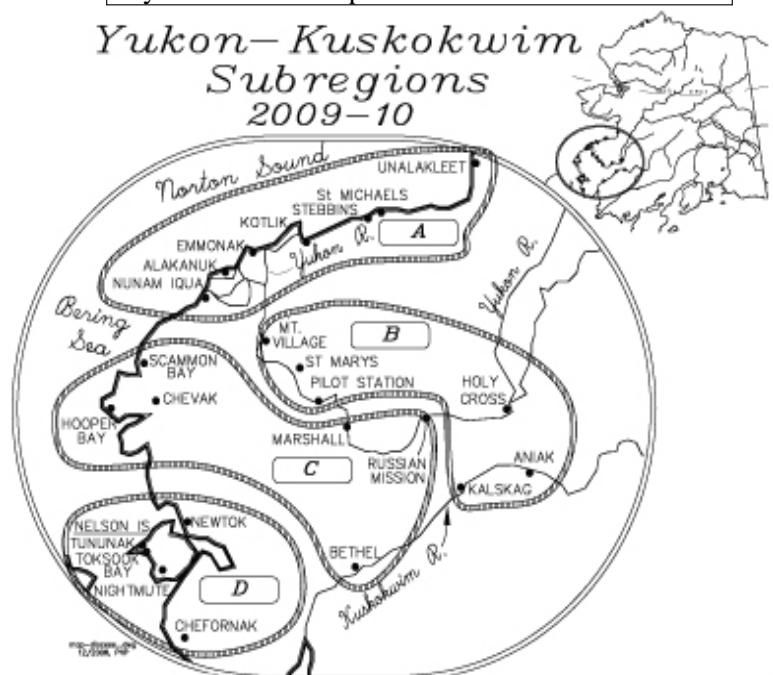
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*Nulato/Galena/Koyukuk/Huslia/
McGrath/Tanana

*These parishes, currently without a priest, visited
by Fairbanks area priests.

**Yukon-Kuskokwim
Subregions
2009-10**



Following his ordination, his first assignment was to Melgiew, a parish just 8 miles from the Seminary building. Fr. Stan joined a team of two other priests and together they served the 6,200 Catholics in that parish. They ministered to four parish churches that served the people from a surrounding area of 15 villages. Within their duties, they also taught catechism in 7 elementary schools each week. Fr. Stan was in charge of altar servers and lectors, a group totaling about 40 boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 20 years old. His teaching time totaled about 30 hours weekly, from Monday through Saturday. Of this time Father Stan says, *It is my great pleasure to say that the parish council in that parish today is entirely made of these boys and girls – today they are mothers and fathers, and professionals in various disciplines.*

After four and a half years at Melgiew, Fr. Stan was transferred to Kurow, a small town, 20 miles north of Lublin. The Kurow parish had about 4,500 Catholics. Fr. Stan worked at that parish for one year, and then, in 1994, he was assigned to minister in South Africa. Fr. Stan recalls his decision to work in the African missions:

My decision to go to the missions was made after a three months long visit to Peru in 1989. There I visited parishes located high in the Andes that did not have the Eucharist for many years. My first reaction was a feeling of a great injustice done to the people I met there. I could not continue working in Poland where there are so many priests and ignore the great Eucharistic hunger in so many other places. Therefore, just a month after returning from Peru I visited my bishop and asked him for permission to work in the missions. I had to wait 4 years for a positive answer. I came to South Africa by invitation of the bishop of Umzimkulu, a diocese located in the former Transkei. After 6 months of an English language course, I went through a three month long course to learn the Zulu language. That course was considered sufficient for me to qualify to take over a mission at the town of Umzimkulu (the diocese is named after that town) from which I served an additional 14 so-called outstations, communities with their own churches, scattered over the hills along the Umzimkulu river (Umzimkulu means “ a great river”). There was a mixed population of Zulu, Xosa and Baca tribes living there. I was the only white person.

If I had a talent to write, I would write a few books about the adventures, struggles and successes that I went through during the eight years of my work in that beautiful country. Unfortunately, I do not have such a talent. It is enough then to say, that it was a time of my growth in faith, a time of acquiring numerous skills (I learned arc welding, plumbing, electrical work, lorry driving, masonry, carpentry), and a time of new understanding of my priesthood.

In 2002, Fr. Stan made the decision to leave the Diocese of Umzimkulu and asked about the possibility of working in the

Diocese of Fairbanks, in Alaska. To his great surprise, the affirmative answer came in about three weeks. Two months later, Fr. Stan had an American visa and, in September, began his ministry in the Missions of northwestern Alaska in September. When he arrived in Fairbanks, Bishop Donald Kettler and two other priests met him at the airport. Fr. Stan writes, *When I realized the bishop himself came to pick me up from the airport, I was sure the diocese was desperate for priests.* Fr. Stan's first year in Alaska was spent in an orientation program. Fr. Stan called it his “*National Geographic assignment*,” since he visited about 20 parishes in the diocese that year, spending from a week to two months in each of them. After that, Bishop Kettler assigned him to three parishes on the Norton Sound coast: Stebbins, St. Michael, and Unalakleet. He worked within these parishes for three years. Wishing to learn the Eskimo culture and their way of life, Fr. Stan did not leave these villages (even on vacation) for two years. He wanted to observe the seasons and be with the people in their daily life. Fr. Stan remembers, *I went fishing with my parishioners (I never fished before in my life), learned how to make fishing nets, how to set them, how to cut fish and how to cook it. I went hunting with them. Soon I came to like that style of living from the land. For these three years, I did not buy meat or fish. I had my own and had plenty of it. At the same time, I did my pastoral*



Fr. Stan Jaszek fishes for his dinner in the Kuskokwim River in Aniak, Alaska. Photo by Sr. Marian Leaf, O.S.F.



Forty below temperatures can't stop Fr. Stan Jaszek, in Aniak, Alaska.

--Photo by Sister Marian Leaf, O.S.F.

work. I had the first marriage blessing in 17 years, and increased the number of baptisms. But, the most important are the relationships created between my parishioners and me. I have to say here that the above-

mentioned villages are the ones where many clergy sexual abuse cases took place in the past. Establishing relationships, based on trust, are essential in bringing healing and normalcy back into the life of the Church.

In 2006, Bishop Kettler asked Fr. Stan to take on a new assignment, namely, the pastoral care of three villages along the Yukon River (Mountain Village, Pilot Station, Holy Cross) and two along the Kuskokwim River (Aniak, Kalskag).

Of these parishes Fr. Stan writes, *It is a very challenging assignment. Since it is impossible to visit all the parishes from one place, I have to travel from one village to another in order to reach the next. So, for the last four years I spend approximately two weeks in one parish and then I go to the next. It allows me to visit all my parishes approximately seven times a year. I celebrate the Eucharist with each of the parishes once every six weeks. In between my visits, the lay leaders, Eucharistic ministers, and deacons pray the Liturgy of the Word of God with the Holy Communion. Communion service without the Eucharist is a type of service that the people in this part of Alaska gather to celebrate on Sundays. The Eucharist is an exception. It is my opinion that these Communion services and liturgies of the Word are not solutions to the priest shortage. These type of solutions over many years are not adequate nor spiritually healthy. They could lead to a new kind of Church that is not rooted in the one we know and that has come to us from the apostles.*

Regarding the challenge of travelling among his parishes, Fr. Stan says, *Most of the time I use commercial flights to travel between the villages but very often I travel using a snow machine, an ATV, or a boat. When traveling, using small planes, one is limited to 40 pounds of baggage. It took me some time to let go*

Right: Fr. Stan Jaszek anoints a parishioner during a healing Mass in Aniak. --Photo by Sr. Marian Leaf, O.S.F.



Below: Fr. Stan Jaszek is a skilled hunter and has adapted well to the Eskimo subsistence way of living. He lives largely off the land, relying on caribou, seal, rabbit, and a variety of birds. --Photo by Sr. Marian Leaf, O.S.F.



many things that proved to be of no essence. Now I can pack all my belongings (not counting my winter cloths and boots, and hunting guns) into one suitcase and have it under 50 lbs.

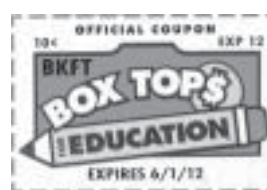
St. Paul says in one of his letters that "in God we live and move, and have our being". That truth becomes more and more experienced in my life. Traveling on ice, water or air I feel calmness in my heart, knowing that God is traveling with me to bring his compassion, gentleness and hope to the people of the north. Amen.

Father Roman Caly

Pat Tam, Director of the Adult Faith Program for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region, writes the following about Father Roman Caly. *Along with an enthusiasm for good liturgy and a strong pastoral presence, Fr. Roman has also given us the gift of hearing English spoken with a Polish accent. His adventures into the perils of the English language have been*



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Fr. Roman Caly, during the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, blesses the boats of parishioners, during the procession. --Photo by Patrick Tam

heroic, as when he discovered the difference between "Polish" and "polish" while he was polishing chalices.

Roman Pawel Caly was born March 8, 1965, in Wroclaw, Poland, to Karol and Stanislaw Caly. Roman has one sister, Iwona, currently living in Worms, Germany. Wroclaw is the chief city of the historical region of Silesia in southwestern Poland, situated on the Odra River. Over the centuries, the city has, at various times, been part of Poland, Bohemia, Austria, Prussia, and Germany. According to official population figures for June 2009, its population is 632,240, making it the fourth largest city in Poland.

Roman's mother, Stanislawka worked in the hospital in Brzeg Dolny and his father was employed at a ROKITA, a chemical complex in Brzeg Dolny. His sister Iwona has both Polish and German citizenship. Roman's parents are part of the repatriation from former East Poland that took place because of the occupation of the Red Army (Soviet Union) during WWII.

Roman attended Brzeg Dolny public school from 1972 to 1980. In 1980 he enrolled in Technikum Mechaniczne, (Mechanical—Aviation School) in Wroclaw and graduated in 1985.

He attended Papieski Wydział Teologiczny and The Metropolitan Seminary of Wroclaw from 1985 to 1991,

graduating with a Master of Theology degree. Cardinal Henryk Gulbinowicz at the Cathedral in Wroclaw, Poland, ordained him a priest on May 18, 1991.

From 1991 to 1992, Fr. Roman served in the Parish of Saint Michael, in Mieroszow, Poland, as a Primary School and Kindergarten Catechist. Mieroszów is a town in WaBbrzych County, Lower Silesian Voivodeship, in southwestern Poland, near the border with the Czech Republic. It is the seat of the administrative district (gmina) called Gmina Mieroszów. Prior to 1945, it was in Germany. As of 2006, the town has a population of 4,515. Fr. Roman's duties included organizing the parish choir, training the altar servers and lectors, and organizing pilgrimages.

From 1992 to 1993, Fr. Roman served in the Parish of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Lubomierz, Poland, as Catechist at the Primary and High School and as Hospital Chaplain. Prior to 1945, Lubomierz was located in Germany.

After two years of priestly ministry in Poland, Fr. Roman, in the years 1993 to 1995, served in the Parish of Transfiguration in Krasnoyarsk (Siberia), Russia. He served as Associate Pastor in the northern territory of Krasnoyarsk Krai. Fr. Roman recalls, *I left Poland in 1993 to minister at the Apostolic Administration of Siberia at Novosibirsk. At first, Bishop Joseph Werth assigned me to Transfiguration Parish at Krasnoyarsk as an assistant to the pastor. I worked as an associate alongside*



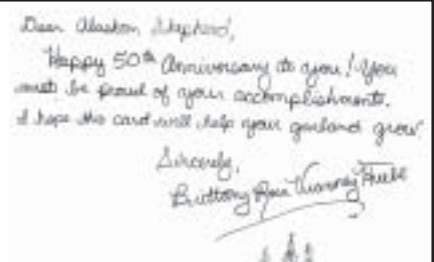
the Claretian Fathers (CMF). In addition to working at the parish in Krasnoyarsk, I was also responsible for ministering in

Fr. Roman Caly celebrates Baptism during the Easter Vigil in Emmonak. --Photo by Patrick Tam

The year 2010 finds The Alaskan Shepherd celebrating 50 Years of publication! THANK YOU for the BEAUTIFUL Anniversary Cards! We are displaying the nearly 300 cards, we have received thus far, in our little Shepherd office for all to see. Please send your card to: The Alaskan Shepherd at 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709.



Thank you for the card Brittany!
(We also received beautiful cards from Evan, Tasha, Joseph, Trenton, and Greta! Thank you!)



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Fr. Roman Caly celebrates First Communion in 2010, at Sacred Heart Church, in Emmonak.

--Photo by Patrick Tam

the northern parts of Krasnoyarsk that extend beyond the Arctic Circle. I visited many of the Catholic communities at this widespread territory traveling by ships and airplanes during the summers and the winters, respectively. These parishes were set out in a vast sea of 1000 miles. My work was primarily missionary in nature and it involved a search for Catholics at Siberia. Krasnoyarsk is a city in the administrative center of Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia, located on the Yenisey River. It is the third largest city in Siberia, with a population of 948,500 (2009 est.) Krasnoyarsk is an important junction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and one of Russia's largest producers of aluminum.

After the unexpected death of the parish pastor, Fr. Walter Bachmann, from Paraguay, in 1995, Fr. Roman was appointed the pastor of Christ the King Parish, which is located at the center of Altai Krai, Siberia, at Barnaul. Fr. Roman served at the northeastern parts of Altai Krai and the Altai Republic from 1995 to 2007. Barnaul is situated in the southwest of the Siberian Federal District on the Ob River. Its Population, in 2007, was about 649,000.

In 1999, Bishop Werth appointed Fr. Roman to a position as dean of the Altai Deanery at the Transfiguration Diocese, which was centered in Novosibirsk. He stayed at that diocese until 2007.

When asked what motivated him to consider working for the missions in the Arctic, Fr. Roman says, *After 14 years of pastoral ministry in Siberia, I became aware of the fact that, increasingly, local priests are the ones who take over the responsibilities of the missionaries. Being motivated toward the goodness for the Church, I wanted to serve in the places where the need for priests is the greatest. Hence, I am happy to serve the Church in Alaska, where the climate and the pastoral needs are similar to those of Siberia.*

On September 29, 2007, Father Roman arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska. He began serving the villages of the Y-K Region: Nunam Iqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, Stebbins, St. Michael, and Unalakleet. Fr. Roman is currently anchored in Emmonak and continues to serve these same five villages.

I leave you with Fr. Roman's charming and unedited thoughts on his time thus far in Alaska:

My serving in Alaska is very good time. This is how I spend this time of my life. Life is very slowly in Alaskan bush. I never hurry up in the bush. I have time. I am often thinking about my seven parishes. I travel a lot between villages. Sometime I ask myself: Where I live? Where is my home?

I often pray for vocation Native priest in diocese of Fairbanks. This is my dream: Yupik or Athabaskan Native priest.

When I serve people in the church in the confessional for several hours on the Lenten time and other Sacraments, I am happy because the people need me.

I never sure if there will be airplane or not in the Alaskan bush. Probably, every time, airplane isn't on time, I often wait, but wait, I don't like wait because I lose a lot time. Traveling between parishes need a lot time. This is experience for me and exercise of my patience.

—Patty Walter

—Still more NORTHERN ALASKAN PRIESTS to follow.



During the Chrism Mass in Bethel, in 2010, Bishop Kettler poses with Fathers, Stan, Ted, Roman, and Gregg. The cake was presented to the priests and Bishop as an appreciation for their ministry. --Photo by Patrick Tam

"We are blessed to have so many supporters who make our work possible. I want to especially thank those of you who remember us in your prayers. Donations provide tangible benefits, but the power of prayer and the Lord's grace is our bedrock. Thank you with all our hearts."

--Bishop Donald J. Kettler