



The Alaskan Shepherd



Volume 47 Number 8

October-November 2009

Some give by going to the Missions

Some go by giving to the Missions

Without both there are no Missions

A Letter of Gratitude From Bishop Donald J. Kettler

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



Often I reflect on the great needs of this vast Missionary Diocese, an area spanning 409, 849 square miles to be exact. This year our needs have been particularly momentous. Beyond our core necessities, we are burdened with the additional cost of reorganization. In July, I reluctantly, but out of true need, asked for your additional contribution to help alleviate these substantial financial burdens. It is with a heart filled to overflowing with gratitude that I now thank you for responding to the desperate appeal sent out recently by this needy diocese, for answering my urgent plea, and for supporting us with your generous assistance. I am equally grateful for the many promises of prayers and offers of continued and future assistance. While I am at a loss for words to express my thanks to you, I am confident that God will thank you in an infinitely better way than I can. I promise you, and I assure you, of daily remembrances in my Masses and prayers.

I am now in my 8th year as Bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks. Many challenges face me, as I strive to provide support to our 46 parishes, only eight of which are financially self-sustaining. At the same time, we face the challenge of declining numbers of priests to minister across rural Alaska. You may recall that our onetime number of 47 priests, just twenty years ago, has now declined to 19. Many of our priests minister to six or more villages, traveling constantly to bring the Mass and the sacraments to our Eskimo people living along the Bering Sea Coast and in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and to our Indian people in the Interior. The cost of travel continues to be a necessary burden within our budget.

We could not carry out our apostolic mission without you. We recognize that, without God's help and your prayerful and financial assistance, our efforts would be in vain. It is because of you that we keep repeating: "*Some give by going to the missions. Some go by giving to the missions. Without both, there would be no missions.*"

Besides enabling me to express my gratitude to you, this letter affords me also an opportunity to inform you of how we distribute your donations and to provide you an update on this Missionary Diocese. The major part of your donation is allocated to operational expenses and is used to cover expenses incurred by our various Bush missions. In addition to outright cash donations, annuities, wills, bequests, stock gifts and life insurance policies are some of the special ways you can help us meet the call to serve the people living and ministering here in Northern Alaska. Thanks to such generous benefactors as you, over the past 20 years, we have been able to build our Annuity and Endowment Fund. During these same years, the earnings have helped us operate and maintain our mission programs. For almost 50 years now, generous folks such as you have donated to our work through the Alaskan Shepherd Fundraising Program. We are grateful beyond words.

Please take a moment and look over the ways of giving enclosed with this letter. In an effort to give you some alternatives to your past practice of gift-giving, we have prepared this list of diverse opportunities to support our apostolic ministries. It is simply our attempt at potentially simplifying the way your donations may be gifted to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (legal corporate name.) If there are any options, which interest you, or if you have any questions, please drop us a line and we will be happy to have a member of our staff contact you to answer your questions.

In this era of financial uncertainty, I am aware of the multitude of financial challenges and obligations on your budgeting plate. It is, therefore, that I am especially grateful to you for your support and interest in our apostolic works here in this cold corner of the Lord's Vineyard.

I look forward to continuing this relationship with you for many years to come. May all your days be filled with all the blessings you so richly deserve. May the Almighty bless and lead us all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Donald J. Kettler
Bishop of Fairbanks

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA
1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
Phone: 907-374-9532 <http://www.cbna.info>

Special Masses are offered throughout the year for you and your intentions by our Missionary Priests. Please pray that God may bless us and our work.

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Contact us at (907) 374-9500 or email tom@cbna.org or finance@cbna.org for more information on these gift opportunities.

Outright Gift: These gifts take the form of cash, common stocks, securities, real estate and personal property.

Bequest: Through a Last Will and Testament or Trust, donors can bequeath a specific amount of money, stocks or mutual funds, and real or personal property, (a percentage of the remainder of their estate.)

Charitable Lead Trust: Through cash, common stock or real estate, this gift operates in the opposite manner of a remainder trust, in that current income for a specific period of the trust is used by the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska. After a specified period of time, the corpus is returned to the donor or beneficiary.

Charitable Gift Annuities: This type of annuity provides fixed income for life of one or two people. Interest rates are based on the annuitants' age and payments are available on an annual, semi-annual, quarterly or monthly basis. The annuity can be funded with cash, common stock, or securities. Upon the death of the annuitant or last surviving annuitant, the remaining asset will be retained by the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska.

Deferred Gift Annuities: Similar to an immediate payment annuity except that the payments begin at a future date determined by the donor at the time of the gift.

Charitable Remainder Annuity or Unitrust: Like the gift annuity, the donor receives a life-time income and may receive an immediate charitable tax deduction. It is usually funded with real estate, common stock, securities or cash.

Charitable Insurance Policy: You may obtain an insurance policy with the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska as the beneficiary and owner of the policy. You may also be able to obtain a tax deduction for the cost. Please call us or any life insurance agent to discuss this option.

Equipment or Items: If you are interested in contributing any type of equipment or items to be used in the missions, please contact our development person at (907) 374-9500 or send an email to tom@cbna.org or finance@cbna.org.

Stock: One opportunity for assisting with our mission work here in northern Alaska is to make a gift of stock to the **Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (CBNA)**, the legal name for the Diocese of Fairbanks.

If you are interested in providing a donation to the missions in this manner, the following procedure should be used. Contact your broker or use your online brokerage account to request a transfer of your stock or mutual fund to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, and request them to contact Wells Fargo Investments, CBNA's stock depository, at 907-374-7812 with the following instructions:

“This transfer is being executed as a gift to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska.

I would like to do a Depository Trust Corporation (DTC)

Transfer of _____ (# of shares of a particular stock)

to **DTC #733**, with free delivery into Account number #20037336,

which is Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, #5.”

Bishop Kettler,

I want to help you and the missionaries ministering in Northern Alaska to bring the Mass, the Sacraments, religious education, and training to the widely-scattered Indian and Eskimo people of Christ. Please accept this donation to your *General Fund* and use it where most needed.

AMOUNT OF GIFT: \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other\$ _____

Name _____ StreetNo. _____

P.O.Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If donating by check please make payable to: *CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA or CBNA*

If donating by credit card: NAME AS LISTED ON CREDIT CARD: _____

TYPE OF CARD (Visa, Master Card or Discover Cards only): VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER _____

One Time Only:() Monthly:() Quarterly:() Twice A Year: () Annually:()

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: (Strictly confidential): _____

EXP DATE: _____

Thank you for your gift to our GENERAL FUND!

SIGNATURE: _____

Please send me an END OF YEAR TAX STATEMENT for the YEAR 2009.

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska provides a tax receipt/acknowledgment letter for all individual donations of \$10.00 and more.

We will happily send an end of year cumulative contribution statement upon request.

Be assured that we make every effort to keep our fund-raising overhead at a minimum, and that our fund-raising program complies with all state and federal laws regulating such non-profit, tax-deductible programs as ours.

Be assured, too, that we never, under any circumstances, sell or give out the names of our benefactors.

This sacred pledge we have always faithfully honored.

Gift-In-Kind Donations

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, a religious charitable organization, qualifies as exempt under IRS section 501(c)(3). We gratefully accept donations of physical property and provide receipt for Gifts-In-Kind. Contributions of new, unused United States First Class Stamps are especially needed. To receive a receipt for Gifts-In-Kind, other than stamps, please provide fair market value. If your gift is valued more than \$500, please check the current IRS rules regarding donations for Gifts-In-Kind.



Your first class 44¢ stamp donations are greatly appreciated.

CLIPPING BOX TOPS IS A GREAT WAY TO HELP THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF FAIRBANKS

Find Box Tops coupons on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for our school. Twice each year, Box Tops will send a check to our school for each Box Tops coupon redeemed, up to \$20,000 each year.

For more information visit www.boxtops4education.com



Thank you for your 2009 donations of over 10,000 BOX TOPS, a gift totalling over \$1000.00 for the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks!

Campbell's labels are also gratefully accepted!



Pension Protection Act Extended IRA Charitable Rollover Extension

On October 3rd, 2008, President Bush signed legislation (Public Law 110-343), which includes an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover originally enacted as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The extension is retroactive, applying to distributions made throughout both the 2008 and 2009 tax years. The extension will allow individuals 70 1/2 and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charities tax-free. The National Committee on Planned Giving (NCPG) staff and members across the country worked with federal lawmakers throughout the year to advocate for this extension.

If you would like to make a tax deductible charitable distribution from your IRA to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska under these rules, you may use the following instructions to request a transfer from your plan administrator.

(Sample Letter)

To: Plan Administrator

Re: Request for charitable distribution from Individual Retirement Account to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, Tax ID# 92-0019215

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept this letter as my request to make a direct charitable distribution from my Individual Retirement Account #_____ as provided by Section 1201 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and Section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Distributions can be sent by wire transfer or check.

Please send funds in the amount of \$_____ payable to Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska as indicated below:

To wire from your plan account:

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, First National Bank Alaska, routing number 125200060, account number 25117466.

To send stock or mutual funds:

Contact your plan administrator to request a transfer of your stock (mutual fund or common) to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska and request them to contact Wells Fargo Investments, CBNA's stock depository at (907) 374-7812 with the following instructions:

"This transfer is being executed as a gift to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, under the Pension Protection Act of 2006. I would like to do a Depository Trust Corporation (DTC) transfer of _____ (# of shares of a particular stock) to DTC #733, with free delivery into account number #20037336, which is Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, #5."

To send a check, please mail to:

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska
1316 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Please add my name and address as the donor of record in connection with this transfer and copy me on your transmittal. If you have any questions or need to contact me, I can be reached at (telephone #_____) or (email _____). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

(Plan Owner Signature)

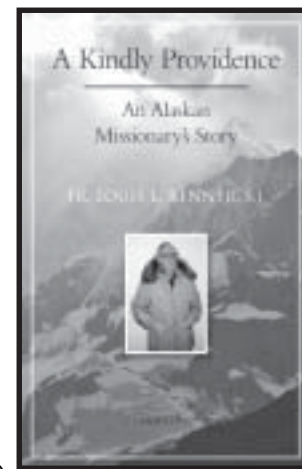
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska ATTN: Finance Office 1316 Peger Rd Fairbanks, AK 99709	907-374-9500 907-374-9580 (Fax) Tom Buzek or Rev. Mr. George W. Bowder tom@cbna.org or finance@cbna.org
--	---

Newly Published:



A Kindly Providence

An Alaskan Missionary's Story



Yes, please send _____ copy(ies) of *A Kindly Providence*
written by **Father Louis L. Renner, S.J.**

I am enclosing \$35.00 for each book, which includes shipping.

Please make checks payable to CBNA (Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska)

Credit Card purchases can be made by calling the Alaskan Shepherd Business Office at 907-374-9532.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

2009 REN KP F921

A WONDERFUL GIFT
TO GIVE OR RECEIVE!



Concerning the autobiography, they wrote:—

“...written very vividly, clearly, and sincerely in a quietly engaging style.” (David J. Leigh, S.J., author of *CIRCUITOUS JOURNEYS: Modern Spiritual Autobiographies*)

“A fine and complete record of a full and fascinating life.” (Brad R. Reynolds, S.J., writer and photographer)

“Your Autobiography is very, very good. In reading it, people will have the experience of being right there where you are at the time. Chapter One is beautiful. It is an American classic, in itself.” (Margaret Cantwell, S.S.A., author of *North to Share: The Sisters of Saint Ann in Alaska and the Yukon Territory*)

Fragmentary quotes from the autobiography weave an intriguing tapestry:—

“As I was standing on top of Little Diomed Island in Bering Strait, the sight of the Siberian mainland warmed my heart....Just inches from my head, he left a 2-inch deep hoof print....but that was wartime....and Christmas 1943 was the most difficult Christmas of my entire life....the storm in my soul was hushed to a gentle breeze....the desire for the Alaskan missions....‘Thou art a priest forever’....an old, two-bladed pocketknife....On that day, one of the major surprises of my life awaited me....that solo drive....surrounded on all sides, as well as top and bottom, by absolutely nothing other than black coal....disembarked at Plymouth....we spoke ‘Frenghish’....longest, hardest, sweatiest day of my priesthood....talk about entering Vienna ‘in style!’....Mass in the submarine *US Quillback*....alone, in the presence of the head man of the Archdiocese of Munich-Freising....the *Scavi*, the catacombs under St. Peter’s....so, smuggling a crucifix out of East Berlin could be a bit risky....I rarely in my whole life felt so utterly relaxed, so totally at ease, so grateful....when Libby Riddles won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race....on King Island....Solemn Profession....Therefore be it resolved....most consoling of all my priestly Christmas seasons....well up the Chilkoot Trail....a very rude awakening....a Ruby in my life....Pope John Paul II and Pres. Reagan....And a challenge it proved to be!....the very summit of old Oz himself....when in walks Father General....‘And Gaawd bless you too, Faawther!’stickdance....the slap of a slimy fishtail in my face....got down to minus 76....Yet another case of mixing the useful with the pleasant....Up comes the stern. And, up comes—the kid’s breakfast....end of a wonderful 2,327-mile trip!...But then I thought to myself, ‘Oh, what the hell! Why not?’*Koyukon Athabaskan Dictionary*....not a ‘natural’ for prison ministry....a grizzly parading her two cubs past our camp....left a big hole in my personal life....the Dempster Highway....little foxes running around on my tent platform....‘The Great and Sacred Jubilee Year of Our Lord 2000’Vice President of the United States, The Honorable Richard B. Cheney....proved to be a fairly accurate prophecy...*ALASKANA CATHOLICA*.... the same kindly Providence.”

A Kindly Providence is a comprehensive and richly illustrated autobiography. Fr. Louis L. Renner, S.J., a dedicated missionary in Alaska for 40 years, tells a compelling story of a full and fascinating life of service to the people and the Church in northern Alaska, a great land of natural beauties, challenging elements, and vast wilderness regions.

Beautifully, Fr. Renner interweaves the everyday lives of the people and the Church as he experienced them first hand as a scholar, a teacher, a “bush missionary,” and ever the Jesuit priest. In the course of his long years in Alaska, among other ministries, he taught German and Latin at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, edited the Catholic newsletter *The Alaskan Shepherd*, and had the pastoral care of two different Indian villages on the middle Yukon River. For his scholarly writings, Tony Knowles, the governor of Alaska presented him with the “2002 Governor’s Award for Friend of the Humanities.”

A Kindly Providence, in softcover, spans 583 pages including some 80 illustrations.



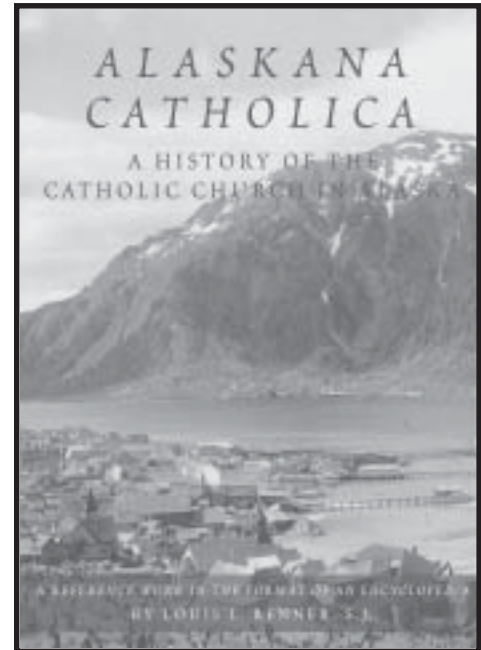
ALASKANA CATHOLICA

“Through years of dedicated research, writing, and documentation, Father Renner has created a succinct yet comprehensive guide detailing in total clarity and conciseness the history of the Catholic Church in Alaska. Within this historic documentation the reader can reference over 225 years of Catholicism in Alaska. Father Louis L. Renner, S.J., has accomplished in Alaskana Catholica a momentous feat—a magnum opus.” **Donald J. Kettler, Bishop of Fairbanks**

“Father Renner is the foremost authority on Catholic history in Alaska, writing history at its purest, almost exclusively from archival sources.”

Dr. Dorothy Jean Ray
Historian and Anthropologist

**A WONDERFUL
GIFT TO GIVE
OR RECEIVE!**



“This fascinating volume offers an intimate picture of the activities of the Catholic Church’s Alaska Mission, from its beginning in the nineteenth century to the present. It is a fact-filled account of people and places with a wonderful array of characters...Father Renner, with a historian’s concern for the facts and a writer’s eye for a good story, has produced a valuable work.”

Francis Paul Prucha, S.J.,
Professor of History Emeritus, Marquette University

“One of the main intents of this volume,” we read in the author’s Preface, *“is to keep alive for posterity the memory of many major Catholic Alaskan figures—clerical and lay, Native and non-Native, living and deceased—by the recording of their lives and deeds.”*



Alaskana Catholica (“a unique gift, whether to give or to receive”) is a reference work in the format of an encyclopedia. It offers its readers something more than mere bare-bones reference data and Who’s Who-s. Moreover, some entries have a story about the given entry’s subject attached to them. Some have a “tapestry” woven out of a series of quotations from the mission diary of the given place attached to them. These stories and tapestries give readers a kind of “you are there” experience, of being present at an event of the past or at a place remote to them.

Close to 400 images illustrate *Alaskana Catholica*.

**Yes, please send _____ copy(ies) of *Alaskana Catholica*,
written by *Father Louis L. Renner, S.J.***

I am enclosing \$85.00 for each book, which includes shipping.

Please make checks payable to CBNA (Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska)

Credit Card purchases can be made by calling the Alaskan Shepherd Business Office at 907-374-9532.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ **200908 F92**



A. Packets of 6 cards—cards bearing the full-color DENAAHUTO' (Our Father) image by renowned Alaskan artist Jon Van Zyle and a description of it on back—are now available from the Alaskan Shepherd office for \$20.00 a packet. This includes envelopes, handling and shipping.

B. Prints of the DENAAHUTO' image, measuring 8 x 5 1/2 inches, are also available, at \$3.00 each. The original painting, measuring 4' x 8', adorns the wall behind the altar in St. Peter in Chains Church in Ruby, Alaska. The painting is a gift from the artist to the people of Ruby and the Diocese of Fairbanks.



C. A packet of 10 Our Lady of the Arctic Snows full-color note-cards is now also available from the Alaskan Shepherd office for \$5.00, which includes handling and shipping.

The cards are printed on a heavy paper stock measuring 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches and blank on the inside. All proceeds from the sales of cards benefit the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks.



Full-color prints of both of Our Lady of the Arctic Snows and of Christ of the Arctic, measuring 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 , are available free with donation.

D. OUR LADY OF THE ARCTIC SNOWS

E. CHRIST OF THE ARCTIC



- A. PLEASE SEND ME ___ PACKET(S) OF DENAAHUTO' CARDS (6 CARDS PER PACKET--BLANK ON INSIDE) AT \$20.00 PER PACKET. TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____**
- B. PLEASE SEND ME ___ DENAAHUTO' PRINT(S) AT \$3.00 PER PRINT. TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____**
- C. PLEASE SEND ME ___ PACKET(S) OF OUR LADY CARDS (10 CARDS PER PACKET) AT \$5.00 PER PACKET. TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____**
- D. PLEASE SEND ME OUR LADY OF THE ARCTIC SNOWS PRINT**
- E. PLEASE SEND ME CHRIST OF THE ARCTIC PRINT**

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA (CBNA)
1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Bishop Donald J. Kettler:

- I wish to include CBNA in my Will or Trust. Please send information.*
- Please have your representative call me.*
- I have already included CBNA in my will.* *I would like to discuss Annuity and/or Life Insurance Options.*

Rev./Sr./Br./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **PHONE:** _____ **CELL:** _____

Through prayer we are joined together with those who generously support this Missionary Diocese.
If you wish us to pray for your loved ones or any special intentions, please list them below:

Additionally, we will remember you, each and every week,
during our staff Mass and in a special way during our three annual Novenas.

Novena of Grace March 4-12th (2010)

Sacred Heart Novena June 3-11th (2010)

St. Therese Novena September 23-October 1st (2010)

We want to thank in a special way those of you who have included the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (our legal title) in your bequests and wills, and those of you who, at the time of the deaths of dear ones, have suggested that in their memory contributions be made to the Missions of Northern Alaska or to the Alaskan Shepherd Endowment Fund. A suggested wording: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska..."

"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