

FATHER JOHN  
VENIAMINOV  
&  
FATHER JACOB  
NETSVETOV

(in the Yup'ik and English languages)

by Rev. Priest Michael Oleksa,  
tr. Marie Blanchett, il. B. George Smart

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Digital Typography

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## Preface to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Digitally Typeset Edition

Glory to Jesus Christ, our True God, for all things! Through the prayers of His Most Pure Mother, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and through the prayers of All Saints of Alaska, especially those of St. Innocent (Veniaminov) and St. Jacob (Netsvetov), this publication has been realized. This publication is dedicated to the memory of Matushka Olga Michael of Kwethluk, Alaska. May her memory be eternal in the Heavenly kingdom! The textual base for this work is that of Rev. Archpriest Michael Oleksa's 1975 bilingual biography of Sts. Innocent (Veniaminov) and Jacob (Netsvetov) in the Yup'ik and English languages. The transcribers have done their best to transcribe the text accurately. Many thanks to Rev. Archpriest Michael Oleksa of the Diocese of Alaska (Orthodox Church in America) for his encouragement to make this Public Domain text available on the Internet.

No modifications were made between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> digitally typeset editions of this publication.

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Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu

Father John Veniamenov-aankuk

Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu

Father John Veniamenov and Father Yako Netsvetov

Atertayagaam Igautellra Qitevcaratun  
Written in English by Father Michael Oleksa

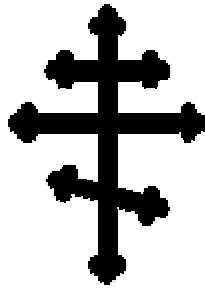
Arnam Mumigtellra Yugcetun  
Translated into Central Yup'ik by Marie Blanchett

Apaurluum Pilinguari  
Illustrated by B. George Smart

Taqellret Yugtun Qaneryamek Calivigmi,  
Kuskokwim Community College-aami, Bethel, Alaska 99559

Pilimaut Yup'igtun Kass'atun Elitnaurilrianun  
BIA-mi Alaska State Operated School System-aami-llu

Taqumaut Yugtun Qaneryamek Calivigmi  
July 1975



Father John Veniamenov-aankuk  
Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu

Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu



Allrakumi 1824-aami yuluaqag irr'inarqellria agayulirta Ioann (John) Veniamenov tekitellruuq Unalaskamun nuliaminek irniaminek-llu maligluni. Taukut-gguq kingunerluteng kass'alugpiat nuniitnek pilaqiitnek Russia.

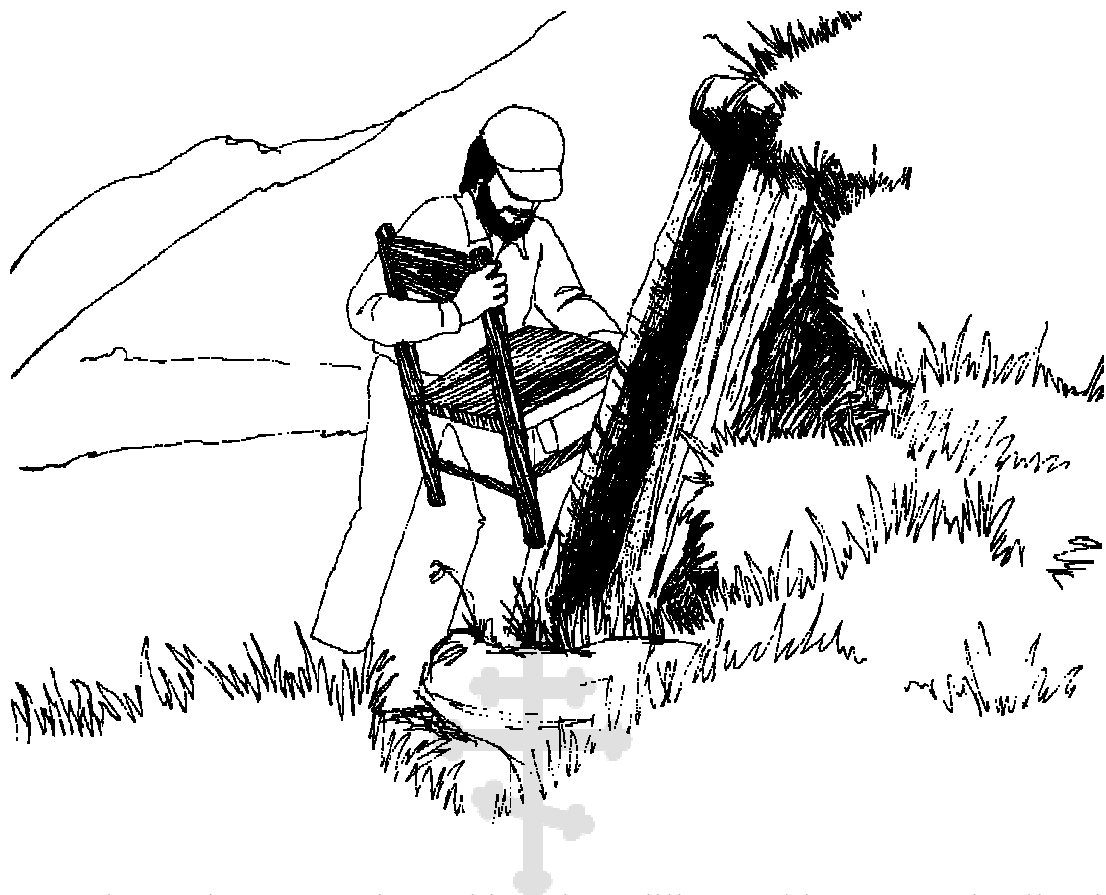
Father John-aq-gguq tan'gaurluurraanerminek aturtengullruuq naaqistenguluni-llu agayuvigmi. Cat-gguq ayuqenrilnguut ayuquciitnek elicunqellruuq – massiinat, naucetaat, ellam ayuquciin, ungunssit-llu. Pilinguaryungqeggluni-llu canarluni\*. Pililallruuq-llu sass'acuarnek yugnikek'minun-llu cikiutekluki.

Caqerluni ilani alangaarcetai ellminek ayagyugluni Alaskamun.

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\* wall' canaluni

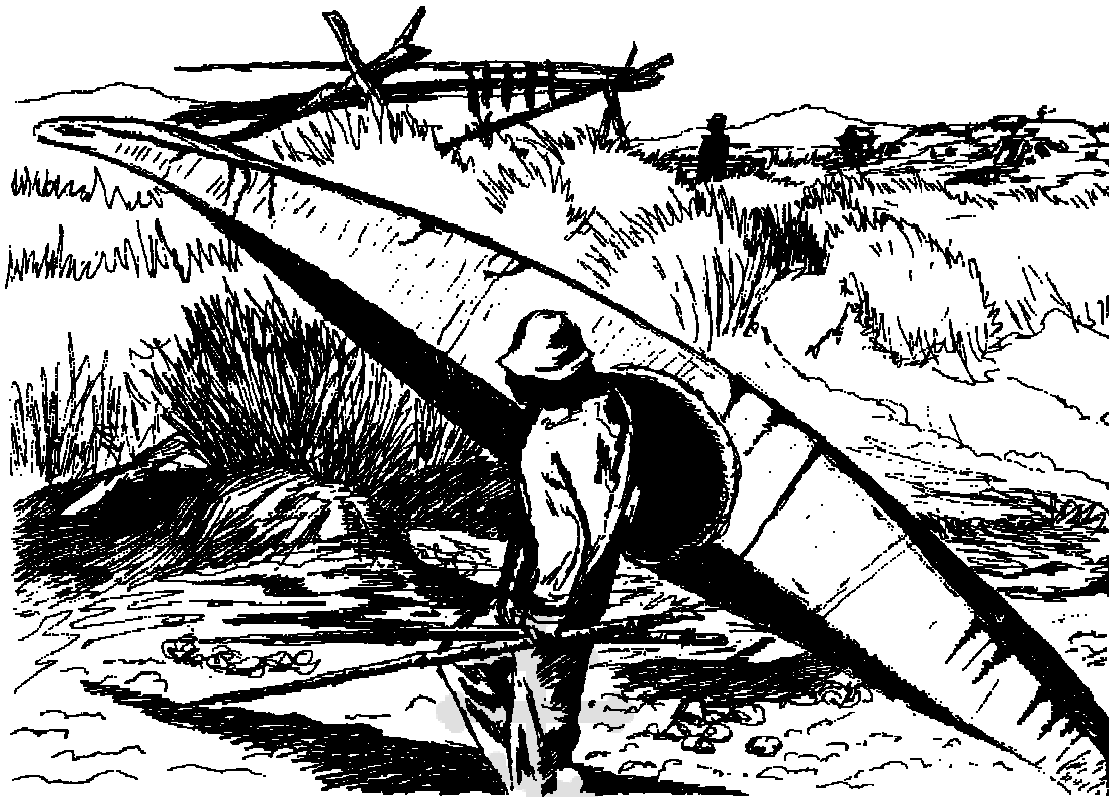
Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu



Father John-aq egmian tekicami enelillruuq Aleut-at enekuciiitnek (barabara-mek) estuulurkameggnek aqumllerkameggnek-llu pililuni ellminek.

Tua-i-llu elitnaurluni Aleut-at qaneryaraatnek. Taqutuq-llu igaryaramek Aleut-at pikaatnek. Kalikaliluni-llu qaneryaraata ayuquciiitnek nalqigcimaluni. Tamatum-llu kinguakun nauciuq elitnaurvigmek. Aleut-at-llu qaneryaramegteggun iganermek naaqinermek-llu elitellruut.

Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu



Father John-aq ayagalallruuq qikertanun qayakun. Sugtuqapiariimi (it'ganret arvinlegen cipluki) capernarqellruuq qayamun eklerkaa. Allrakuni-llu qulni ayagalallruuq Aleutian Island-aani qaneryaraqegtaarneq qalarrluni Aleut-aat qaneryaraatgun.

Nunat-llu iliitni angutem aterluni Yako Netsvetov pillguciryugaa caliarakun. Yako-m tua-i ikayulallrua Father John-aq mumigcitaqluku qaneryarakegtaarneq. Quyurmek-llu qavcinek, kalikanek taqutellruuk Aleut-acetun.



Father John-am-llu kalikaliara “Indication of the Way to the Heavenly Kingdom” taqellruuq Aleut-acetun kinguakun-llu German-aacetun, French, Russian, Kass’acetun-llu. Cali-llu taqutellruuq Catechism-aanek Aleut-acetun.

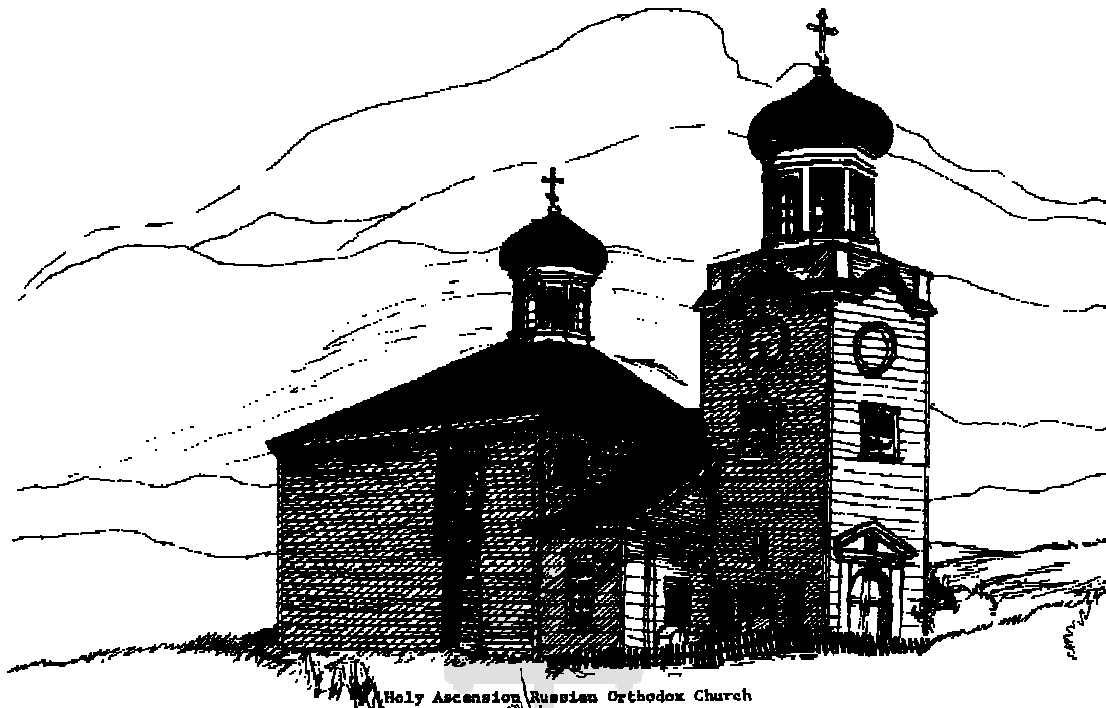
Father John-am-llu cat tamalkuita murilkellrui Aleutian-aat yuuyarait. Murikelallrui ellalluut, anuqet ellam ayuqucii, amirlut-llu. Elitnaulallrui-llu naunraat ungunssit-llu. Elitnaullrui-llu igauillaki-llu Aleut-at enait, piciryarait, yuuciit, neqait, akluit-llu. Makut-llu elitellni quyurrluki kalikaurtellrui malrugun kalikarpiignun. Mat’ukun-llu caliarakun Father John-aq amlleret yuut nallunrillruat Russia-mi Europe-aami-llu. Elitnauraa-llu Yako ayallruuq Russia-mun elitnavsiaryarturluni.



Father John-aq agayuvilituliullruuq (pilinguarta enenek nauvailgata). Nautellerkaa-llu upyutellrua taqluku-llu agayuviim Holy Ascension Orthodox Unalaskami. Tauna agayuvik maa-irpak napauq ak'allaunkacagauluni maani Alaskami. United States Congress-aam aterpagtellrua tauna agayuvik nallunailkutamek "National Landmark"-auluku.

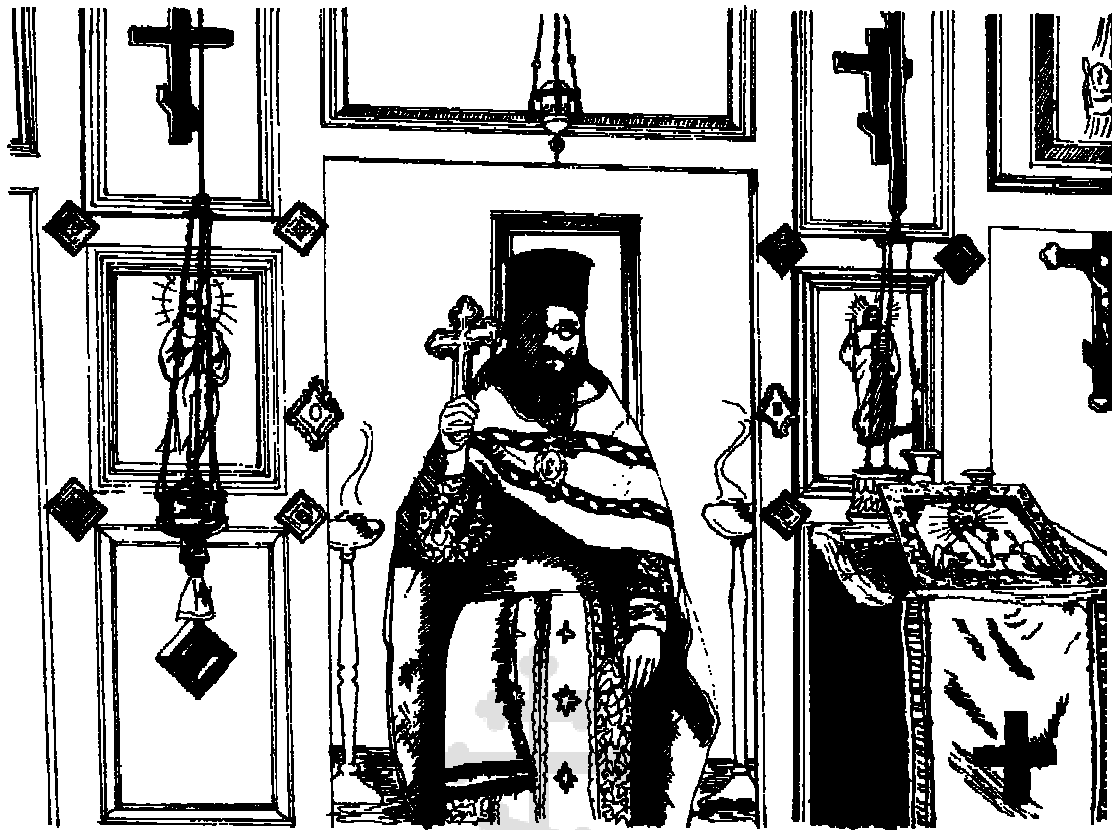
1828-aami Father John-aq ayallruuq Nushagak-amun Iilgayami. Ciuqlikacaarmek nasvallrua qaneryaraqegtaar Yup'ignun tamaani. Umyuartequq-llu pingesqumaluki qaneryariurtekaitnek tamakut yuut. Tua-i caliarda Aleut-ani qaqitniartuq. Allrakut-llu qulen kinguatni tamaklagmeng Aleut-at agayumacingut kass'alugpiartarmek, maa-irpak cali tuaten ayuqluni.

Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu



Father John-aq-llu uterpailgan Iilgayam nuniinun  
ayagcecimallruuq Sitkamun. Tamaani-am ataam ayagninqigtuq,  
elitnaurluni Tlingit-aat qaneryaraatnek igaryaraliluki-llu. Mumigciluni-  
llu qaneryaraqegtaarneq yuarutnek-llu.

Father John Veniaminov & Father Jacob Netsvetov  
Father John Veniamenov-aankuk Father Yako Netsvetov-aaq-llu



Sitkami uitainanermi ayallruuq nunalluni, quyungqalrianun  
kass'alugpianun California-mi. Tamaani Catholic-aartarmek  
agayulirtemek tangerqerraallruuq yuucirmini. Latin-aat qaneryaraatnek  
tamarmek qantulliniamek yugnikutenguk.

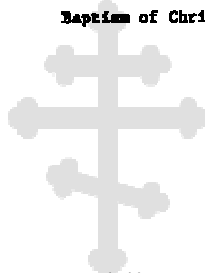
Father John-am taukut nunatellni aturcetaalirraarluki  
(organaaneq) utertellruuq Sitkamun. Tua-i-llu 1840-mi ayagniriluni  
Alaskarmiut elitnaurvigkaatnek elitnauristekat agayulirtekat-llu.



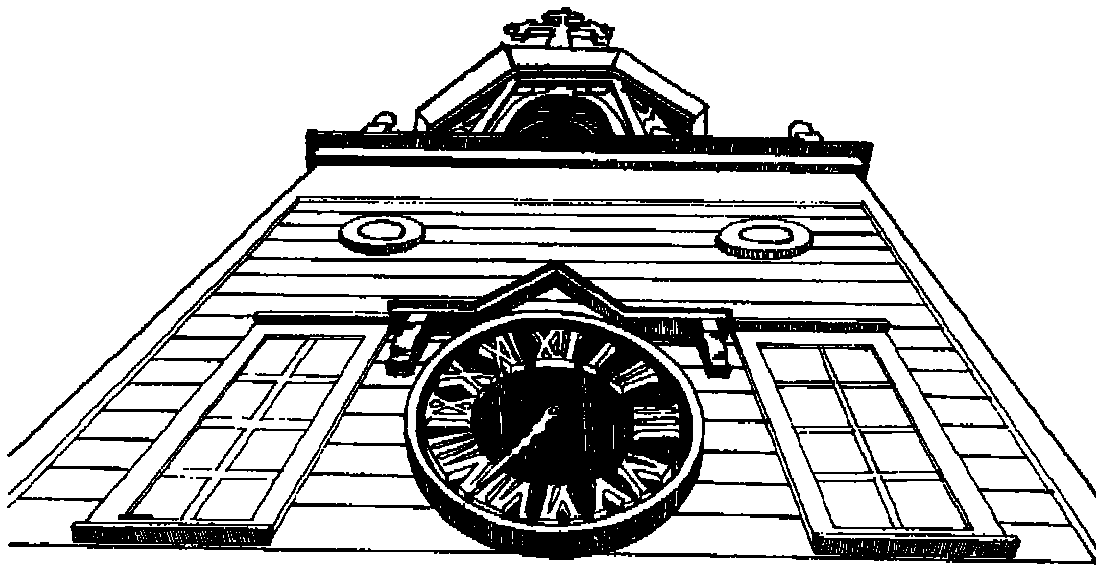
Cucukumaluni-llu allgiliyartellruuq Alaskamun Kamchatkamun-llu at'linqiggluni-llu Innokenty-mek. Elliin-llu cali upyutellrua nautellerkaa agayuvigpiim St. Michael's Cathedral, sass'aliluku-llu kuluk'uunarvian aciakun. 1966-ami tauna agayuvik ekualrruuq taugaam ataam ayuqiinek naparcillruut maa-i. (United States Congress-aam aterpagtellrua tauna agayuvik nallunailkutamek "National Landmark"-auluku.) Irr'inaqluni tauna piliara sass'aq, ak'allaat ikuunat, cali-llu agayuviim tukuutai anirtuomallruut kenermek.



Baptism of Christ

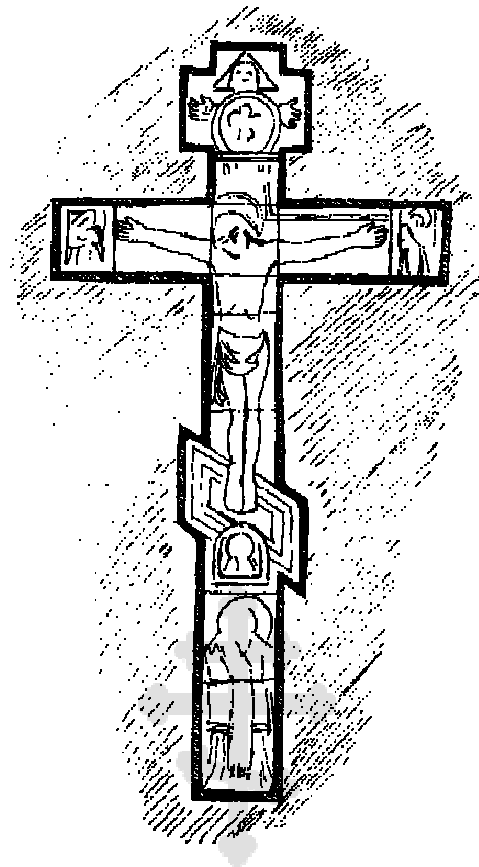


Tua-i allgiliyaurcami cucukliryugngarillruuq agayulirtekamek  
Iilgayam nuniini. Cali-llu umyuarteqellruuq ayagceciyugyaaqluni cali  
agayulirtemek Kuigpiim nuniinun. Kitumek-llu pillerkani  
nallunritellrua. Tua-i Yako Netsvetov-aq ciuqlikacagauluni nutem  
makumiunguluni agayulirtengurtellruuq!



St. Michael's Cathedral Clock

Father Yako nunalillruuq Russian Mission-aami Kuigpagmi. Yugnikek'ngani-llu Father John-aq ayuqeliluku egmian Yup'igtun qanenermek elicungcallruuq. Igaryamek taqutellruuq ellii-llu ciuqlikacagauluni Yup'igtun igausngalriamek kalikamek taqutellruuq. Father Yako ayalallruuq qayakun qimugcirluni-llu Kusquqvagkun Kuigpagkun-llu igauqurluki kalikarnun tangellni elitellni-llu. 1973-aami-llu taikut kalikat nataqumallruut Russian Mission-aami, kia-gguq maa-irpak mumigqurarai.



Father Yako ayagnillruuq elitnaurvikarraamek Russian Mission-  
aami elitnauriluni-llu naaqinermek iganermek-llu Yup'igtun –  
ciuqlikacagauluni Yup'igtun elitnaurviullruuq! Allat agayulirtet  
elitnauristet-llu tekitellruut Kuigpagmun, Sitkamun, Unalaskamun-llu  
tamatum kinguani. Taugaam agayumalriit kass'alugpiat  
ayagniqarraallran agayumacimeng nallunriryugngaat (kangingyugngaat)  
ukugnegun Agayutem pistegnegan: Bishop Innokenty (Father John)  
Father Yako-llu.

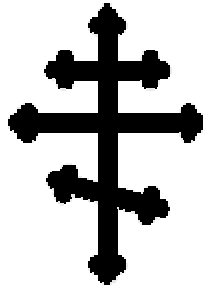


Tamatum kinguani Bishop Innokenty cucukumallruuq  
Metropolitan-aarusqelluku (Archbishop-aarusqelluku) Moscow-mi. Una  
quyilriaruuq caliaq Russia-m agayuviini.

Tuqullrani-llu 1879-aami tungmagtellruat qunguqegtaaraagnun  
Zagorsk-imi Moscow-m yaaqsinrilkiini.

Father Yako, ak'allaurteqapiarallermini Sitkamun pillruuq,  
tamaani-llu tuquluni, taugaam qungua Agayutem kiimi nallunritaa maa-  
irpak.





Father John Veniamenov and Father Yako Netsvetov  
*(English version of the preceding Yup'ik text)*

Page 5:

In 1824, one of the most amazing men in the history of Alaska, Father Ioann (John) Veniamenov, arrived at Unalaska from Russia with his wife and family.

Father John had been singing and reading in church since he had been a boy. He was interested in almost everything – machines, flowers, weather, animals and carving. He used to make small watches and give them as gifts to his school friends.

Now he surprised everyone by volunteering to go to Alaska.

Page 6:

As soon as Father John arrived, he built an Aleut style house (barabara) for his family, but furnished it with chairs and tables that he made himself.

Then he set out to learn the Aleut language. He devised an alphabet and wrote a grammar book for Aleut. Later, he started a school where Aleuts were taught to read and write their own language.

Page 7:

Father John travelled from island to island by qayaq. Because he was over 6 feet tall, it was hard for him to squeeze into the small boat, but he spent ten years travelling throughout the Aleutian Islands, preaching to the Aleut people in their own language.

In the western Aleutians he met a young Aleut man who was anxious to join him: Yako Netsvetov. Yako helped Father John translate the Gospels into Aleut. Together they printed several other books in various Aleut dialects.

Page 8:

Father John's booklet "Indication of the Way to the Heavenly Kingdom" was printed in Aleut and later in German, French, Russian and English. He printed an Aleut Catechism too.

Father John noticed everything about life in the Aleutians. He took notes on the daily rainfall, wind, temperature and clouds. He studied the wildflowers and animals. He described the Aleuts, their homes, customs, families and traditional foods and clothing. Later these descriptions were collected into two thick volumes, and Father John became famous in Russia and western Europe for his scientific work. His friend and student, Yako, went to Russia to continue his studies.

Page 9:

Father John was also an architect. He designed Unalaska's Holy Ascension Orthodox Cathedral, the oldest standing church in Alaska today. It was declared a National Landmark by the United States Congress.

In 1828, Father John travelled to Nushagak, in Bristol Bay, and preached the Christian Faith for the first time to Yup'iks. He decided that someday someone should come north to teach and preach among

these people. His work among the Aleuts was almost finished. After ten years, nearly all Aleuts had become Orthodox Christians, as they still are today.

Page 10:

Before Father John could go back to Bristol Bay himself, he was sent to Sitka. There, he started all over again, learning the Tlingit language, devising an alphabet and translating prayers, hymns and Biblical passages.

Page 11:

While stationed in Sitka, he made a trip south to visit the Russian colony in California. There he met the first Roman Catholic priests he'd ever seen in his life. By speaking Latin to each other, they became friends.

Father John built barrel organs for these men's chapels and came back to Sitka, where, in 1840, he started a training school for Native Alaskan teachers and priests.

Page 12:

He was elected Bishop of Alaska and Kamchatka and took the new name Innokenty. He drew up plans for St. Michael's Cathedral, and built the clock in the bell tower himself. (Although St. Michael's burned in 1966, it has been rebuilt according to Bishop Innokenty's original plans. Congress has also named the Cathedral a National Landmark.) And, fortunately, the hand-made clock was saved from the fire, along with nearly all the old church's treasures.

Page 13:

Now that he was a bishop he was able to appoint a priest to Nushagak. But he also wanted to send a priest further north, to the

Yukon. And he knew exactly whom to send: Yako Netsvetov had become the first Native Alaskan priest!

Page 14:

Father Yako made his headquarters in the village now called “Russian Mission”. He followed his friend’s example and started to learn Yup’ik right away. He too devised a writing system and was the first man to print books in Yup’ik. Father Yako travelled by qayaq and sled up the Yukon and down the Kuskokwim, writing descriptions of what he saw. His diary was discovered at Russian Mission in 1973 and is now being translated.

Page 15:

Father Yako opened the first school at Russian Mission and taught his students to read and write Yup’ik – the first bilingual program! Other priests and teachers came to the Yukon, Sitka, and Unalaska in later years, but the Orthodox Christians in these regions can trace the origin of their church to these two remarkable men of God: Bishop Innokenty (Father John) and Father Yako.

Page 16:

Bishop Innokenty was later elected Metropolitan (Archbishop) of Moscow, the most important position in the Church in Russia.

When he died in 1879, he was buried in a beautiful tomb at Zagorsk, near Moscow.

Father Yako, when he was very old, came to Sitka, where he died, but his gravesite is known today only by God.

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