









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
16	2	4	Celebrations	Saints of the Modern Era	66: St Herman of Alaska and St Innocent of Alaska

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes (Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, north star of Christ's holy Church, the light of your holy life and great deeds, guides those who follow the Orthodox Way.

Starter: Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28: 19) [See Starter Sheet 66 – Complete the first Word Grid]

Learning objectives: - to learn about Saints of the Modern Era and to be guided by their spiritual lives and works.

Core Activities and Learning

St Herman of Alaska:

- ❖ Born in Moscow, became monk at the Holy Trinity near St Petersburg when he was still teenager, and later moved to his spiritual home, the venerable Valaam Monastery.
- ❖ In the second half of the 1700's, they chose the Saint with another nine monks to evangelize the Aleutians, in Alaska.
- ❖ After 5 successful years of founding schools, churches, and baptising thousands of Aleutians, several members of the mission drowned, were martyred or otherwise died. St Herman remained alone.
- ❖ He worked tirelessly, slept very little, and with his own hands he built his cell and chapel to gather and lead with love the Aleutian peoples in the worship and service of God.
- ❖ People loved to visit him, listen to his spiritual teaching, and to ask him for his counsel and help.
- ❖ He especially loved the children and the weak. He baked cookies for them and defended the native peoples against the Russian fur traders who were exploiting them.
- ❖ The Aleuts called him "North Star", and "Apa" meant grandfather. Just before taking his last breath on 13th December, 1837, he pronounced: "Glory to thee, O Lord", people reported seeing a pillar of light reaching down to Spruce Island, the New Valaam.
- ❖ They honoured his memory with prayers and pilgrimages. St Herman has not ever left them. Miracles continue to happen since his repose. The Church honours him on 13th December.

St Innocent of Alaska: (the teacher doesn't have to mention the dates)

- ❖ His Grace, Bishop Innocent (Veniaminov) of Alaska born into family of a church server on August 26, 1797 in Anginskoye, Irkutsk province. In 1817 he married and afterwards he was ordained deacon in Irkutsk,
- ❖ In 1818 upon graduation from Irkutsk theological seminary, was appointed teacher in a parish school, and in 1821 ordained priest.
- ❖ In 1823 he announced his willingness to devote himself to pastoral service on the island of Unalaska, and departed with his family on a journey of more than a year.
- ❖ His first task was the construction of a church. In a short time, he had mastered six local dialects, and translated into the dialects the Gospel according to St Matthew, as well as the most frequently used prayers and hymns.
- ❖ His parish included the neighbouring island whose inhabitants had been converted to Christianity but retained many of their pagan customs, and he baptised many of the unmissionised Tlingits, formerly stubborn pagans, after he had taught them how to vaccinate against disease.
- ❖ 15 years of successful missionary activity led to the construction of new churches, and the founding of a permanent mission with a deanery under a diocesan bishop in the American north. The Church honours him on 31st March.

Activity: Read the summary of the lives of these two saints. Discuss what made them such great missionaries. Complete the Crossword Puzzle on Activity Sheet 66.

Resources: Activity Sheet 66 (Other Resources for Leader and Students on Starter Sheet 66)

Review: We can always find the way to the hearts of stubborn peoples when we win their trust. Examples: Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) and St Photini (John 4:5-42), just like Saint Herman of Alaska with the Tlingits.

Follow Up: Research the life of St John of Shanghai and San Francisco.