



St. Herman Arrived 1794
Brotherhood Established 1963



THE ORTHODOX WORD

St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood

P.O. Box 70 — Platina, CA 96076

11/3-16/88

Martyrs Acipucina, Joseph, and Acethalas of Persia

Dear Fr. Samuel,

Greetings in Christ -

I am writing this letter from Wildwood, - 15 miles from our Monastery in Platina. I haven't been back there for a few days so I can't send to the O.W. gang books but I do want to answer your letter now - The books will send off from Platina later.

In my first letter I wanted to tell you that I am a member of Christ the Savior Brotherhood - ~~an~~ ^{an} extended leave of absence to pursue a monastic calling - but it felt like adding too much to one letter - I know Fr. Christopher and most of the Brothers, Sisters & Priests of the former Hild. I knew Fr. Paul too - having been a member of the Order for 17 years - My experience of the illumination hasn't been as intensely "visual" as yours and still remains somewhat of a mystery to me - though I saw the light in my initial experience and a few times later it has been more of a walk of faith in Christ for me and a struggle.

My soul feels "at home" in Orthodoxy - fully so - and many of my experiences in the H.O.M. are being enriched and "unfolded"

as I struggle to live according to the commandments of Christ and grow
in the "good ground" of Orthodox Services and Tradition.

I've never heard anything in the Orthodox Tradition about
~~"putting aside"~~ "dispensing" with anything that has been
handed down - In fact the warning is strong - from the words
of the Apostle Paul right down to our present day - "Hold to
the traditions you have been taught whether by word or
or letter ..." - Also - as far as I know - St. Symeon the New
Theologian whose experience of Light is ~~more~~ one of the most
profound in the heart of anywhere - venerated icons every
day of his life and would never have thought of not doing so.

Actually - please pray for the Order, for all the
Brothers and Sisters - recall all the good and true experiences
you have had and beg God to have mercy and continue
to shed His grace on the Brotherhood.

May His grace and blessing be with you - now and ever and to the
ages of ages, Amen!

Sincerely, In Christ,
Br. Christopher—