

tic state. This proposal compelled the Father Archpriest to stop and deeply consider. He could not make up his mind, because his six children—two sons and four daughters—seemed to hold him in check; he had no one to entrust them to and no where to settle them. Not consenting to the proposition of Metropolitan Philaret he went to Kiev in order to pray there and pay his reverence to those miraculous shrines. On his return from Kiev he was summoned before the Most Holy Synod, and when here advised to take the vows of a monk, he consented, giving himself up to the will of God. His children, at Philaret's request, were settled in the best possible manner.

On the 29th of November, 1840, the Archpriest John Veniaminov, entering the monastic order, was tonsured and given the name of Innocent; at the same time he was ordered as an Archimandrite (an abbot with the privilege of wearing a miter). In the meantime the Holy Synod had concluded to organize a new diocese in Alaska. The question arose as to who should be the bishop of the new diocese. The names of three selected candidates were presented to the Emperor Nicholas Pavlovich, one of which was that of the Archimandrite Innocentius. The Sovereign desired to see him. Having received the newly appointed Archimandrite kindly, the Emperor, bidding him adieu, said to him: "Tell the Metropolitan it is my desire that you be appointed bishop for the new diocese."

The consecration of the Right Reverend Innocent in the episcopal order took place on the 15th of December, 1840, in St. Petersburg, in the grand church of our Lady of Kazan. "I firmly hope and believe," said Innocentius at the time of his installation as a newly-elect Bishop, "that the Lord, who has guided me so long and now is giving me this new lot of service, will by His grace give me also new and greater strength for the