

Report to
Father Joseph P. Chinnici, O.F.M.
Provincial Minister
Province of St. Barbara

**INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY
REGARDING ST. ANTHONY'S SEMINARY**

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NOVEMBER 1993

INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY

Regarding St. Anthony's Seminary

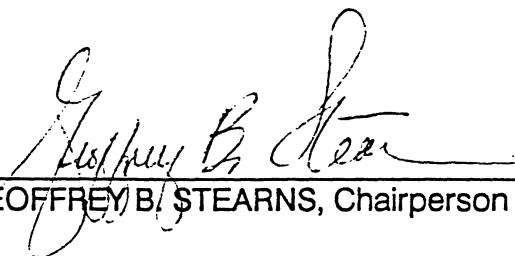
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TO: JOSEPH P. CHINNICI, O.F.M.
Provincial Minister
Province of St. Barbara

On behalf of the Independent Board of Inquiry Regarding St. Anthony's Seminary, and in accordance with the *Board of Inquiry: Guidelines and Procedures*, I herewith submit to you the Board's final report.

Dated: November 22, 1993



GEOFFREY B. STEARNS, Chairperson

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FOREWORD

This report of the Independent Board of Inquiry regarding St. Anthony's Seminary deals with a problem which is currently receiving a great deal of attention. It treats an especially painful situation of sexual abuse of young men whose total care was entrusted to a group of friars. Some of those friars abused that trust.

In fulfilling their responsibilities, the members of the Board have been dedicated to the discovery of the truth, however painful it might be. We have done so for the good of all concerned: victims and their families, perpetrators, the friars of the Province, and the Church at large. It is our conviction that healing can begin only when the full truth is recognized and acknowledged.

This report deals specifically with developments at St. Anthony Seminary in Santa Barbara from 1964 until the closing of the seminary in 1987. The Board did not have a commission to investigate any circumstances unrelated to the seminary. Its attention went beyond St. Anthony Seminary only insofar as this was deemed necessary to provide background for developments there, to follow up further possible activity on the part of friars who were found to have perpetrated abuse at St. Anthony's, and to assess treatment of these friars.

The majority of the friars at the seminary were not perpetrators of sexual abuse, nor were most of the students victimized. Moreover, the overall education and personal growth fostered by the seminary were accomplished despite the unfortunate and tragic developments described in this report. Still, it must be clearly stated that a cancerous evil existed in the institution which exerted, and

continues to exert its pernicious effects in the lives of those who were abused and in the life of the Province. This report is offered not only in the desire to expose the full truth, but with the concomitant hope of promoting continuing healing for all concerned. This report is also offered in the hope that the findings and recommendations made herein will aid in preventing abuse in the future.