

INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY

Regarding St. Anthony's Seminary

P.O. Box 1065

Santa Barbara, California 93102

MEMBERS OF INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY

1. **GEOFFREY B. STEARNS, ESQ.,**
509 Brinkerhoff Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 564-4481

A practicing attorney for 21 years, Geoffrey Stearns has since 1978 represented hundreds of children by court appointment in juvenile court abuse and neglect cases; many of these children were physically and/or sexually abused. Since 1985, Mr. Stearns has also represented children in family law custody cases, many of which involve allegations of abuse. In addition to his child advocacy practice, Mr. Stearns has been a trained, practicing mediator in family and other civil disputes since 1984, and is currently a principal of The Mediation Group of Santa Barbara.

2. **KATHLEEN BAGGARLEY-MAR, M.A., M.F.C.C.**
KEITH MAR, M.A., M.F.C.C.
* 55 Hitchcock Way, Suite 204
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 687-1741

Kathleen and Keith Mar are Co-Clinical Directors of the Aspen Center for Therapy in Santa Barbara, and have specialized for 14 years in the area of child abuse. In 1979, they started the first program providing child sexual abuse treatment and prevention services in Santa Barbara County. They serve as consultants in the field, have shared their expertise in statewide, national and international workshops, and have authored A Handbook for the Prevention of Child Abuse. They currently lead a program for child victims and adult survivors of child abuse.

3. **EUGENE A. MERLIN, M.A., M.F.C.C.**
1727 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Suite #212
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 835-5131

Eugene A. Merlin is a licensed Marriage, Family & Child Counselor, specializing in treating adult male survivors of sexual abuse and sexual offenders. He also has a doctorate in Systematic Theology. He was for four years an investigator

* New address: 5266 Hollister Avenue, Bldg. A, Suite 124
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(805) 964-1966

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Alameda County Childrens Protective Services, as well as working at the California Youth Authority, Bear Creek Ranch (a residential treatment facility for teen offenders), and Sture Larsson Continuation High School (Stockton, CA). In addition to his clinical practice, he also trains Child Welfare Workers, Probation Officers, and therapists on the treatment of sexual offenders.

4. REV. DISMAS BONNER, OFM
St. Germain Friary
Box 278
Dittmer, MO 63023
(314) 285-3593

Father Dismas Bonner is a Franciscan priest of the Sacred Heart Province, St. Louis. He holds a Doctorate in Canon Law and was Professor of that subject at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where he served as a member of the Archdiocesan Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. Fr. Dismas was canonical visitor of St. Barbara Province and several other Franciscan provinces. From 1978 to 1987 he was provincial minister of his Province. At present, he is spiritual director at St. Michael Center in St. Louis, a treatment center for priests and male religious operated by the Servants of the Paraclete. In this capacity, he has with men who have been sexually involved with minors.

5. RAY HIGGINS
4509 Atascadero Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 964-6175

Ray Higgins is a retired businessman who holds a degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Regis College in Denver, Colorado. He was a member of the 1991-1992 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury, which, among other things, investigated the Sheriff's Department's handling of an incident involving a group of college and college age students. He is the father of a former student of St. Anthony's Seminary, is a member of the St. Anthony's Greater Community, and was chairman of its task force that was instrumental in establishing this Board of Inquiry. His purpose for serving on the Board of Inquiry is to ensure that there is a thorough investigation into the facts of the allegations and that the Board maintains independence from St. Anthony's Seminary and the Fransican Province of St. Barbara.