

NAME (Type or Print) _____

(Religious)

(Baptismal)

(Family)

APPOINTMENTS (continued)

1990	Early Fall	Pastoral Associate; St. Francis, Provo, Utah
1994	Summer	Old Mission San Luis Rey: graduate studies at USN + in residence
1995	December	Begin 1 yr leave of absence
1996		University of San Diego: campus Ministry
2001	May	Leaving University of San Diego; health sabbatical
2003	July	Oceanside, CA; Old Mission San Luis Rey: in residence ^{and ministry at Old Mission} with pastoral ministry
2004	May	DISPERSED FROM SOLEMN VOWS and DEPARTED OFM June

Application for Candidacy in the Way of Life of the

Franciscan Friars

Province of St. Barbara

1500 - 34th Avenue, Oakland, California 94601

(Please print all answers)

1. Name Thing THOMAS Today's Date 2/21/78
Family Name First Name Initial

2. Home Address 769 Deland Court Birth Date 5-22-59
EL CAJON CALIF. 92020 Your Age 18
City State Zip

3. Telephone (714) 447-6609

4. Father's Name Robert H. Thing

(Check) Living ☒ Deceased ☐ Catholic ☒ Non-Catholic ☐

Address 769 Deland Ct. EL CAJON Ca. 92020 447-6609
Number Street City State Zip Phone

Business or occupation Produce Clerk

5. Mother's maiden name MARIE G. Sulimay

(Check) Living ☒ Deceased ☐ Catholic ☒ Non-Catholic ☐

Address 769 Deland Ct. EL CAJON Ca. 92020 447-6609
Number Street City State Zip Phone

6. Parents were married St. Charles Borromeo San Diego Calif
Parish City State

Date MARCH 28 1956
Month Day Year

Were either of your parents previously married? NO

Have your parents ever been separated? NO Divorced? NO If so, give date _____

7. Are you an adopted child? NO If you have a guardian, give

Name _____

Address _____
Number Street City State Zip Phone

8. Whom have you consulted concerning your decision to apply to the Franciscans?

my PARENTS
Many close friends (Lay, religious).

9. What persons can be contacted for a recommendation?
(Pastor, Priest, Sister, Brother, Employer)

Name FR. Steve Raine

Name FR. Mel Jurisich

Address St. Simon & Jude Parish

Address 2300 Garden Street

Huntington Beach Ca. 92646
City State Zip

Santa Barbara Ca. 93105
City State Zip

EDUCATION

10. Give in order the schools (i.e. elementary, high, college, etc.) which you have attended and the length of time spent in each.

Name of School	Type of School	City	State	From-To
<u>SAINT SIMON & JUDE</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Huntington Beach</u>	<u>Calif</u>	<u>5-8</u>
<u>SAINT Anthony's Sem.</u>	<u>Seminary</u>	<u>Santa Barbara, Ca</u>		<u>9-12</u>

11. What was the last grade you successfully completed? 12 th

School St. Anthony's Sem.

Year 1978

Have you ever been dismissed from any school? No Reason? _____

12. If you have attended college, what was your major? No

minor? _____

13. As a Franciscan do you wish to be ordained a priest? Most likely

14. What talents do you possess whereby you hope to serve the People of God and contribute to the community of Franciscans?

I feel that I am easy to get along with. I feel I can help people this way. By working with them. I am also a joyful person, I like to smile.

15. Are you proficient in any trade? No State which _____

16. If you are employed at present, state nature of business or occupation and address of employment.

Nature of business _____

Company _____

Address _____

WORK EXPERIENCE:

17. Include part-time and temporary jobs.

Job	Employer	Dates	Reason for leaving
Box Boy	Fed-Market	7-76/8-76	Return to school

PERSONALITY

18. Describe your personality as you see it:

Your strong points	Your weak points
easy to get along with	sometimes impatient
enjoy life, like what I do	
understanding	
Advisable	

19. In what clubs or organizations were you active in the past?

In school - student Council

20. In what subjects and activities (hobbies) are you interested?

Singing, Child Education, working with children

21. How do you relax and spend your free time?

Some time with younger people, by my-self

22. Do you have close friends? yes If so, how many? 20

23. Have you ever dated? yes At what age? 14 Do you date now? NO

24. Have you ever dated the same person regularly? NO Engaged? NO

25. What kind of sex education have you had? 2 years in school

26. Do you find yourself at ease in human relationships with both men and women? yes

27. What difficulties do you foresee in religious life? at this time I don't know of any.

1. Do you have a history of any major physical ailments such as: tuberculosis, heart disease, diabetes, epilepsy, intestinal trouble, eye trouble, etc.?
2. Do you need special medical or dental service or require the use of any form of medication?
3. Have you ever received professional counseling for psychological problems?
4. Have you used drugs to any extent in your life?
5. Have you been seriously troubled with emotional or nervous problems?
6. Is any member of your family troubled by ill health, physical or mental problems, use of alcohol or drugs to excess?
7. Do you have any physical handicaps?
8. Are any members of your family dependent on you for support?
9. Have you ever been in serious trouble with the police?
10. Have you been in military service?
11. Are you a convert to the Catholic Faith?
12. Have you ever been married or attempted marriage?
13. Has your family any objections to your entering religious life?
14. Have you any debts that you are responsible for? Any Administration of property to be settled before entrance?
15. Are you under any pressure or adverse influence in entering?
16. Have you ever applied to or entered any other religious Order or community or diocesan program?
17. Did you ever fall away from the Catholic Church or join another Church?
18. Have you had any unusual religious experiences in your life?

[illegible]

1. Introduction
 2. Background
 3. Methodology
 4. Results
 5. Conclusion
 6. References
 7. Appendix
 8. Index
 9. Table of Contents
 10. Summary
 11. Abstract
 12. Keywords
 13. Subject
 14. Topic
 15. Field
 16. Area
 17. Discipline
 18. Branch
 19. Department
 20. Faculty
 21. School
 22. College
 23. University
 24. Institute
 25. Center
 26. Laboratory
 27. Office
 28. Room
 29. Building
 30. Campus
 31. City
 32. State
 33. Country
 34. World
 35. Universe
 36. Galaxy
 37. Planet
 38. Star
 39. Solar System
 40. Galactic System
 41. Interstellar Space
 42. Extragalactic Space
 43. Cosmos
 44. Universe
 45. Space
 46. Time
 47. Space-Time
 48. Spacetime
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REQUIRED PAPERS

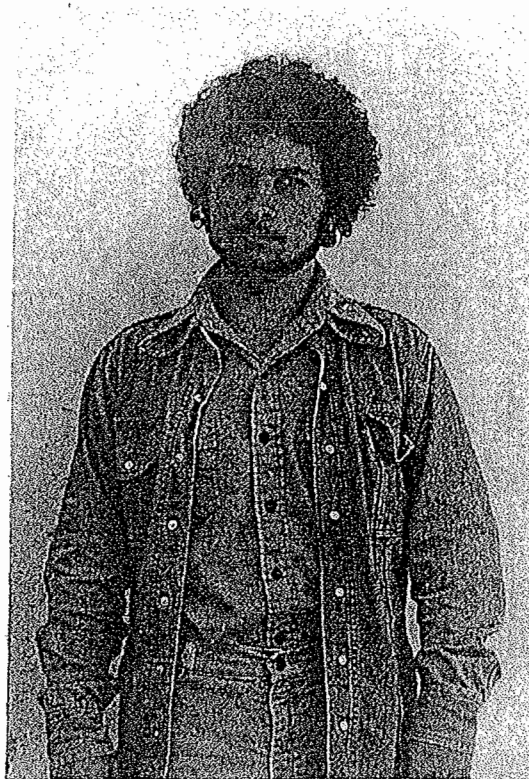
Note: We ask you to begin by writing the essay (#1 below) and gathering the transcripts (#5) and the certificates (#7) to be sent to this office. Once we have received these, we will inform you of the next step in the process of application for acceptance into the Franciscan Formation Program.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation so that the process may run smoothly.

Candidates are received into the Formation Program in January and in September. Deadlines: for January entrance, all requirements must be fulfilled by September 30; for September entrance, by April 30.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. *ESSAY.* Share your feelings about yourself at this time and in the recent past; what you feel called to do and want to do with your life; what are some of your deepest convictions and values; what do you expect to contribute to and receive from the Franciscans; how you see the Church and the world today; why you want to share in the Franciscan way of life.
2. *RETURN OF APPLICATION FORM, NSQ FORM, AND ESSAY.* Please include a recent photo of yourself.
3. *INTERVIEW WITH A FRANCISCAN AND/OR INTERVIEW WITH 3 FRIARS ON THE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE,* individually, in the Oakland/San Francisco area.
4. *VISIT TO A PRE-NOVITIATE COMMUNITY,* preferably for a few days.
5. *TRANSCRIPT OF CREDITS FROM HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, SEMINARY, ETC.*
6. *LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.* At least two letters are required preferably from persons most closely acquainted with you. E.G., priest, Sister, Brother, campus minister, employer, close friend, rector of seminary if applicable. Give addresses on the application form.
7. *A RECENT COPY OF CERTIFICATES OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION.*
8. *MEDICAL REPORT.* Our form will be sent for you, if you have not had a recent physical examination.
9. *PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING.* You will be referred to a psychologist by the Franciscan Formation Office. N.B. Ordinarily it takes about a month to receive a report from the psychologist and two or three weeks for the Admissions Committee to come to its decision.



FRAF 00136

Thomas King

5/5/78

The past four years of my life have been very enlightening experiences for me. I am attending St. Anthony's in Santa Barbara where I am finishing my senior year.

I feel that I have grown very much since my freshman year when I first came. I came to St. Anthony's to find out about the Franciscans. I wanted to know how they lived, and what they believed in. I came to find out what community is all about, and to see if I could live this way of life. After four years I can truly say that yes I can live in a community. I can also say that I love what I see in the Franciscans.

I feel at this time that I know what I want to do for the rest of my life, and that is to join you. I feel that I am a hard worker

and can get things done. I feel my greatest talent is relating to people. I feel that I can also bring a special peace and joy to people. An example of this peace and joy. An elderly lady who has given me a scholarship for 2 years said to one of the priest here. "You know Father if I was to die now, I would feel that my life has been fulfilled, because of the love and joy that Tom has brought to me." The priest told me this, and I felt very good inside.

I feel that I am called to work with the poor and the sick, who ever needs it more. I know that I have recieved a call.

There are many things that I hold as my values. The My first value would be my friends. I love to be around them, and spend time with them. I share a lot with my friends. I hold my friendships very deep in my heart. They mean a lot to me. I think that I have a lot of good friends, and trust and love them.

Along with my friends would come community. I feel that I have learned a lot in a community. How to accept people for what they are, and your community will not always be perfect. There will be mistakes and different things that cause some uproar. Here at St. Anthony's we have a good community. We give each other support and love. I feel that my experiences with St. Anthony's I have become aware of what community is like. If hard times come up or problems I have learned that you just don't let these problems continue, you sit down and talk it out.

Another value of mine would be prayer. I try and find quite time each day and talk to Our Father. My prayers aren't that formal I just start talking to God as though He was just sitting right there with me. One time when my class was having night prayers this is what happened. I felt God come down and touch and comfort me. I used to be afraid to go into the Chapel

at night by myself but through
this experience I have over come
this fear. We were having night
prayers in the Chapel. Fr. Robert Van
Hondle played some music to meditate
on. After that he said go to anywhere
in the Chapel and meditate. I went
to a corner which was dark. I laid
down and fell asleep. About 20 min.
later we got together to discuss
what we did during this time
of meditation. I said that I fell
asleep, but I said it was really
strange. I had no fear of the dark
Chapel but most of all I felt as
though someone came and picked
me up and set me in his hand.
That was Christ who was holding me
and comforting me.

visionary?
example
(cf. parable of the fig tree)
M. B.

In the area of the Church I
feel that the Church should be very
involved with the whole world.
I feel that the Church should work
with the poor and the rich. I
feel that the rich need our
help too. But I feel that we should
try to build a community spirit

among the whole world.

I want to share in the Franciscan way of life for many reasons. The main reason is the strong brotherhood that I see when you get together. Here at the school the Friars have shown us what real brotherhood is like, how anyone could be your brother. The community and love which I see also draws me towards you. Another reason is that I love to work with people and share with them what I have. I see a special way of comforting in the Friars. Another reason would be that I love to read the Gospels, and I believe in what they say. I would love to live the Gospel way of life.

For these reasons and insights I would love to join the Friars Formation Program.

THOMAS HENCHY, Ph. D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
1516 STATE STREET, SUITE 14
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101
PHONE 862-1366

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Name: Thomas THING
Age: 18 (BO: 5/22/59)
Dates of Evaluation: 17 and 18 February 1978
Referred by: St. Anthony's High School
Reason: General psychodiagnostic evaluation concerning (1) presence of any psychopathology, (2) intellectual strengths and weaknesses, (3) orientation toward helping others, and (4) ability to profit from and contribute to a communal living situation.
Procedures: (Tests of organicity were added during the testing because the examiner detected some problem areas.)
1. Interview
2. Rorschach Test
3. Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale with McFie Modifications for Brain Damage Assessment
4. 16 PF Test
5. Aphasia Screening Inventory (Reitan)
6. Trailmaking Test
7. House-Tree-Person Test
8. Forer's Structured Sentence Completion Test

OBSERVATIONS:

Tom is a short, slightly chubby, Caucasian male who dressed in a loose, casual manner. He appeared easy going and relaxed and smiled a lot. He was very cooperative and tried his best on all the tasks presented to him. As the tests progressed, it became clear that his "smile" was a fixed one which had an inappropriate quality considering the situation.

BACKGROUND:

He had been described by Father as a somewhat lazy young man

who was limited academically, but who was the student body president; Father feels he has leadership ability.

TEST RESULTS:

Tom is functioning in the Average range of intelligence; his Full Scale IQ is 104, his Verbal IQ is 102, and his Performance (non-verbal) IQ is 107. His remote memory and fund of information is average, and he has an average ability to use what he knows in socially appropriate ways, i.e., his judgment is average too. His attention and concentration is not hampered by too much anxiety, and he is aware of the essential facts of everyday situations. He had the greatest difficulty with spatial-perceptual tasks, although his motor speed was unimpaired. Tom seemed to be having such difficulty with a spatial-visual task which is affected often by brain damage, that additional tasks were inserted to test for organicity. It was determined that Tom has some slight impairment in the left fronto-temporal lobe. Evidence for the latter was an impaired verbal fluency and memory. There was also an aphasic sign, an expressive dysgraphia, i.e., he heard and said one thing, but he wrote another.

In terms of his personality functioning, Tom is under a lot of pressure which he finds hard to handle. He has an excessively free-flowing fantasy life. He gave sixty-six responses on the Rorschach. The average is twenty! He strives hard to organize these fantasies, much more than he is capable of doing. Emotions and needs which are unavailable to him work on him a lot. He has fewer organized than unorganized percepts which means the more mature delayed and available-to-him type of material is less than you would expect in someone his age. Thus, the unorganized, primitive needs push on him, causing him a lot of painful affect, stress, and tension. A large aspect of the painful affect is a feeling of psychological helplessness and inadequacy; he feels he cannot "do," he cannot help himself. His defense is to back off from emotions, which he finds difficult to do. In ambiguous and/or emotional situations, his sense of reality suffers and he loses his way.

At the same time, Tom does not feel very good about himself. He has a low self-evaluation and is very intropunitive, blaming himself for whatever goes wrong. A defense he uses is an excessive orientation towards other people; he tries to lose himself in the crowd. The latter seems to work well for him; he is aware enough of other people and the conventional and mundane facts of everyday

life that a lot of contact with others is successful for him.

Tom has a lot of difficulty expressing his emotions. He feels a lot of tension and conflict in the emotional area, and his emotional responses tend to be more uncontrolled than is good for him.

What about the content of his fantasies and his attitudes towards significant others in his life? There is some evidence of paternal authority figures leaving him behind, leaving him very concerned about what they think of him. They are seen as powerful figures, especially in contrast to his own felt powerlessness. Maternal figures are seen as weaker, more like supplicants. Tom has a strong identification with the maternal figure(s) in his life. He, too, feels like a supplicant and a beggar; he has a strong oral-dependent strain to his personality. He feels very helpless and at the mercy of others. In addition, there is a masochistic flavor to his helplessness. He strongly identifies with Christ's suffering, and manifests a strong need to suffer. Relatedly, Tom is frightened of his own hostile and aggressive feelings. He fears that his impulses are dirty and destructive. He defends against the awareness of these unacceptable impulses by use of the defense mechanisms of denial, projection and reaction formation, i.e., "I would never hurt anybody," "Others are the hurtful ones who have those feelings towards me," and "I only have peaceful and loving feelings."

It is important to note that Tom has a visionary orientation related to his identification with Christ. And, since he also has some difficulty with his reality sense, he may have experiences akin to visions.

Other people and interpersonal relations are very important to Tom. He has a group dependent, passive personality. He is likely to desire and need a lot of support from other people, and he will orient his behavior towards those who give him support. Because of the latter, the examiner wondered why he was the class president; it did not fit. It became clearer when he stated in a sentence completion that he wished he was not the president. He did it most likely to please others. Tom is a follower, not a leader. He is very humble, submissive, docile, accommodating, and shy. In fact, he is trustful and understanding to a fault. He will forgive others anything, but he has the ego strength to bounce back from disappointment in others. He is sensitive, artistic and gentle; he will invoke a lot of thought and consideration before acting. He is the opposite of a radical, being very conservative and respecting

Psychological Evaluation
Re: Thomas THING

18 February 1978
Page Four

of traditional ideas. However, he is not tortured with anxiety about others; he has a placid and serene quality to him which others find refreshing probably.

COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Diagnosis of a borderline personality with passive-dependent and masochistic features. His reality sense suffers in emotional situations. However, he has a good awareness of others and feels drawn to them. Thus, he should function very well in a communal religious setting. He would be excellent at helping other people. Although he does not have the intellectual or scholastic orientation to go far in school, he should be a helpful and loving aide to those in the helping professions dealing with children.

It would be important, however, to be aware of his visionary fervor. Some psychotherapy would be of use to Tom. In addition, a more complete neurological and/or psychoneurological assessment should be carried out. His brain dysfunction is minimal, but it should be determined that it is static.

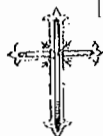


THOMAS P. HENCHY, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist

TPH/mgm

FRAF 00145

Certificate of Baptism



Church of

St. Mary Magdalen
1945 Illinois St.
S. D. 9210

— This is to Certify —

That *Thomas Thiny*
Child of *Robert H. Thiny*
and *Mary Thiny (nee Suliman)*
born in *San Diego* *Calif.*
(CITY) (STATE)
on the *22nd* day of *June* *May* 19*59*
was Baptized

on the *28th* day of *June* 19*59*

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church
by the Rev. *Gregorio L. Ticherty*
the Sponsors being *Russell S. Salas*
Barbara Thiny
as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church.

Dated *May 25, 1965.*

Pastor

St. Anthony's Seminary High School Record

Santa Barbara, California

Name: THING, Thomas

Graduated:

Date of birth: 5-22-59

Date of entry: 9-1-74

Date of withdrawal:

Ninth Grade	1974 1975	Sera. Marks		Semester Periods
		1st	2nd	
English I		D	C	10
Latin I Life Sci		D	C	10
Algebra I Pre		B	C	10
Spanish I		D	B	10
History I		D	C	10
Sacred Doctrine I		C	B	6
Speech I		C	B	6
Typing		C	C	2
Vocal Music		P	P	2
P.E.		P	P	-
Tenth Grade	1975 1976	Sera. Marks		Semester Periods
		1st	2nd	
English II		C	C	10
General Sci		B	-	5
Geometry		C	D	10
Spanish II		C	C	10
History II		C	D	10
Sacred Doctrine II		B	A	6
Music Appreciation		P	P	2
Choir		P	P	2
Earth Sci.		-	B	5
Creative Wrtg.		B	-	3
Drawing		B	-	2

Eleventh Grade	1976 1977	Sera. Marks		Semester Periods
		1st	2nd	
English III		C	D	10
Spanish		C	C	10
Algebra II		B	C	10
Chemistry		C	C	10
Am. History		D	D	10
Humanities		B	B	4
Sacred Doctrine III		B	C	6
Speech II		B	A	6
Choir		P	A	2
P.E.		P	P	-
Twelfth Grade	1977 1978	Sera. Marks		Semester Periods
		1st	2nd	
English IV		B	-	-
Sociology		B	-	-
Field Science		C	-	-
Psychology		-	-	-
American Future		B	-	-
Schola Cantorum		A	-	-
Sacred Doctrine IV		A	-	-
Art Painting		B	-	-
Photography		B	-	-
Industrial Art		A	-	-

Test data: (over) SS: Rem. Rdg. C 6) 1974
Bas. Alg. C 6).

FRAF 00147

O-LMAT (5-22-74) Raw Score 41; Performance by Age DIQ 104; 60%ile; Stanine 6
Performance by Grade: 54%ile; Stanine 5

NAME OF PUPIL
THING THOMAS

GRADE-SEX	COMPOSITE	ABILITY	EXPERIENCED COMP.	1. ENG. USAGE	2. MATH. USAGE	3. SC. & SOC. READING	4. NAT. SCI. READING	5. WORD USAGE						
09-2	37	26	27	24-30	04	21	44	27	55	28	46	27	27	25
PCILE	SS	SS	SS	SCORE RANGE	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS

GRADE 9 NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TESTS

NAME OF PUPIL
THING THOMAS

GRADE-SEX	COMPOSITE		ABILITY	EXPERIENCED COMP.	1. ENG. USAGE		2. MATH. USAGE		3. SC. & SOC. READING		4. NAT. SCI. READING		5. WORD USAGE	
10-2	40	28	27	25-30	29	26	12	24	73	33	46	29	41	28
	PCILE	SS	SS	SCORE RANGE	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS	PCILE	SS

GRADE 10 NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TESTS

LAST FIRST
THING THOMAS

SEX	GRADE	DATE	TIME	SELECTION	VERBAL	ALPH	SCORING
M	76	JR	3L	35	J95	37	42 13
SEX	GRADE	DATE	TIME	SELECTION	VERBAL	ALPH	SCORING

LAST FIRST
THING THOMAS

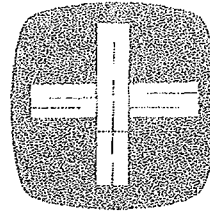
SCORES
VERBAL 36 35 30 43 34
AGE 12 NGV 77

Transcript sent:

CA State Univ., Sacramento, 6000 J St., Sacramento 95819 (2-7-78)

Thomas Thing
Faculty Report

st. anthony's seminary



high school

Members of the Franciscan Formation
Admissions Committee:

May 13, 1978

Tom has no fear of people, regardless of age, station, sex, appearances. This is seen as a wonderful quality when it comes to serving others. Tom enjoys being around other people, likes to enjoy himself with others, has a playful spirit which overflows sometimes. Tom is sensitive to the people around him, particularly if he feels those people are depressed; he is free in expressing his feelings, including love and support and empathy. He is a young man who brings a great deal of joy to the people around him, both consciously and unconsciously. He is particularly good in dealing with children. Perhaps this quality of care and concern is best expressed by saying that Tom nurtures those around him.

There is a stubborn streak in Tom, which makes itself felt sometimes. While he is working with this stubbornness, he must continue to grow in his ability to deal constructively with this stubbornness.

Tom does not have all that much drive for study, and needs some academic direction. It is anticipated that this need will continue and perhaps be more pronounced in the less disciplined atmosphere of college. Hence, academic direction is encouraged/recommended.

Tom has shown a great deal of interest in Spanish, as well as considerable innate ability in this field. Further, Tom sees Spanish as integral to the type of work and service he hopes to render. We strongly recommend that this interest be encouraged. Further, Tom is showing interest in his own Mexican heritage (Tom is $\frac{1}{2}$ Mexican). This heritage has not been nurtured in the family situation, and this interest he exhibits in his heritage is also to be encouraged.

A useful approach in academic counselling is to stress the ways in which the application of what he learns will enable him to serve others. This is perhaps the best avenue for encouraging his academic pursuits.

Tom has good common sense. He is wise, and has developed his gift of wisdom, in the handling of people and difficult situations.

Tom is not afraid to share his ideas and beliefs, is generous in sharing his time, his possessions and himself. Tom is a young man of solid principles, and we believe those principles to be both Christian and Franciscan. He is a person who exists to help and to serve. He will be a servant of the Lord, in or out of a Franciscan habit.

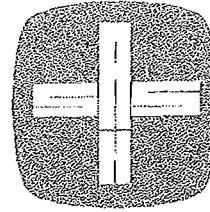
Of those members voting, the faculty unanimously recommended Tom's acceptance into formation.**

**Report prepared on behalf of the faculty. Prepared from comments made during executive faculty meeting, May 10, 1978, and from personal observation. Prepared on behalf of faculty by John F. Linder.

franciscan friars ■ 2300 garden street ■ santa barbara ■ california ■ 93105

FRAF 00149

st. anthony's seminary



high school

Members of the Franciscan Formation
Committee Admissions Board,

May 13, 1978

I have known Tom Thing as an acquaintance for about five years, and have been working with him on a day to day basis for the past two years. I have also been his moderator and personal counsellor for this past, his senior, year.

Tom possesses many qualities which I feel commend him highly for life with the Franciscans. Most important among these is his concern for and love of other people. He is honest, has leadership abilities, is generally open and has a giving nature. Further I sense in him much of the simplicity and joy at living that Francis possessed.

Tom's most beautiful qualities emerge at the personal level; Tom is greatly concerned about many individuals and their individual well-being. Tom simply has a great love for the people around him. He is sensitive to the needs and moods of others, is quick to sense changes of mood and to respond to those changes appropriately with love, or support, or empathy. He is quick to try and cheer people up and great-hearted in his attempts to make people happy. Further, Tom is sure of himself with people, and is not easily intimidated or put off. He views the people around him as his brothers and sisters and naturally treats people with a great deal of respect. Evidence of these qualities is the great number of friends he has, his approach to meeting people, and the emotional rewards of being his friend.

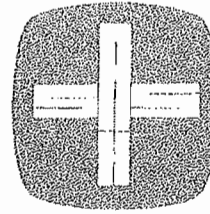
Tom is a leader within the school community. The fact that his peers chose him as their studentbody president this year is some indication of the faith they place in his ability to lead. Tom's leadership ability cuts across class and group lines; he is fair and just to all and open to the needs of everyone within the school community. He has done an admirable job being the spokesman of the students at faculty meetings. The job often calls for him to present and argue difficult positions, at times including ideas which he does not personally support. He has to walk a tightrope sometimes between faculty and students. He has performed with both grace and candor, showing an ability to be honest yet gentle, even with the most difficult of issues (student-suggested changes in controversial policy).

Tom clearly believes in and supports the values of the school, is willing to call others when they do not, and has proven to be loyal to the school and its philosophy above all other loyalties. When necessary he has pointed out areas where people were acting irresponsibly (breaking some important rule, acting disorderly when the faculty is not around, etc.). He has not hesitated to make them responsible either by approaching them personally or by making the situation known to myself or the rector.

Tom's leadership is personal and persuasive; he is not all that charismatic before the group. He sometimes finds his "official" functions difficult (leading prayers, being spokesman for the school community, etc.). Though the responsibilities frighten him sometimes,

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Letter of Recommendation
Tom Thing

st. anthony's seminary



high school

and he would rather flee the responsibilities, his dependability and determination always win out. He is learning to live with the burdens and responsibilities of leadership.

Tom's academic performance is acceptable. Tom is not an outstanding student, has to work for his grades, and is generally willing to work up to his potential. His efforts in the classroom are excellent. Tom is quick to participate in discussion, is willing to ask questions and is blessed with an inquisitive mind. His preparation is not always as thorough as it could be, though it is always adequate. He is a plus in the classroom. Sometimes Tom can be stubborn, and this hampers his ability to learn. Once set on an idea, he can be single-minded, though with effort he usually overcomes this stubbornness.

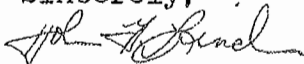
Tom's religious maturity is fairly typical of high school students today. Tom is grappling with his faith, attempting to understand what it means to communicate with God. To that end he has made some important progress this year. He is willing to participate in prayer and Mass, particularly class Masses, bringing a characteristic joy and simplicity to such events in our daily life. Tom's faith is growing and experiencing many of the pains and struggle often associated with growth. He is trying to mature spiritually, is open to direction and will benefit from it.

Speaking as Tom's personal counsellor, I would say that he has a good level of maturity for a high school senior. He seeks meaningful relationships with others, is capable of handling relationships at a mature and adult level, and is someone I personally enjoy being with. I consider him a valuable and delightful friend.

His self-image could be better; he does not give himself credit for his abilities and talents, and is often less sure of himself than he ought to be. He generally reacts well when confronted with pressure and stress at the interpersonal level. He can become stubborn, but will, with a bit of time, overcome that stubbornness. He is trusting, willing to listen to experience, and yet not passive. He will listen to challenge, respond honestly, discuss and once he comes to a conclusion, will follow through. He is dependable.

While there are areas where Tom needs to grow (his faith, overcoming his stubbornness, accepting his role as one who leads) he is of above average maturity, is open, and is genuinely great-hearted. I would recommend his acceptance into the Franciscan Formation Program.

Sincerely,


John F. Linder

cc:file