

Thomas Thing

1. The initial report regarding Tom Thing came from the Board of Inquiry for St. Anthony's Seminary. The allegation is contained in my letter to Tom (no date). The allegations, in the light of others made against friars, were minimal, but Tom was sent to TARA in Seattle for evaluation. Tom's name appeared in the paper in Santa Barbara.
2. Tom was evaluated at TARA, May 1993. He did not complete the full assessment process, and no specific recommendations could be made with respect to his future ministry. He was told to receive counselling by myself, take courses in education in adult sexuality development, and that he could not work with minors outside of the presence of other adults. Eventually, after the Chapter of 1994, Tom sought further education and eventually asked for a leave of absence which was granted. He no longer engaged in youth work.
3. Tom now wants to return to the province. It is important to note the following:
  - a) Tom was never accused of sexual molestation of a minor. There were very real disagreements about what happened, if anything, as alleged by Given this discrepancy, the actual allegations against Tom, and the inconclusive evaluation at TARA, it was felt that the best steps that could be taken were to place prudential restrictions on Tom's ministry and request counselling and some education. Tom has since given up work with those under age.
  - b) While living at San Luis Rey, Tom had a pattern of financial abuse. His debts had to be covered by the province, and a history of compulsive/addictive behavior in the use of money came to light. He lacked prudence. He also demonstrated a strong unwillingness to abide by community standards and an inability to see the consequences of his own behavior. These issues are probably more to the point than the initial allegation of sexual abuse. I tried to summarize many of the issues leading to the leave of absence in my letter to Tom of September 26, 1995.
  - c) Any return to life and work in the province should take all of this into consideration and careful discrimination should be made. I have no specific recommendations.

FRAF 00326