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The Province of St. Barbara Releases List of Franciscan Friars Credibly Accused of Sexual Abuse

Investigation of Files Dating Back to 1950; Fifty Names Disclosed

Oakland, CA (May 31, 2019) — The Province of St. Barbara has released a list of Franciscans with credible accusations of sexual abuse of minors going back to 1950. The Province is releasing the list because the victims and the faithful deserve transparency. The list and additional information—including policies, victims assistance, human resources accreditation, and frequently asked questions—can be found on the Province's website: www.sbfrciscans.org.

The Province of St. Barbara reviewed files with the help of lay professionals and its Province Review Board, which consists of volunteer lay professionals in the fields of social science, mental health, and law enforcement. The result of this investigation is a list of credibly accused Franciscans since 1950 containing fifty names, involving one hundred twenty-two victims. The majority of the claims of abuse occurred between the 1960s and 1980s. Of the fifty men on the list, four are still living, twenty-seven are deceased and died as Franciscans, and nineteen who left the Order. The four living men, all in their 70s and 80s, live on restrictions in retirement/care facilities.

The Province of St. Barbara is committed to supporting the healing process of those victimized and preventing abuse in the future. The Province has an independent Victims Assistance Coordinator to connect survivors of abuse with support and services. The Province is also accredited by Praesidium, Inc., an organization providing consultation, risk management assessment, policy development, and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to claims of sexual misconduct. The Province maintains accreditation through regular reviews of their policies and procedures by Praesidium's auditors.

About The Province of St. Barbara: The Franciscan friars (OFM) in the western United States are part of the Order of Friars Minor, a worldwide Roman Catholic religious community founded by St. Francis in Assisi in 1209. Since its founding in 1915, the Province of St. Barbara is headquartered in Oakland, California and has fostered a broad range of ministries—including parishes, retreat centers, social center dining rooms, and education outreach—shepherded by a host of dedicated Franciscan friars. The Province of St. Barbara has a presence today in the

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States of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington. Many brothers work in specialized ministries in service to the poor and marginalized.

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The Province of St. Barbara Website:

www.sbfranciscans.org

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