



*A Letter of support and encouragement from Justin Cardinal Rigali,  
Archbishop of Philadelphia, addressed to Guest House  
Review. . . .*

Cardinal Justin Rigali  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
January 15, 2010

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has called for this Year of the Priest for the whole Church as a new opportunity for priests to grow in holiness and live more fully united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It serves as an opportunity for all the members of the Church to recall the essential role of priests among us and in society.

In this special Year of the Priest, it is also important for us to remember that priests also are human beings and, therefore, susceptible to the same human temptations all men sometimes are forced to confront. Included among those are the addictions of alcohol, drugs, promiscuity and gambling, each with its hallmark characteristics such as denial, isolation, and deceit.

Priests are not exempt from such human weakness and I am so prayerfully grateful that there are fine treatment centers such as Guest House to assist in counseling and healing the clergy and religious who are working to overcome their afflictions. Certainly there are priests in my own Archdiocese who have benefited greatly from the program and are leading productive and happy priestly lives.

As Archbishop of Philadelphia, and previously of St. Louis, one of my primary concerns has always been the well-being and safety of our priests and those we serve. One helps and determines the other. As healers and bearers of others' burdens, as priests we can be self-deceptive as to the gravity of these harmful influences upon ourselves and our brothers.

It is only through centers such as Guest House that those trapped in their addictions can receive the special care from doctors, spiritual directors and professionals and come to terms with the realities of their problems and rediscover freedom and peace.

May God bless everyone at Guest House, as well as those at similar treatment centers, dedicated to the health and well-being of our clergy and religious.