

A word from the Editor



Finally today, there is a hint of sunlight to warm the heart. There is still a bit of snow on the ground – not just where I am (Scranton, PA) but over most of the country. There is still a chill in the air. But, one can feel it... Spring is on the way.

I often love this time when it is not uncommon to be surprised by a solitary crocus or a delicate snowdrop flower rising above the snow. These hearty flowers remind me of **recovery** when, even though the winter seems to rule, something is brewing beneath... something germinates... something “knows” what to do.

This Spring we begin the third volume of *Guest House Review*, our ejournal of support and encouragement for religious and priests in recovery and those ecclesial leaders who wish to learn. Once more, I invite anyone of our readers who wishes to submit an article, or a reflection on her or his own recovery, or a review of some book that you find inspiring – Please feel free to send me what you have. You can send it directly to Guest House care of Colleen Richards or directly to me at University of Scranton, c/o Oliver Morgan, Scranton PA 18510.

This issue has several submissions you might find interesting. **Brother Ignatius Perkins, O.P.** presents a very challenging essay in our Features section entitled, *Religious communities: Are they centers for enabling or centers for healing?* He is part of the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York and knowledgeable about these issues. In addition, **Professor K. Elizabeth Oakes, Ph.D.** from Loyola University in Maryland makes her debut

with us in the publication of two new research essays, *Spiritual recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Spiritual Recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous II: Exploring Gender Differences*. The Editorial Board and I hope that our readers enjoy reading these challenging and substantial pieces of research.

We are grateful for the Letter of Encouragement and Support from Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia that is included in this issue. Readers will remember that a favorable book review of his recent *Let the oppressed go free: Breaking the bonds of addiction* appeared in the last issue of *Guest House Review*. His support is both timely and much appreciated.

Finally, two book reviews are included in this issue; they share the peculiarity of being a father-son endeavor. *Tweak: Growing Up On Methamphetamines* by Nic Sheff and *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction* by David Sheff were both published in 2008, and they are honest portraits of the human suffering involved in addiction for the addict and for those who love her or him.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *Guest House Review*. We hope, too, that it will freshen your hope in recovery... just in time for Spring.

Oliver J. Morgan, Ph.D.
Editor