

**A Message from the Executive Director
Guest House Institute**



Greetings and welcome to the first edition of *The Guest House Review!*

We believe *GH Review* will be a creative outlet of expression to carry the message for all who are on the path of recovery, those in leadership, and those serving the Catholic faith community. The Guest House Institute, educational arm of Guest House Inc., has evolved over the past few years under the guidance of its board of trustees to become a creative and valuable resource that addresses the dilemma of addiction and community life among women and men religious and clergy. *The Review* is an Institute outreach that addresses its mission to promote the health and spiritual wellness of Catholics by providing educational services regarding alcoholism and other addictions affecting the Catholic community.

The wealth of information and contributions from conferences and seminar presenters will be made available through *The Guest House Review*. It will contain the expertise of some of the foremost thinkers and researchers in the field of addiction medicine and psychology, sociology, moral theology, and canon law as well as those in church leadership. We will also incorporate the wisdom, experience, strength, and hope of those blessed individuals in the ranks of the professed and ordained who have tread the personal path of addiction and emerged as prophetic voices. They are often guides for those who follow among the inevitable numbers who will, in spite of all good intentions, experience the pain of addiction.

Alcoholism remains one of the greatest impediments to growth for individual ministers and congregations alike. We are aware of the limited resources to facilitate ongoing education among clergy and religious. As an easily accessible electronic journal, *GH Review* offers an efficient and inexpensive means of learning about addictions for those in ministry. Dr. Oliver Morgan, the creator of the e-journal, and his editorial board will offer assistance in addressing personal recovery, clinical and supervisory issues, and pastoral education.

The Catholic Church has concerned herself with the dilemma of problem drinking throughout her history, often helping to temper the damages of alcohol abuse and dependency. Those in ministry have great opportunities to address the pandemic nature of addictive disease but only if they themselves feel competent in their knowledge of the problem. At a time when the world is beginning to recognize the debilitating and tremendous cost of the consequences of addiction, and the spiritual nature of the dilemma, the Church has much to offer through her ministers and sacramental life to move beyond denial and to support efforts of recovery among those served. We invite all our readers to share in our enthusiasm and hope that we can be a force for good in combating the destructive consequences of addictive disorders both in the ranks of those who minister as well as those served.

Michael Morton, M.A.
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