



# Providing The Way



*Editor's Note: A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all of our faithful donors who responded to our recent Easter Appeal! We are so blessed to have you as our friends and we continue to express our gratitude to you for your belief in the goodness and value of the priests and religious we care for. Thank you also for ALL of your notes of encouragement to our men and women in treatment. They were especially touched by your kind words! They promise you prayers and remembrance in their daily Masses here at Guest House.*

*A reminder: Thanks also to our donor friends who request special Masses for deceased family and loved ones, or for other special requests. Our alumni and other priest friends are happy to do this. Please remember that the stipend for each Mass is \$10 and if you pay by check it should be made payable to Guest House.*

## 145 Years Strong!

### Father Lautermilch Celebrates Three Milestones

*The photo to the right shows Guest House alumnus Father Dave Lautermilch of Toledo, Ohio holding a mantle clock commemorating three major accomplishments in his life: 30 years of sobriety; 45 years in the priesthood, and 70 years of age! The clock was a gift from Guest House, presented by President Daniel A. Kidd in February.*

*The presentation came at a luncheon for Father Dave in Toledo at the renowned Budapest Restaurant, known for its delicious Hungarian cuisine. Father Dave's last name is NOT Hungarian, he notes, however.*

*Father Dave "graduated" from Guest House in Lake Orion, Michigan in May 1978. He continues to have a deep sense of*



**Father Dave**

*gratitude for his treatment experience and has always been a true advocate for us. He also frequents our Alumni Reunions and related retreats, plus he is a frequent visitor to our Recovery Residence in Lake Orion for the "Third Thursday" luncheons for alumni/nae, staff and volunteers.*

*For our part, we consider Father Dave one of our dearest friends!*

*Continued on Page 2*



### his holiness Pope Benedict XVI

as a pledge of divine favor bestows the Apostolic Blessing upon  
**Mr. Daniel A. Kidd, President  
 and the Board of Trustees, Clients  
 Benefactors and Staff of Guest House**  
 on the occasion of the fiftieth Anniversary of its foundation  
 1956 - June 4 - 2006

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
 Apostolic Nuncio

Washington, D.C.

## Letter from Joe Stong

Dear friend of Guest House,

Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the United States is a special blessing for those who have been in the valley of death and been restored to life and light, like our clients.

How his ministry has been received – first as Cardinal prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and now as our Holy Father – is a parable or mirror of how almost all of us have experienced our own relationships with others. Over time, our view of a person in authority often evolves as we grow and mature in our views of those who “tell us what to do.” Isn't it funny how our own parents got smarter as we grew older!

Many Guest House clients have their view of their superior or counselor evolve over time, too. In this light, I think it's highly instructive to look at the “before” and

*Continued on Page 7*



## Father Dave's Story

*Continued from Page 1*

As a priest in Ohio during his 20's and 30's, Father Dave was dedicated to his ministry. Later, something seriously impeded his ability to perform his priestly duties: alcohol. Ultimately, his drinking would earn him a trip to Guest House when he missed offering a weekend Mass, because he was drunk, at the hospital where he ministered. What a life-changing experience at Guest House in Lake Orion, Michigan in the spring of 1978!

But before that day, before all of the drinking, there were a series of events, some very tragic, that probably tipped the scales toward Father Dave's addictive behavior.

Born in 1937 in Tiffin, Ohio, Father began his school years in Philadelphia, during World War II, but by the time he was in 4th grade, his family had moved back to Tiffin.

In 1947 less than nine months after moving to Tiffin (1946), Father Dave would experience the first major tragedy in his life.

"I lost my father and sister in a drowning accident when I was one month short of my tenth birthday," Father recalls. "And I believe that initiated a 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder' in me."

Besides the PTSD, Father also believes that there were hereditary factors that presaged his alcoholism: Attention Deficit Disorder and a tendency toward depression besides alcoholism on both sides of his family.

"I was also the too smart, unfocused ADD kid. Many ADD kids become alcoholic," Father says.

He would attend fourth through eighth grade in Tiffin at Saint Joseph School, then begin

attending Wawasee Preparatory High School (Our Lady of the Lake Seminary), in Indiana. This included two years of college.

Having discerned the priesthood, Father completed the last two years of college, plus four years of Theology at The Athenaeum of Ohio, (Mount St. Mary of the West in Cincinnati). He would also meanwhile complete a Masters in Education at Xavier University - Cincinnati, majoring in History.

Ordination for Father Dave came on December 22, 1962 at Advent Saturday Rogation Days.

"It was an early ordination because of the 2nd Vatican Council," Father recalls.

Father's first assignment was in Marblehead, Ohio, followed by an assignment as Associate Pastor at St. Mary's Defiance. His third assignment as a priest was at St. Charles in Lima, Ohio, where he was the Associate Pastor. There, another tragic occurrence would soon take place.

"Six weeks into my assignment, I discovered the Pastor dead on the rectory kitchen floor of a massive heart attack as a result of a malarial attack."

"This was like losing my father all over again and from that point forward I drank alcoholically, for the effect," Father states.

With the new pastor, Father Dave's duties changed. He also was a full time religion and Latin instructor at Lima Central Catholic High School during these years of 1967-1969. Over this period of time, Father recalls that he had chronic depression and that he tried to "self medicate," often with alcohol.

Next, Father Dave was assigned to St. Joseph Church in Maumee as Associate Pastor. He also held a part-time position as instructor at Toledo Central Catholic High School.

An almost prophetic event took place while Father was at Maumee.

"At that time, the fund raiser and Development Director of Guest House and his wife had relatives in the parish and he mentioned to his wife after attending one of my masses one Sunday: "We'll get him! (into treatment)." Clearly, Father Dave reflects, his behaviors at the time signaled "alcoholic" to many.

Father Dave's next assignment was at St. Mary's Church in Sandusky, Ohio. Once again, tragedy would enter his life. "The Pastor died six weeks after I was appointed, while I was on vacation," Father states. "By this time, my drinking had progressed to the point where I was having blackouts."

Things came to a head on Easter Sunday when he was unable to celebrate a scheduled morning Mass. Father left that parish for treatment of depression. But he "wasn't alcoholic," Father recalls thinking. Also at the time, he began taking first generation anti-depressants which he found not very helpful. He recalls: "Melleral is a nasty drug and they allowed me to drive despite that."

After a year's leave of absence, father accepted a position as chaplain in a major medical assignment and completed his Clinical Pastoral Education. He would also teach CPE in the following years and was certified as a hospital health care chaplain. It was there that Father missed the weekend Mass and was written up by the acting hospital administrator.

"This was the year of the famous 1978 blizzard; the National Guard had to be called in to dig Toledo out," Father states. "It was so dangerous they closed the liquor stores!"

Shortly afterward, Father found himself at the doorstep of Guest House in Lake Orion, Michigan. In a

*Continued on Page 6*



## “Guest House at St. John Vianney”

### New Program Addresses Co-Occurring Disorders

Sometimes clergy and religious not only have substance abuse problems, such as active alcoholism, but they may have mental health problems too.

Responding to this reality, and the need for an integrated dual diagnosis program, Guest House and the St. John Vianney Center of Pennsylvania have jointly developed a program for co-occurring disorders. Called Guest House at St. John Vianney, the program offers specialized treatment for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues.

The program offers a healing environment in which the client can receive integrated care for both addiction and mental health problems. This venture of unity brings together 110 years of joint service to the Church. The unprecedented act of cooperation is a



significant step in responding to the call from our Church hierarchy for treatment centers to work with unity, not competition.

### Shared Resources, Shared Goals

Situated in the residential facilities of St. John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, the Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) program draws on the experience and expertise of both Guest House and St. John Vianney Hospital. The St. John Vianney Center provides staff and facility resources, including a chapel

where daily Mass is offered. Guest House provides a program director, psychiatrist and psychologist, marketing resources, education and consultative services.

The dual diagnosis program will encompass psychiatric assessment, consultation, medication management, physical health monitoring, nutritional counseling, exercise, spiritual counseling, group and individual therapy and discharge planning services. Relapse prevention and aftercare, as well as outpatient treatment, will assist in maintaining health and sobriety.

Guest House at St. John Vianney began offering this expanded service for priests and religious effective January 1, 2007. For more information, please contact J. Gerard O’Connor at Guest House, 1-800-626-6910.

## Please Join Us!

Benefits and special events in support of Guest House are a wonderful way for us to raise needed funds, and for you to meet our staff, Board members, volunteers and alumnae and alumni. Come join us in the fellowship!

### 2008 Events

#### Icon Dei Summer Salad Luncheon

Wednesday, June 4  
Bloomfield Hills, MI

#### Guest House Golf Classic

Monday, June 16  
Clarkston, MI

#### Cloris Leachman Benefit

Friday, June 27  
Rochester, MI

#### Rochester Bishop’s Reception

Wednesday, August 13  
Rochester, MN

#### Scripps Days: Art, Autos & Architecture

Saturday, September 13 through  
Sunday, September 14  
Lake Orion, MI

#### Portland Maine Bishop’s Dinner

Friday, October 3  
Portland, ME

#### Detroit Bishop’s Dinner

Friday, October 17  
(Location to be determined.)

#### Icon Dei Fall Luncheon

Saturday, November 8  
Troy, MI



## Memorials

When sending in your memorial gift, please print all information. Please also include street addresses so that we can be sure to be accurate when notifying next of kin or friends of the deceased. For Special Memorial gifts of \$500 or more, you can have permanent plaque recognition at our treatment centers for your departed relative or friend, while providing a major gift to our work. Call our Development Department at 1-800-626-6910 for more information. Thank you, and God bless you for your kindness! Memorials listed are from 11/26/07 to 3/12/08.

MY BELOVED SON Mrs. Mike Bucko	MORAIMA Dr. Miguel Boraby	FATHER JAMES R. COSGROVE Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunning	DENISE FITZGIBBON Edward J. Fitzgibbon
MY DECEASED LOVED ONES Mrs. Evelyn M. Cademartrie	REV. THOMAS J. ADLUM Mrs. Sally S. Staff	REV. EUGENE J. COTTER Ms. Anne Jordan Glennon	REV. ARTHUR L. FLYNN, SSJ Mrs. Mary Murphy
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*Guest House wishes to express its most profound thanks to the following individuals who so graciously remembered us with gifts in their wills, received between November 28, 2007 and April 1, 2008.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.*

Gertrude Boes  
John J. Bullinger  
Maria Teresa Cornejo  
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Vernon F. & Mae E. Thompson  
Helen M. Walsh  
John R. Warner





## Father Dave's Story

*Continued from Page 2*

fair amount of denial, he recalls thinking: "I get three weeks vacation each year. I can drink then!"

Father Dave adds proudly: "Since February 5th, 1978, I haven't had to drink!"

"My counselor was a relatively new one—the late, great JoAnne Holladay—but she was just what I needed to become well! I needed a woman to learn not to take my anger out on those I felt were weaker." After 87 days in treatment, Father Dave left Guest House just before a Memorial Day weekend.

Since his treatment, Father has served as Pastor of St. Patrick's Bascom and St. Andrew's, Liberty Township parishes, both in Ohio. He also was among the founders of Community Hospice Care serving Seneca County, Ohio. He would become pastoral care coordinator for hospice using his talent as a trained grief counselor. He also works as Chaplain at the retirement center, Rosary Hall, on the campus of Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio.

Like so many Guest House graduates, Father has also taken his recovery experience and shared it with others.

"I continue to do a great deal of individual and group '12 Step' work," Father states. "I also worked briefly as an adolescent alcoholism counselor, and I have continually educated myself in the disease and have become well aware of the history of AA."

Father adds that he has the benefit of an AA sponsor—Mel B.—with 58 years of sobriety!



**Father Dave**

"Can you imagine being without a drink that long?" Father Dave quips. "One becomes a fire hazard!"

Also since his treatment, Father Dave says he has experienced an "ever deepening spiritual awakening." And his interactions with others have improved too.

He especially enjoys his relationship with Guest House and current and former staff.

"Bob Martin, in particular, and Guest House Rochester Treatment Center Director Bill Morgan (VP of Clinical Services) and former Lake Orion Center Nurse Jackie Lathers." (Bob is now retired but continues as a Guest House alumni liaison.)

"And of course Eric Vagenius and his wife, Debbie, as well as Ed and Ellen Higgins are favorites," Father Dave adds. (Eric was formerly our Rochester Treatment Center Director; Ed held numerous positions with Guest House, including Director of our Lake Orion Center.)

"I also really enjoy being with Guest House alumni/nae. I seldom miss the 'Third Thursday's' meeting held now at the Recovery Residence in Lake Orion. That is important 12 step work!"

What special feeling does Father Dave hold for Guest House, its staff and its benefactors?

"Frequently, I offer Mass for all of them. Truly, they are another family to me!"

God bless you, Father Dave, and continued success!

## In Appreciation

Guest House acknowledges with gratitude the following permanent endowments and trusts which have been set up by donor friends.

### Named Endowed Funds

Florence C. Cahalan  
 Father Richard Feller  
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*For more information on gift-giving opportunities to assist Guest House in its apostolate, please contact Development, at 1-800-626-6910.*

## Letter from Joe Stong

Continued from Page 1

“after” image of our Holy Father, Benedict XVI.

Those who never knew him often were the first to accept the secular stereotype that he was a cold, uncaring, authoritarian who punished people for no particular reason. And yet...those of us who knew him in person and in his ministry realized that this reputation was a complete phantom.

Benedict XVI has always been a gentle soul, kind teacher, polite, patient and wise bishop. In this light it's indicative that his first two encyclicals as Pope were on “Love” and on “Hope” – full of compassion, understanding, acceptance and a desire for all people to come to experience the joy of being children of God.

What does Benedict XVI have to say to our fellow Catholics dealing with addictions?

*“At some stage in people’s lives, Jesus comes and gently knocks at the hearts of those properly disposed. Perhaps for you, he did this through a friend or a priest, or, who knows, perhaps he arranged a series of*

*coincidences which enabled you to realize that you are loved by God.”*

*“Through the institution which has welcomed you, the Lord has given you this opportunity for physical and spiritual recovery, so vital for you and your families. In turn, society expects you to spread this precious gift of health among your friends and all the members of the community...”*

Like our Holy Father himself, these are words full of gentleness, love, and hope... a message that rings true with a lifetime of his teaching that was overlooked for decades and now is coming to light as more and more Catholics realize that our Pope is a gentle soul motivated by love for souls and hope in their being restored to their own ministry.

As the 12th Step of Alcoholics Anonymous teaches us, once a soul has had a spiritual awakening, it ought to share this with others. Benedict XVI has spent a lifetime sharing his experience of the love of Christ. Let us learn from him to see Christ in others, especially those dealing with the disease of addiction; no matter their problems, they can overcome them and in turn become beacons of hope for still more besides.



Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, addresses a Guest House crowd in Washington, D.C. during a 2006 celebration of our 50th Anniversary Year. Guest House President, Daniel A. Kidd, looks on.

So, we celebrate Benedict XVI's visit to the United States and his message of good will toward those we serve here at Guest House.

I'll conclude by asking for your prayers—as we pray for you—and by thanking you for your kind support of the Guest House mission of hope and healing. Together, we are doing great things for our Church and her ministers in need!

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph Stong, Vice President  
Development

## Your Will...Your Legacy for Family and Friends

When you leave a bequest to Guest House, you ensure that there will be priests or religious who will be able to serve our Church—in your name, and because of your kindness. In a very real way, your support of our patient care programs will ensure them a healthy, happy and productive life in ministry.

When you prepare your Last Will and Testament, family members are always remembered

first, of course. Afterward, charitable organizations like Guest House can be remembered too. Please consult with your attorney or financial advisor.

Here's another major benefit for making a bequest to Guest House: your gift will be used as **you** wanted it to be used! No one else will make that decision for you. So, in reality, the charitable decisions you made **during** your life can be assured **beyond** your lifetime.

And think about how important it is today to have healthy priests at our altars, or healthy brothers and sisters in our schools, missions and hospitals. This can be your legacy too.

If you would like to support our work beyond your lifetime—so that others might have life, health and happiness in your memory and honor—please call our Development office at 1-800-626-6910.



## The First Stage of Alcoholism

To begin with, an alcoholic differs from the “problem” drinker in one key respect: the alcoholic cannot stop drinking. The craving for a drink is beyond his or her control, and whether it takes just one drink or many years to reach this stage, it is relentlessly progressive. Sooner or later, there will be no saying “No.”

But what exactly are the signs of the progressive disease of alcoholism? Experts agree that one of the first true signs is the “blackout.” It doesn’t mean being unconscious, however. An alcoholic blackout is where the person remains awake, even active, but they cannot remember some key realities: like where they were or the timeframe of this “absence” period. If they were drinking during the blackout, the alcoholic cannot remember things like who they were drinking with or what was said or done by them during the blackout.

Other signs of progressing alcoholism include “pre-drinking” before the actual party or social event begins. Gulping alcohol regularly to get an effect is another sign. Sneaking drinks and stockpiling alcohol are two other potential signs. Stockpiling occurs because the alcoholic doesn’t want to be caught without a drink. It’s the “just in case” guarantee of a supply.

Hiding one’s drinking is often an indication of potential trouble too. The alcoholic doesn’t want anyone to know how much he or she is consuming, or that there might be a drinking problem. Some alcoholics will change their drinking schedule, or even their drink, to “prove” that they don’t have a problem. Others will frequently change the bar where they drink, or change the store where they buy their alcoholic beverages, just to keep from displaying a pattern.

The above examples represent typical behaviors that have been identified through research into alcoholism through the decades. But a person may exhibit just one of these behaviors and still be an alcoholic. Or, the degree to which he or she conforms to these kinds of behaviors can differ widely.

It all goes back to the key issue, however. The alcoholic simply must drink.

*(Next Newsletter: “The Second Stage of Alcoholism.”)*

### Management Services Offices

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Email: info@guesthouse.org  
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#### The Guest House Facilities:

- Management Services Offices Lake Orion, Michigan
- Lake Orion Treatment Center and Recovery Residence Lake Orion, Michigan
- Rochester Treatment Center Rochester, Minnesota
- Guest House at St. John Vianney Downingtown, Pennsylvania

*Guest House, fully accredited and licensed, is listed in the Official Catholic Directory (OCD).  
Donations to Guest House, which is non-profit and tax-exempt, are deductible as allowed by law.*

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