



1601 Joslyn Road ▪ Lake Orion, MI 48360 ▪ 800.626.6910 ▪ www.guesthouse.org

December 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Schiffer
Director of Special Events
Communications/Media Relations Coordinator
Phone 248.391.4445 / Mobile 248.941.8362
Email: kschiffer@guesthouse.org

Guest House Welcomes Executive Director of Women's Services

Lake Orion, MI – Guest House is pleased to announce that Mary Ellen Merrick, IHM, D.Min., MAC, will join the staff as Executive Director of Women's Services, effective January 4, 2010. Dan Kidd, Guest House president and CEO, welcomed Sister Merrick and praised her compassion and experience, noting that she has integrated psychology and spirituality throughout the course of her clinical career.

Sister Merrick, who holds a master's and doctoral degree in clinical pastoral counseling from Loyola College in Maryland and the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana, has served on Guest House's Women's Advisory Board since 1996. She will replace retiring Sr. LeeAnne Farrell, SSND, who has directed the women's program since 2001. Sister Farrell will continue to serve as educational consultant for leadership and membership of women's religious communities.

Sister Merrick comes to Guest House from the STTAR (Specialized Trauma Treatment Advocacy and Recovery) Center in Columbia, Maryland, where she served for 19 years, most recently as clinical director. Before that, she was on staff at Taylor Manor Hospital in Ellicott City, Maryland, where she was a member of the Isaac Taylor Institute of Psychiatry and Religion, working with patients who wanted to include spirituality as part of their healing process. At the same time she started a private practice in clinical pastoral counseling. Since 1985, she has taught substance abuse courses at Loyola College in Maryland and has supervised clinical interns from around the world.

Sister Merrick began her clinical career at the St. Luke's Institute, where she was Director of Outreach and Aftercare. Her early educational background was in secondary education, with degrees earned from Marywood College in Scranton, PA. She taught junior high and served in school administration. She is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Scranton, PA.

Guest House is America's premier treatment center for Catholic clergy and religious who are facing addiction to alcohol or other substances. Since 1956, Guest House has helped more than 7,400 priests, deacons, religious brothers, women religious and seminarians to achieve sobriety and return to active ministry in the Church. In 1994 the Guest House for Women Religious program opened in Lake Orion, Michigan, just north of Detroit. The sisters' program provides addiction treatment for alcoholism, compulsive eating, gambling, and spending, through a balanced regimen of therapy, spiritual direction, physical healthcare, Twelve Step recovery and life skills.

For more information, contact Guest House at 248.391.4445, or toll-free at 800.626.6910.

#

-more-