



VICAR GENERAL
MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
66 BROOKS DRIVE
BRAintree, MASSACHUSETTS 02184-3839
617-746-5619

February 23, 2011

Dear Monsignor/Father and Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Occasionally a parish, school or institution affiliated with the Catholic Church hosts a guest speaker or lecturer, considers holding a forum for candidates for public office, or decides to present awards or honors to individuals or groups of persons. The Office of the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia is ready to assist pastors, rectors, principals and school presidents, and directors of Catholic organizations, in determining the appropriateness of these instances. Respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the Archdiocese wishes to serve as a resource and guide to you, realizing that these decisions occasionally may be complex and controversial.

The integrity of the Church's teaching and the good of the faithful is at the heart of my interest. The leaders and/or board of the parish, school or institution are responsible for vetting and extending invitations to speakers, award recipients and honorees. Consideration of these invitations should be informed by Catholic teaching, the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Massachusetts Catholic Conference, and civil requirements.

My office is available to receive and respond to your requests for assistance. I am grateful to you for your valuable and dedicated service to Christ and His Church.

With my assurances of prayer and best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Richard M. Erikson, Ph.D., V.G.
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia