**Some General Rules for Discernment of a Place**
1. Try to eliminate first and foremost all natural explanations for the paranormal occurrences in the place.

2. Interview more than one witness to gain a more objective view of the occurrences; also two or more witnesses to the paranormal manifestations give more reliability that what is occurring is not something merely psychological.

3. Answer the following questions. A positive answer to these questions would give greater credibility that one is dealing with an infestation and will also help in determining how to proceed.

a. Did any occult/spiritist/pagan activity occur within the vicinity recently. Examples are feng shui, witchcraft, sorcery, spellcasting, spirit questing, séance, or blood-letting (*padugo)*

b. Did a tragedy like death or murder occur recently within the vicinity?

c. Did someone just arrive in the place? If yes, check whether he is or was involved in occult/animist/spiritist activities.

d. Was there something new added to the place? Like and antique mirror, old painting, “good luck” figurine, New Age crystas and stones, or pagan god statue? They could have evil spirits attached to them.

e. Was there a tampering or renovating of the place or the surrounding area recently? Examples would be the cutting of old large trees around the place and cleaning out the basement or attic. Territorial fallen angels in nature commonly known as “elementals” could be reacting.

f. Did any traumatic event occur recently within the vicinity? Examples are physical violence and rape.

g. Did any sinful activity occur recently? Examples are drug sessions and homosexual encounters.

h. Had the residents quarreled or had a misunderstanding with someone who has access to witchcraft/sorcery.

4. It would also be good to check the history of the place; what was the place before the dwelling was constructed? A mass graveyard during the war? A place which was forested and known to be infested with “elementals”? A positive answer to these questions would give greater credibility that one is dealing with an infestation.

5. If it has been discovered that the infestation is connected with a person living in the house or place, he must be addressed first. It has happened that when the evil spirits attached to a person had been expelled, all paranormal activity in the place also ended.

6. After the interview, make a plan of action for the residents which would include:

a. if present, all ongoing sinful/ occult/animist activities must be stopped.

b. If present, all occult and infested objects like Ouija boards, amulets, talismans, good-luck figurines, and pagan god statues must be disposed of.

c. The persons residing in the place, if they have taken part in these sinful/occult/animist activities, must confess them to a priest and also renounce them three times in front of the Blessed Sacrament if they are occult/animist in nature.

d. The persons residing in the place must prepare and protect themselves spiritually before the deliverance of the place.

* Mass is offered for their protection and for the liberation of the place. Confession of all to be in the state of grace and therefore protected. Daily communal/family Rosary to seek the intercession and protection of Mary.
* Marian consecration of the entire community/ family.
* Wearing personal sacramentals like the Saint Benedict’s medal and the Scapular.
* For each person: using holy water on oneself before going to bed and placing exorcized salt around the perimeters of the bedroom(s).

e. The inhabitants also prepare the following for the scheduled deliverance/blessing: water, rock salt, and candles (for the blessing); they may add a number of religious statues, medals, pictures, and crucifixes to be blessed during the session and placed around the place after the deliverance and blessing.

(Syquia, Catholic Handbook of Deliverance Prayers, pp. 108-114)