

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0101R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Harris, Young, Branch, Curran, D'Adamo, Welch,
Kraft, Spector, Conaway, Reisinger, Rawlings Blake, Clarke, President Dixon
Introduced and adopted: October 17, 2005

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

In Celebration of Pastoral Care Week, October 23 – 29, 2005

FOR the purpose of joining the health care ministers in observance of Pastoral Care Week, an international celebration of the thousands of women and men pastoral care givers of all faiths who offer the healing grace of a higher power to a world suffering in spiritual, emotional, and physical pain.

Recitals

The Pastoral Care Departments of hospitals and other health care facilities provide for the spiritual well-being of patients, their families, and staff members, minister to the sick and dying regardless of what their faith traditions may be, and specialize in supportive spiritual care through empathetic listening. Pastoral care staff provide, in part, patient visitation and hospital rounds, spiritual guidance and assistance to patients, pastoral care and support during bereavement, input on ethical issues regarding patient care, rituals at time of birth or other life cycle transitions, and the distribution of Communion.

The first Pastoral Care Week was held in October 1985; since then it has grown beyond national to international proportions. The celebration of Pastoral Care Week provides an opportunity for chaplains and pastoral care counselors, educators, and providers to share their stories and to celebrate various ministries, with the stated objectives of celebrating the education for and practice of spiritual care through professional chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, to interpret and promote pastoral care, to honor all practitioners of pastoral care, to express appreciation to institutions and staff that support pastoral care ministries, to publicize the work of pastoral care organizations, and to promote continuing education for clergy, laity, and institutional employees.

Each year a new theme brings light to a certain aspect of pastoral care. This year's theme "*Pastoral Care: Healing Wisdom*" has adopted a logo that comes from the rich cultural heritage of the Akan people of Ghana – the SANKOFA, a mythical bird with its feet firmly planted forward and its head turned backwards. To the Akan people it represents wisdom as learning from the past and from our experiences, thus ensuring a strong future. To those in the pastoral care community, "in terms of spirituality, it also represents a movement of reaching back to our inner depths where God resides and of discerning the many marvelous ways God works with us. The egg in the bird's mouth represents the gems of knowledge of the past upon which wisdom is based; it also signifies the generation to come that would benefit from that wisdom."

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 In Baltimore City we have benefitted greatly from the gentle hands and words of pastoral
2 care workers in our many venerable health care facilities who, in times of crisis, enable us to
3 reach deep into ourselves to discover the spiritual reserves that can only be possible as a gift
4 from a greater power with whom they enjoy an ethereal bond.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
6 Body joins the health care ministers in observance of Pastoral Care Week, an international
7 celebration of the thousands of women and men pastoral care givers of all faiths who offer the
8 healing grace of a higher power to a world suffering in spiritual, emotional, and physical pain.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
10 Pastoral Care Departments of Bon Secours Hospital, Franklin Square Hospital, Good Samaritan
11 Hospital, Harbor Hospital Center, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins
12 Hospital, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland General Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, Mt.
13 Washington Pediatric Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, Sinai Hospital, Union Memorial Hospital,
14 and University of Maryland Medical Center, the Senior Vice President for Communications of
15 the Maryland Hospital Association, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.