

## *How Shall We Serve in a **Multifaith** World?*

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# Interfaith Blessing of Spiritual Caregivers

The following Blessing was composed to conclude an Interfaith Panel discussion on Spirituality and Health during Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week, in October, 2003 at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston. The event was held in a large auditorium and was filled to capacity. A draft text was composed by Steve Hill. Significant modifications were made to the text as a result of very interesting dialogue with each of the religious leaders involved. Use this Blessing as a starting point for adaptation in your own organization.

**Regional Coordinator, Multifaith Council** We gather together during this Spiritual and Religious Care Awareness Week in the presence of God our Creator, to publicly acknowledge the essential role of Spiritual Care at the Hotel Dieu Hospital. In the presence of religious leaders in our community, we invoke God's blessing on those who provide Spiritual Care. Sister Marie, as President of the Hotel Dieu Hospital, will you endeavor to ensure continuing support for the Spiritual Care ministry at this hospital?

**Sister, President of Hospital** I will.

**Regional Coordinator, Multifaith Council** As Religious Leaders in the community, Reverend Kathy of the Unitarian community, Kelsang of the Buddhist community Rabbi Daniel of the Jewish community, and Dr. Moustaffa of the Muslim community, will you support our Spiritual Care Staff as they seek to care for the diverse spiritual needs of our patients, their families and our staff?

**Religious Leaders** We will.

**Regional Coordinator, Multifaith Council** May God bless you Sister, and the many faith communities and religious leaders who support and collaborate with providing Spiritual Care for the patients and staff.

**Sister, President of Hospital** As members of the Spiritual Care Department, Ann, Linda, Bonnie, Timothy, Ed, and Steve, will you endeavor to uphold the Mission and Values of the Hotel Dieu Hospital?

**Spiritual Care** We will.

**Unitarian Minister** Will you make every effort to understand and to respect the diverse spiritual and religious needs of your patients?

**Spiritual Care** We will.

**Buddhist Monk** Will you endeavor to be people of compassion?

**Spiritual Care** We will.

**Muslim Imam** Will you support the religious rights and freedoms of all patients?

**Spiritual Care** We will.

**Jewish Rabbi** Will you endeavor to bring a spiritual perspective to the issues before the managers, administrators and front-line healthcare providers?

**Spiritual Care** We will.

**Sister, President of Hospital** These Spiritual Care providers need our complete support. Hugh, as Chief Executive Officer of Hotel Dieu Hospital, will you continue your cooperation with and support for the Spiritual Care Department?

**CEO** I will.

**CEO** (to the audience) Here at Hotel Dieu, we uphold the sacred dignity of each person. Our entire staff seeks to care for the whole person, body, mind and spirit. In order to fulfill their essential role, our Spiritual Care Staff need our continuing support. Will you endeavor to cooperate with and support our Spiritual Care Staff?

**Audience** We will.

**Sister, President of Hospital** Together, let us pledge our support. (All stand) Creator God, we call upon you to bless Anne, Linda, Bonnie, Timothy, Ed and Steve. Give them the grace to serve as instruments of your compassion. May they offer hope where there is despair, comfort where there is pain, light where there is darkness. May they help all of us to recognize and uphold the sacred dignity of each person. May they feel the support and cooperation of all who work here. And so, may Hotel Dieu Hospital continue its long history of holistic service to the body, mind and spirit of all patients. Amen.

**CEO** (Thanks the Religious Leaders and all in attendance...Everyone is invited to the Reception)

**Reception follows with appropriate beverages and food.**