CREATING CHAPLAIN AWARENESS

Making Our Case –
The VALUE OF CHAPLAINCY

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• MY GOAL: Set the stage for 2 excellent presentations:
• Catholic Health East successful program to improve spiritual care awareness during 2011 ‘Pastoral Care Week’ - Jane Connolly, IHM
• Fr. Basil Royton’s innovative plan to do the same in a CA hospital.
Presentation GOALS:

• Fully understand the need for action.
• Clearly communicate the threat.
• Provide some very creative ideas on HOW TO DO THIS.
• To garner your commitment to do your part to improve awareness of our sacred ministry starting NOW.

Pastoral Ministry is at critical juncture.

• Due to tough economic times and our lack of effectively communicating our worth, Pastoral Care is under attack.
• From: CEO’s & CFO’s looking for areas to cut
• From: some academes (Loweys’ article in MedGenMed v.9(2), 2007).
• From: Clinicians concerned about patient privacy re. chaplain spiritual assessments
WHAT IS BEING ATTACKED:

• 1. Full members of trauma teams.
• 2. Right to access patient charts.
• 3. Right to be called a healthcare professional.
• 4. Expertise to counsel clinicians on calling a ethics consult.
• 5. Prevention of initial patients visits unless pt. specifically requests.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE:

• 2006 – 600 bed acute care center
• New VP in charge of Pastoral Care
• Viewed chaplains as ‘Pray for pay’
• Thought volunteers could do as well/less cost.
• Questions to me: “Did I think chaplains should be members of the trauma team?”
• Answer: “yes, need exists; we have earned it.”