



HR0372

LRB104 13761 LAW 26511 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to commend Father Michael Louis Pfleger  
4 for his 50 years of service as a priest, a social activist, and  
5 a fearless voice for justice and hope; and

6 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger has lived and ministered in the  
7 African American community on both Chicago's West and South  
8 Sides since 1968; he also worked in a Native American  
9 community in Oklahoma for two summers, and he completed his  
10 seminary internship as a chaplain at Cook County Jail and  
11 Precious Blood Catholic Church, both in Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger became an ordained priest of the  
13 Archdiocese of Chicago on May 14, 1975; at the age of 31, he  
14 became the youngest full pastor in the diocese when he was  
15 appointed as pastor of Saint Sabina Church in the Auburn  
16 Gresham neighborhood of Chicago in 1981; and

17 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger has led an active and extensive  
18 ministry, seeking to break down the walls of racism and  
19 denominationalism by building unity among all people through a  
20 foundation based on truth and the tenets of his faith; he has  
21 been involved in many social issues, such as campaigns against  
22 racism, the sale of drug paraphernalia, ads and billboards

1 that target children with alcohol and tobacco, and negative  
2 music that glorifies violence and degrades women; in the  
3 process, he has been recognized by People, Time, Ebony,  
4 Newsweek, the Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, and the Los  
5 Angeles Times, and he has been profiled on 60 Minutes, The  
6 Larry King Show, Nightline, and the United Kingdom's BBC,  
7 among others; and

8 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger has remained committed to serving  
9 the Saint Sabina Parish and the surrounding community through  
10 founding the Employment Resource Center, the Ark Youth Center,  
11 the Saint Sabina Social Service Center, the Thea Bowman  
12 Spiritual Advance Center, the Samaritan House for the  
13 Homeless, the Saint Sabina 80-unit Elders Village, and the  
14 Beloved Community, Inc.; and

15 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger has been the recipient of several  
16 honors, including serving twice as keynote speaker for the Dr.  
17 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service at the request of  
18 Coretta Scott King, being inducted into the International  
19 Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia, and receiving  
20 the Keeper of the Dream Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition,  
21 the Rosa Parks Award from the Southern Christian Leadership  
22 Conference, the Thurgood Marshall Award from the National  
23 Black Prosecutors Association, the Monsignor Egan Social  
24 Justice Award from DePaul University, and the Lifetime

1 Achievement Award from the Office of Racial Justice of the  
2 Archdiocese of Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, Father Pfleger has continued to serve as a  
4 steadfast leader to his congregation and the greater  
5 community, celebrating his 50th anniversary as a priest by  
6 hosting a gun turn-in event, a carnival, and a food giveaway;  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we commend Father Michael Louis Pfleger for his 50 years of  
11 service as a priest and his dedication to the Saint Sabina  
12 Parish, for being a beacon of hope and change for people living  
13 on Chicago's South Side, and especially for his work for  
14 victims of gun violence; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Father Pfleger as an expression of our esteem and  
17 respect.