

IHMs in Action



Working with children like Joey is precious to Sister Bev.

Sister Beverly (Rosalita) Hindson, IHM, has been a chaplain at [Children's Hospital of Michigan \(CHM\)](#) for 27 years, ministering to critically ill children, their families and the staff who care for them.

She has been a supportive presence for children and their families as they receive a diagnosis; been with youngsters as they died;

has coordinated funeral liturgies within many different faith traditions; and organized creativity retreats for CHM staff members to help guard against burnout.

The ministry can be daunting at the very least, and Sister Bev admits it has its challenges.

But joy, hope, faith and love are very much in evidence as well, as Sister Bev asks questions of a mother in the oncology clinic, who tells her about her child's recent test results and upcoming procedures. And as she jokes with nurses in an ICU who need some occasional levity in a very high-stress environment. And as she plays with young patients in the oncology clinic, and their eyes sparkle with delight.

"This ministry is one where you have to be able to get on the floor and roll with the children - both literally and figuratively," she notes. "I'm a 'kid whisperer.' They trust me with their spirits, and that's precious to me."

Being trusted with their spirits means talking to them about their hopes and fears. It can also mean serving as a child's advocate, challenging the way things are for the child's benefit.

"Sometimes, I feel almost like a parent to the parents," Sister Bev says. "I hear their fear and their helplessness and work with them to understand why they are behaving a certain way and how it's detrimental to their child. That understanding gives them the opportunity to make good decisions regarding their child's care."

Surprisingly, the biggest challenge for Sister Bev in her ministry is not that some of the children she grows to know and love die.

"What is harder for me is seeing the conditions in which some children must *live*. Abuse, neglect, drugs, poverty - seeing children who endure them is much more difficult.

"I see the face of God in each child," she continues softly. "God works through each child, each parent, each staff person. Being part of their journey is a privilege."

Sister Bev was recently asked to teach physicians about the needs of parents of chronically ill children. She sits on the CHM End-of-Life Committee, the CATCH (Caring Athletes Team For Children's & Henry Ford Hospital) Committee and is part of the team for the Archdiocesan Review Board on Child Abuse. She was also named the CHM Employee of the Month in July.

If you would like to partner with the IHM Sisters in support of their ministries, secure [online](#) giving is available.