

IHMs In Action



Sister Juliana (Rachel) Casey, IHM, was teaching Scriptures in graduate school when she had a ministry-altering epiphany.

"As I taught about Gospel values, I could truly see them in action in a health-care ministry," she recalls. "I wanted to be a part of that."

Sister Julie is the executive vice president of Mission Integration for Catholic Health East (CHE), a position she has held for 11 years. CHE is one of the largest Catholic health care providers in the country and is sponsored by 10 different religious communities. It is a major presence in 11 eastern states from Maine to

Florida and employs approximately 54,000 people.

"I was working in health care for the Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis when CHE was formed," Sister Julie recalls. "I was intrigued by the concept of so many different Catholic sponsors joining forces to provide health care, so I went to work with the new organization."

Sister Julie works closely with all the sponsoring religious communities. She ensures that the CHE mission is carried out according to Catholic principles and provides leadership to people at all levels of the organization to make sure they understand what the mission and values are.

"Even with these difficult financial times, as we are challenged by fewer resources to carry out our mission and stay faithful to our values, I am able to minister with so many people who view CHE as more than just a job," notes Sister Julie. "It's a deeply spiritual experience."

"CHE makes it comfortable for people to take time for prayer and reflection. We start all meetings with a prayer and end them by asking which core values were lived out during the meeting."



Another important aspect of Sister Julie's ministry is providing leadership to CHE's Global Health Ministry.

"Global Health Ministry sends teams of health care volunteers to Latin America and the Caribbean to help those with little or no access to health care," she explains. "We currently have mission sites in Peru, Guatemala, Haiti and Jamaica."

Sister Julie leads by example. She's been to Haiti four times, most recently, this past winter.

"CHE has pledged \$100,000 to build a 12-bed maternity ward at Hospital St. Francis de Sales in

Port-au-Prince, the largest city in the poorest country in the Western hemisphere” she says. “The IHM community has a special connection to Haiti through our co-founder, Therese Maxis, and I’m always happy to go.

“Haiti gets inside your heart.”

Catholic Health East is a community of persons committed to being a transforming, healing presence within the communities we serve. To effect this mission:

- *We treat all persons whom we serve and with whom we work with respect and compassion, calling forth their best human potential.*
- *We provide a full range of services that support healthy communities, including quality medical care and holistic approaches to healing the body, spirit, and mind.*
- *We collaborate with others who share a common mission and vision.*
- *We continually seek ways to assure access to services to persons most in need*
- *We identify and develop leaders in the Catholic health ministry.*
- *We advocate public policies and initiatives -- particularly in the area of healthcare -- that ensure quality of life for all.*