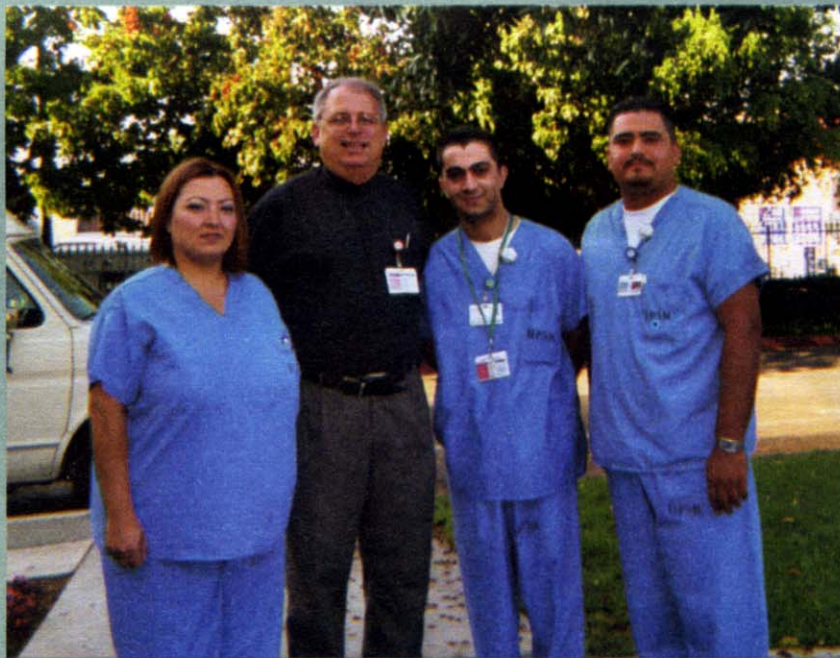


Voice of hope and strength

There are few lonelier experiences than hospitalization without family or friends nearby to offer support.

Claretian Brother Larry Moen of the U.S. Western Province makes those times a little easier through his ministry as Chaplain of Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital in Los Angeles.



Brother Larry Moen, C.M.F. with staff members at L.A.'s Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital.

“A big part of being a Chaplain is to be there for the patient and staff—to give hope and support,” says Brother Larry. “There are many people who have no family and who are very alone and afraid.”

Brother Larry finds that those he ministers to are looking not only for spiritual strength but also for someone to speak out for them, to

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help guide them through their stay. It's a process he does not handle by himself; rather, the hospital staff works as a team to ensure the complete needs of each patient are met.

"As a Chaplain I am part of a team that holds interdisciplinary meetings to discuss each patient. We take care of the whole person: body, soul, and mind. We have a holistic program."

Brother Larry's role on that team of caregivers changes according to the needs of both the hospital and patient. His duties include prayer, celebrating the Communion service when there is not a priest present, preaching the Word of God to the staff and patients, and training eucharistic ministers and pastoral visitors.

For each individual patient, Brother Larry responds in a personalized manner.

"In my ministry I stand for the sick who many times have no voice in their care," Brother Larry

says. "I stand for the families who need support from the church. I stand for each patient's right to be treated with respect and dignity. As a Claretian, I stand for better health care for all people no matter the cost. I am a prophetic voice for the sick and lonely.

"The people who come to this hospital are poor and in need of care," Brother Larry continues. "I proclaim to them that they are wanted and loved by the church and by society. I meet young, middle age, and elderly patients. Many suffer from illness, others are drug addicts, have a problem with alcohol, or have an eating disorder. All are God's children; all are in need of compassion and good pastoral care.

"It's rewarding for me to see the gratitude of the patients for doing just the small things; you can see the gratitude in their eyes or in their smile. It is gratifying to know that I am making a change in people's lives by helping them become closer to Christ."