



PRESS RELEASE

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Outstanding Catholic Doctor to be honored

Award to be presented October 24, 2021 to Daniel O'Connell, MD

LOS ANGELES, CA: Mission Doctors Association will recognize Dr. Daniel O'Connell as the Catholic Doctor of the Year, with the **"World of Difference Award"** to be presented October 24, 2021, at the Los Angeles Archdiocese Annual Mass for Healthcare Professionals at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels.

Nominated by the Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) of Orange County, Dr. Daniel O'Connell is a board-certified neurologist and pain management fellow. He studied medicine at Loyola University Chicago, and later earned a Master of Public Health at Brown University. He completed his internship in internal medicine at New York Medical College and his residency in neurology and fellowship in neuro-oncology at the University of California. Dr. O'Connell also serves as a medical officer of the United States Air Force Reserves, which called him to respond to the Covid crisis in New York City in 2020.

For his service Captain Daniel O'Connell, MD was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal. In the commendation it was noted that; "Captain Daniel E. O'Connell distinguished himself by outstanding achievement while assigned to the 64th Expeditionary Group, First Air Expeditionary Task Force, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey as a medical provider." It further notes that he deployed with less than 24 hours' notice in support of the COVID pandemic in New York and that; "His seamless integration into the hospital workforce immediately enabled the mitigation of patient suffering during an unprecedented high operational tempo."

In response to the nomination Dr. O'Connell wrote "I am highly honored to be nominated by YCP for this award! My instinct upon reading this was that I do not deserve this award. I have been to this celebratory White Mass in the past, and I have witnessed the caliber of physician who has received this award previously."

Additionally, Dr. O'Connell shared; "My Catholic Faith is the guiding foundation in my role as healer. We are called to various ministries, as I felt called to attend a Catholic Medical School to become a Catholic Physician with the ultimate aim of integrating my faith in Christ with our profession. I could not imagine practicing medicine without this foundation. Only St. Luke, "beloved physician (Colossians 4:24) mentions the parable of the Good Samaritan as told by Christ in response to the question "and who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-27).

Mission Doctors Association, founded in 1959 to support the work of Catholic Doctors and their families serving in mission hospitals and clinics, welcomes the opportunity to recognize this outstanding physician. Executive Director, Elise Frederick noted, "Catholic Doctors are called to action on behalf of our brothers and sisters at home and around the world. Mission Doctors Association is proud to hold up Dr. O'Connell's faith, service and leadership, not only during the Covid pandemic, but beyond."

For information on the Annual Mass for Healthcare Professionals, visit the web site: www.CatholicWM.org . For information on the work of Mission Doctors, please contact Elise Frederick, Executive Director or visit the web site www.MissionDoctors.org.

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