



PRESS RELEASE

Mission Doctors Association
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Outstanding Catholic Doctor to be honored

Award to be presented October 23, 2022 to David Gaus, MD

LOS ANGELES, CA: Mission Doctors Association will recognize Dr. David Gaus as the Catholic Doctor of the Year, with the “**World of Difference Award**” to be presented October 23, 2022, at the Los Angeles Archdiocese Annual Mass for Healthcare Professionals at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels.

Nominated by Mission Doctor, Peter Meade, Dr. David Gaus is the founder and CEO of Andean Health and Development (AHD). AHD is an organization dedicated to providing quality, sustainable medical services in rural Ecuador, while training Ecuadorians family physicians to become the healthcare leaders of tomorrow.

Dr. Gaus grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended Notre Dame where he received an accounting degree in 1984. After a soul-searching conversation with then University President, Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, David traveled to Ecuador where he spent two years volunteering at an orphanage. There he witnessed the marginalization of a population who lacked access to even basic health services. He returned to the U.S. where, with the assistance of Fr. Hesburgh and the famous columnist Ann Landers, David re-enrolled at Notre Dame to complete his pre-med studies and then enrolled in Tulane Medical School.

In 1992, David earned his M.D. and Master’s in Public Health & Tropical Medicine from Tulane. Following a residency at the University of Wisconsin, he returned to Ecuador and soon discovered that rural hospital care was the country’s greatest need. In 1996, David and Fr. Hesburgh started AHD to provide self-sustaining, comprehensive health care to the rural poor. AHD trains 15 Ecuadorian family physicians annually. Gaus and his team are also involved in research, the writing of medical manuals, and the creation of the online journal, *Practica Familiar Rural*.

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, “*The road that Dr. David Gaus has traveled, from an accounting student to providing direct patient care himself, as well as developing hospitals in rural Ecuador, has been paved with the foundation of his Catholic Faith. Having the support of Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C and so many who are part of University of Notre Dame community, the vision of a young man, who made a trip to help at an orphanage become a reality, and grew. We are honored to acknowledge the wonderful work and deep faith of Dr. David Gaus as the Catholic Doctor of the Year.*”

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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