



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Is there a future for Catholic health care in the face of secular pressures? Will Catholic health care be permitted to survive?**

*September 13, 2019-* MaterCare International (MCI) will host a news conference Friday, September 20th, 2019 from 2-3pm during their 10th Biennial Rome conference, presenting a statement on the state and future of Catholic Healthcare at the Instituto Maria SS Bambina, Via Paolo VI, 21 – Rome.

Local and international news outlets are also invited to attend throughout the conference which begins Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Instituto Maria SS Bambina. Daily sessions will begin at 9:30am on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Health care has long been a central apostolate for the Catholic Church, caring for the sick and the poor. The conference title, CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE: WILL IT WITHER OR WHITHER CAN IT GO, is designed to draw attention to the present concerns about the future of the ministry of health care. The conference includes 30 speakers and over 100 registrants from 16 countries, most of whom are practicing Catholic physicians.

MCI is an organization of Catholic health professionals dedicated to the care of mothers and babies. MCI's mission is to carry out the work of Evangelium Vitae (the Gospel of Life) by improving the lives and health of mothers and babies, both born and unborn, through new initiatives of service, training, research, and advocacy designed to reduce the tragic levels of abortion world-wide and maternal and perinatal mortality, morbidity in developing countries.

Every other year, MCI hosts an international conference at this location to bring together Catholic medical professionals, speakers, academics and health care workers from around the world.

Media who wish to have further details and confirmation can contact Jennifer Derwey Deane, Communications Director, at [matercaremedia@gmail.com](mailto:matercaremedia@gmail.com).

Media and the public may also ask questions during the news conference via Twitter to @MaterCareOrg with the hashtag #AskMaterCare.

The full conference program is available at: <https://www.matercare.org/2019-rome-conference>

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