



**Franciscan Friars
Holy Name Province
Communications Office**
129 West 31st St., 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10001- 3403
646-473-0265 ext. 321

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Jocelyn Thomas, director of communications
jthomas@HNP.org

**FRANCISCAN FRIAR WITH HOLY NAME PROVINCE APPOINTED TO
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON BIOETHICS**

NEW YORK — April 29, 2010 — Brother Daniel Sulmasy, OFM, M.D., Ph.D., a medical ethicist in the Department of Medicine and Divinity School at the University of Chicago, was appointed this month by President Barack Obama to his Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

“Br. Dan’s appointment to this new White House Commission is another example of how highly respected he is in the medical community and in the area of medical ethics,” said the Rev. John O’Connor, OFM, Provincial Minister of Holy Name Province of the Order of Friars Minor, or Franciscans, where Sulmasy is a religious brother. “I know that he will prove to be a great asset to the commission.”

Sulmasy, one of the country’s leading medical ethicists because of his unique education in medicine, theology and philosophy, said, “I’m humbled by the appointment and honored to be able to serve my country in this capacity.”

Over the years, Sulmasy has been a doctor of internal medicine and professor of philosophy, has chaired departments of ethics and taught at colleges and hospitals in New York. Currently, the Queens, N.Y., native holds an endowed chair at the University of Chicago where he serves as the Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics and associate director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He has also served on governmental advisory committees, including the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law and the Ethics Committee of the Empire State Stem Cell Board.

This presidential appointment comes during a celebratory year for Sulmasy, who marks his 25th anniversary as a friar in June. After attending a high school run by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn in New York City, Sulmasy went on to earn a medical degree at Cornell University in Upstate New York and a degree in theology from Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C. This was the beginning of a career that led to a doctorate in philosophy and positions at colleges and hospitals on the East Coast teaching and chairing departments of medical ethics.

The newly formed presidential commission will explore bioethical issues anticipated to emerge from advances in biomedicine and the related areas of science and technology. It will make practical, policy-oriented, ethics-based recommendations to the president. The commission,

comprised of 12 people, is chaired by Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania.

Sulmasy said the primary objectives of the commission are to:

- Identify and examine specific bioethical, legal and social issues related to the potential impacts of advances in biomedical and behavioral research, health care delivery, or other areas of science and technology.
- Recommend legal, regulatory or policy actions it deems appropriate to address these issues.
- Examine diverse perspectives and explore possibilities for useful international collaboration on these issues.

Other presidential appointees include: Lonnie Ali, wife of Muhammad Ali; Anita Allen, professor of law and philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center and executive dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine; Nita Farahany, associate professor of law and philosophy at Vanderbilt University; Alexander Garza, assistant secretary for health affairs and chief medical officer for the Department of Homeland Security; Christine Grady, acting chief of the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center; Stephen Hauser, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of California-San Francisco; Raju Kucherlapati, professor in the Harvard Medical School Department of Genetics and in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital; and Nelson Michael, director of the Division of Retrovirology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and director, U.S. Military HIV Research program.

Sulmasy has worked at Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, and New York Medical College in White Plains, N.Y., among other institutions.

About Holy Name Province

Holy Name Province is one of seven provinces in the United States that belong to the Order of Friars Minor. Holy Name is the largest U.S. province, with ministries in 12 states along the East Coast. Its more than 350 Catholic priests and brothers serve in colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers and a wide variety of social ministries, as well as in overseas missions.

The Order, founded in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi, commemorated its 800th anniversary last year. Today, St. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, remains one of the most widely-known saints, revered for his affection for nature and care for creation.

Information about Holy Name Province can be found on www.hnp.org

Questions and photo requests should be directed to Jocelyn Thomas, HNP director of communications, at (646) 473-0265 ext. 321 or 732-829-1513 (mobile) or jthomas@hnp.org

#