



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 GIVEN CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The 2019 GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum will take place Wednesday, June 12th through Sunday, June 16th at the Catholic University of America. The GIVEN Forum is designed to help young adult Catholic women with a heart for mission and an aptitude for leadership identify their particular gifts and find practical pathways to put them in the service of the Gospel.

120 young women, ages 21 to 30, will gather for this immersion in leadership training, faith formation, and mentoring in order to better understand and pursue their particular mission and vocation. They come from 30 different states throughout the United States, as well as Ireland and Canada, and represent a variety of professional, educational, and vocational backgrounds.

Each GIVEN Forum participant has proposed and will develop an Action Plan that she will implement within the year following the Forum. The Action Plan is each woman's unique initiative to activate her God-given gifts in the Church and in the world.

The days of the GIVEN Forum will be structured around the three-fold theme of helping the young women attendees "receive the gift they are; realize the gifts they've been given; and respond with the gift that only they can give." Each day will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions, leadership trainings, prayer workshops, mentoring, and time for prayer and the sacraments.

50 religious sisters and 25 lay women mentors will accompany the young women as they discuss the integration of faith, interpersonal relationships, professional aspirations, and vocational responsibilities. These lay and religious mentors will also provide ongoing support after the Forum as the young women seek to implement their Action Plans.

Keynote speakers at the 2019 GIVEN Forum will include Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV of the Sisters of Life, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Gloria Purvis, Sr. Mary Madeline Todd, OP, and Helen Alvaré. The leadership development sessions will address the temperaments, listening skills for leadership, and communications training.

The panel discussions will cover the topics of *Integral Ecology: Caring for Life*; *Living Maternity: One Call, Many Vocations*; *Women Impacting Society: Bringing the Gospel to the Culture*; and *Millennials on Mission: Emerging Women Leaders*. Panel speakers will include female Catholic leaders such as Jeanne Mancini of the March for Life, Joan Rosenhauer of Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, Mary Rice Hasson of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Kathryn Jean Lopez of the National Review Institute, and Luanne Zurlo of the Brilla School Network.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Wusinich, SV, Co-Chair of the GIVEN Institute's Board of Directors, stated, "The GIVEN Forum is a unique event borne from the hearts of consecrated women religious and dedicated Catholic lay women seeking to invest in and call forth the next generation of women leaders for the Church and the world." Through leadership training, faith formation, and mentoring, the GIVEN Institute forms women for mission and for life.

For more information about the event, visit: www.giveninstitute.com/given-forum-2019

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