



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE GIVEN INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, June 12th, during the opening remarks of the annual GIVEN Catholic Young Women’s Leadership Forum, the Board of Directors announced the Institute’s new Executive Director: Rachel Harkins Ullmann. Mrs. Ullmann recently worked in the Archdiocese of Baltimore as a Regional Development Director serving parishes and schools in their advancement efforts.

“I am delighted to be joining the GIVEN Institute team as Executive Director. Being passionate about the role of virtuous women in the Church and in molding society, I am honored to continue the great work of training and accompanying young adult Catholic women as they receive the gift they are, realize the gifts they’ve been given, and respond with the gift that only they can give. Working with lay mentors and religious sisters will be remarkably impactful in shaping the next generation of Catholic female leaders.”  
- Rachel Harkins Ullmann

Before joining the GIVEN Institute, Mrs. Ullmann spent over 12 years in various roles throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore. She served as a Director of Children’s Ministry at Church of the Nativity, taught theology at Mount de Sales Academy and John Carroll High School, worked as an Assistant Principal at her local parish school, and held positions in the Central Offices of the Archdiocese in both the Department of Catholic Schools and the Department of Development.

“We are extremely pleased to have Rachel Harkins Ullmann as the Executive Director of the GIVEN Institute. Rachel brings all the tools needed for this important position. She is a natural leader and a deeply faithful Catholic woman who has spent her professional career serving others. She is entrepreneurial and a seasoned fundraiser with tremendous energy, poise and creativity. Rachel will be a great role model for young Catholic women and a fabulous spokesperson for the GIVEN Institute.” - Mary Devlin Capizzi, Board Member

Mrs. Ullmann also has experience in Catholic women’s leadership development. While teaching at Mount de Sales Academy, she was asked to develop the Campus Ministry program at the all-girls high school. As their first Campus Minister, she worked closely with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia to formulate a comprehensive program including retreats, service opportunities, pilgrimages, and daily mentorship. The crowning achievement was leading groups of students to World Youth Day for Sydney 2008 and Madrid 2011. She also created an after-school club entitled Project Redesign which taught teenagers about true beauty, virtue, modesty, and chastity.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Wusinich, SV, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors, stated, “Rachel will provide the leadership and momentum for the GIVEN Institute to continue to grow and increase its reach - providing leadership development, faith formation and mentoring to the next generation of female leaders. The success of the 2019 GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum illustrates the power of bringing together young women, religious sisters and established lay women sharing their wisdom, gifts, and expertise. The GIVEN Institute is a hope-filled initiative that will be instrumental in the rebuilding of the Church.”

Mrs. Ullmann’s appointment follows a search by the Board of Directors leading up to the annual Forum that recently took place at the Catholic University of America. The Forum hosted 120 young women, ages

21-30, from over 30 states, Ireland, and Canada. 25 lay mentors and 50 religious sisters attended the Forum to accompany the women in the development of their Action Plans. These lay and religious mentors will also provide ongoing support after the Forum as the young women seek to implement their Action Plans within the following year. Keynote speakers at the 2019 GIVEN Forum included Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV of the Sisters of Life, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Gloria Purvis, Sr. Mary Madeline Todd, OP, and Helen Alvaré.

“My experience at the 2019 GIVEN Forum confirms that the Lord is present in this organization and blessing its vision and mission. GIVEN is a new and needed apostolate for the Catholic Church and I am proud to be a part of what God is doing. If you are looking for female leadership, find a graduate of GIVEN. These alumnae are the next generation of entrepreneurs, mothers, professors, parish leaders, doctors, religious sisters, lawyers, and artists. They will bless and amaze you.” - Rachel Harkins Ullmann

Mrs. Ullmann resides in Baltimore, Maryland with her husband and two children.

For more information about the GIVEN Institute, visit: [www.giveninstitute.com](http://www.giveninstitute.com).

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