



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2020 GIVEN CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM POSTPONED
& ANNOUNCING *DISCOVER THE GIFT* ONLINE EVENT**

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 24, 2020 – The 2020 GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum originally planned to take place Wednesday, June 10th through Sunday, June 14th at the Catholic University of America has been postponed due to the Coronavirus. The annual 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.

The GIVEN Institute had planned to welcome 113 young adult women from 32 states and 4 international countries to the 2020 Forum as well as 56 religious sisters and lay mentors. Young adult Catholic women, ages 21-30, who are seeking leadership training, faith formation, and mentoring to better understand and pursue their particular mission and vocation were invited to apply for the GIVEN Forum. As part of the application process, each GIVEN Forum applicant proposed an Action Plan - her unique initiative to activate her God-given gifts in the Church and in the world.

Due to the global pandemic, the GIVEN Institute is postponing the Forum to June 9-13, 2021 at the Catholic University of America. All women accepted into the 2020 cohort are invited to attend and applications for another cohort of approximately 100-150 additional young adult women will open in the fall of 2020. In lieu of the 2020 Forum, the GIVEN Institute announces an online event entitled *Discover the Gift* that will take place from June 10-14, 2020.

The event is open to all women in the GIVEN Network as well as any woman across the globe. The days of *Discover the Gift* will be structured around the three-fold theme of helping the 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, prayer opportunities, leadership training tips, and reflection questions for discussion. Speakers include Sister Virginia Joy SV, Mother Gloria Therese OCD, Debbie Herbeck, Berni Neal, Sister Josephine Garrett CSFN, Dr. Grazie Christie, Montse Alvarado, and Jenna Guizar. Portions of the programming will be given in both English and Spanish. Finally, we have special blessings from His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Most Reverend Archbishop José H. Gomez.

Rachel Harkins Ullmann, Executive Director of the GIVEN Institute, stated, "While not being able to gather together in Washington, this unfolds an opportunity for wider engagement of the entire GIVEN Network to activate the gifts of women across the globe. Now more than ever, the dignity and vocation of women needs to be unleashed into the Church and the world, to protect the vulnerable, provide direction in a time of crisis, and mentor the next generation of female leaders."

For more information about the event, visit: <https://giveninstitute.com/discover-the-gift/>
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