



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRAYER FOR HEALING AND PEACE LED BY THE OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE AND MEMBERS OF THE MOTHER MARY LANGE GUILD**

WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 6, 2020 – The GIVEN Institute is dedicated to activating the gifts of young adult women for the Church and for the world. As an organization dedicated to raising the next generation of Catholic female leaders, GIVEN joins in the initiative to unite women in prayer during a time of pain and suffering in the United States. By participating in the Rend Your Hearts prayer campaign, GIVEN encourages its network of Catholic female leaders to observe a period of prayer and fasting as an act of reparation to God for the sin of racism in all its forms. This campaign, led by Catholic women of color Karianna Frey and Leticia Ochoa Adams, invites others to pray from the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, on June 1 through June 19, the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and Juneteenth. We're praying the Prayer to St. Michael for his protection from spiritual attack, joining Our Lady of Sorrows in praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, and making daily sacrifices appropriate to each woman's own circumstance for this intention.

This call to action is based on the words of Joel 2:12-13: "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Believing in the longstanding Catholic concept of making Acts of Reparation, the GIVEN Institute wholeheartedly supports the Rend Your Hearts initiative and invites people of faith across the country to join The Oblate Sisters of Providence in praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 3pm EST as part of this call to prayer. The link to pray along is <https://youtu.be/whdnc5X1EcA>. The rosary will be aired LIVE on GIVEN's YouTube Channel, led by two Oblate Sisters of Providence, Sister Anthonia and Sister Mary. The Oblate Sisters of Providence were founded by Servant of God Mother Mary Lange in 1829 in Baltimore, Maryland as the first order of consecrated religious for African American women in the United States. The rosary will be recited in Mother Lange's room at St. Frances Academy where she lived, prayed, and died. St. Frances Academy was founded by Mother Mary Lange in 1828 and is the oldest continuously operating, predominantly African American Catholic High School in the United States. Joining the Oblate Sisters of Providence in prayer are members of the Mother Mary Lange Guild that seek her beatification and eventual canonization including Rachel Harkins Ullmann, Executive Director of GIVEN, Melissa D'Adamo, Director of Advancement of St. Frances Academy, and Dr. Camille Brown, President of the Mother Lange Guild and Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Rachel Ullmann, Executive Director of the GIVEN Institute, stated, "While we prepare to gather thousands of women together for our online event, Discover the Gift from June 10-14, it was imperative that we exercise our maternal love by praying for the repose of the soul of George Floyd and to affirm the need for healing. We come together as courageous women, like Mother Lange, to pray that the Lord uses the seeds within us to grow an amazing garden where Eden is restored."

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

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For more information on the Mother Lange Guild, Oblate Sisters of Providence or Saint Frances visit:

<https://www.motherlange.org/> | <http://oblatesisters.com/> | <https://sfacademy.org/>