



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2021 CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

WASHINGTON, DC, OCTOBER 23, 2020 – The 2021 GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum will take place Wednesday, June 9th through Sunday, June 13th at the Catholic University of America. 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.

Applications for the GIVEN Forum will open on Monday, October 26th. Young adult Catholic women, ages 21-30, who are seeking leadership training, faith formation, and mentoring in order to better understand and pursue their particular mission and vocation are invited to apply for the 2021 GIVEN Forum. As part of the application process, each GIVEN Forum applicant proposes an Action Plan--her unique initiative to activate her God-given gifts in the Church and in the world. The application deadline is February 12th, 2021.

Each day of the GIVEN Forum will be structured around the three-fold theme of helping the young women “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 training, prayer workshops, mentoring from both lay and consecrated female leaders, and time for prayer.

Keynote speakers at the Forum will include Sister Bethany Madonna SV, Colleen Carroll Campbell, Michelle Benzinger, Gloria Purvis, and Sister Mary Madeline Todd, OP. Panel discussions will cover the topics of *Living Maternity: One Call, Many Vocations*; *Engaging the Culture: Femininity in Action*; *Millennials on Mission: Emerging Women Leaders*; and *Consecrated Life: Women Leaders in the Heart of the Church*. Each Forum attendee will select a specialty (Catholic Professional, Entrepreneurial, Artistic, Secular Professional, Post-Service, or Care for the Human Person) that will shape the small group discussions at the Forum and mentor selection. Dedicated lay and religious mentors will support the young women as they implement their Action Plans throughout the Art of Accompaniment Mentoring Program over the course of the year following the Forum. GIVEN is also excited to inaugurate the annual presentation of the GIVEN Catholic Female Leader Awards on Friday, June 11th. This outdoor event will be an opportunity to celebrate the wider GIVEN Network with opening remarks by Helen Alvaré.

Due to the global pandemic, the 2020 GIVEN Forum was postponed, and *Discover the Gift*, GIVEN's first online event, took place from June 10th-14th as a “taste of GIVEN,” offering keynote speakers, leadership training, prayer with religious sister communities, and online networking. Approximately 2,000 women across the globe, including GIVEN alumnae and more than 50 religious sisters from 26 communities, registered to become part of the GIVEN Network. To compliment inspiring keynote talks on GIVEN's themes, *Discover the Gift* also included leadership training in English and Spanish from a diverse group of Catholic female leaders. In addition to opening and closing programs, live-streamed from the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, *Discover the Gift* also connected attendees with religious orders across the country through live-streamed daily Morning Prayer, prayer at the Hour of Mercy, and Compline.

Rachel Harkins Ullmann, Executive Director of the GIVEN Institute, stated, “The GIVEN Institute is committed to hosting an in-person Forum in 2021. We look forward to welcoming both seasoned and emerging Catholic female leaders to Washington D.C. to activate the feminine genius within us all.”

For more information about the event, visit: www.giveninstitute.com/given-forum-2021

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