



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

WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 27, 2021 – 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. Each Forum applicant proposed an Action Plan--her unique initiative to activate her God-given gifts in the Church and the world.

130 young adult women between the ages of 21-30 were accepted into the 2021 cohort. These women come from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom, and represent 91 dioceses across the United States. Applicants also hailed from Puerto Rico, Kenya, Peru, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. GIVEN welcomes 60 religious sisters from 20 congregations who represent a wide variety of apostolates and charisms in the Church. 30 lay women will serve as dedicated mentors representing a broad range of ways in which Catholic women, including many mothers of families, use their gifts as parish and community leaders, business women, teachers, healthcare providers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, coaches, artists, engineers, government employees and more. All of these women are faithful Catholics who devote their lives to the service of others through their personal vocations.

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 selected 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 consecrated 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. In support of ActionPlan development and progress, GIVEN will be announcing a partnership with OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation during the Catholic Female Leaders Celebration on Friday, June 11th. This outdoor event will be an opportunity to celebrate the wider GIVEN Network with opening remarks by Helen Alvaré - press are especially welcome to attend this event.

Rachel Harkins Ullmann, Executive Director of the GIVEN Institute, stated, "The anticipation building up to the 2021 GIVEN Forum is palpable. After two years of preparation, young emerging leaders and established women leaders will gather together, in-person, to discover the gift only they can give. The effects of the 2021 GIVEN Forum will be seen in the home, the workplace, and the convent for years to come. In a world filled with great suffering, the gifts women bring are needed now more than ever."

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