



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
ALIGNMENT WITH OSV INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC INNOVATION**

WASHINGTON, DC, June 17, 2021 – The 2021 GIVEN Catholic Young Women’s Leadership Forum took place from 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 in the world.

At the 2021 Forum, GIVEN was proud to announce that an agreement has been made with the OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation that three Action Plan projects from the 2021 GIVEN Forum cohort will move into the semi-final round of the 2022 OSV Challenge. These three women will be awarded \$10,000 in seed money by GIVEN benefactors and then will take part in the OSV Challenge Accelerator and compete to be a finalist with a chance to win a \$100,000 prize for their Action Plan.

GIVEN’s mission is to inspire and equip the next generation of female leaders to receive the gift that they are; realize the gifts they’ve been given; and respond with the gift that only they can give. Accomplished through leadership training, faith formation, and dedicated mentoring, GIVEN’s vision aligns closely with OSV Institute’s dedication to inspiring and encouraging innovative and effective Church-related programs and activities. The OSV Institute, one of the oldest Catholic grantmaking organizations in the country, fulfills its mission in three primary ways---through direct support of various ministries and apostolates, the OSV Talks, and the OSV Challenge.

As the OSV Institute has looked for organizations to work with to amplify the Challenge’s goals of “Making it Real, Blazing New Trails, and Leaving a Legacy,” GIVEN’s track record with Forum Alumnae and their Action Plan projects was a natural fit. Samantha Kelley, 2016 GIVEN alumna, was one of last year’s Challenge finalists with her non-profit *FIERCE Athlete*. And Anna Carter and Shannon Ochoa, 2016 and 2019 GIVEN alumnae, were one of the winners in the 2020 Challenge---earning \$100,000 for their non-profit *Eden Invitation*. Both projects began as Action Plans at the GIVEN Forum.

130 young adult women between the ages of 21-30 were accepted into the 2021 GIVEN Forum cohort. These women came from 35 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Mexico, and represented 91 dioceses across the United States. Applicants also hailed from Puerto Rico, Kenya, Peru, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. GIVEN welcomed 60 religious sisters from 20 congregations who represent a wide variety of apostolates and charisms in the Church. 30 lay women also served 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. GIVEN mentors accompany the young adult women for an entire year after the Forum to support the development and implementation of their Action Plans.

For more information about the event, visit: www.giveninstitute.com/given-forum-2021
Contact: communications@giveninstitute.com or 202-697-7724