

GIVEN Forum Activates the Gifts of Young Women For the Church and the World

Week-long event in June to kick off a year of mentorship, guidance, and transformation

Washington, D.C., May 31, 2022—A 2015 Pew Research Center report showed that 35% of Millennials identified as persons with no religious affiliation and also revealed a 10-point increase in religious disaffiliation among women, compared to 2009. In a world where many young women are losing their Catholic faith, the GIVEN Institute seeks to counter these trends and activate the gifts of young women that both the world and the Church are in need of. The primary goal of the GIVEN Institute is to help young women receive the gift that they are, realize the gifts they've been given, and respond with the gift that only they can give. This mission is materialized through an annual event called the GIVEN Catholic Women's Leadership Forum, a week-long event set to take place June 21-25 in Philadelphia, PA.

The GIVEN Forum kicks off a year-long experience called the Art of Accompaniment Mentoring Program, in which young women ages 21-30 are matched with an assigned mentor who will offer personal and spiritual formation and professional leadership training. Nearly 250 women, comprised of both lay and consecrated attendees, mentors, and volunteers from all around the country will gather for this year's Forum. Last fall, young adult attendees submitted an extensive application and Action Plan, describing their own unique initiatives to activate their God-given gifts in the Church and in the world, in order to be accepted into this year's sought-after and competitive program.

"The strength of what GIVEN is able to offer its participants lies in its valuable partnerships," notes Executive Director Rachel Ullmann, namely referring to The Inscape Center for Personal Vocation and the OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation. "Dr. Joshua Miller and the Inscape Center for Personal Vocation offers a methodology for GIVEN mentors that focuses on a deep discovery of each woman's engagement, satisfaction, and fulfillment in life and work, ultimately helping her to discover the gift that only she can give," affirms Ullmann. Additionally, the OSV Institute for Catholic Innovation formally aligned with the GIVEN Institute in 2021 to set aside three spots for GIVEN Forum participants in the semifinal round of its annual OSV Challenge for Action Plan initiatives that are innovative and entrepreneurial in nature.

GIVEN also treasures its relationships with a number of different women's religious orders. The organization was founded in 2018 by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) after successfully hosting the first Forum in 2016. Ullmann even notes the equal distribution of lay and consecrated mentors for this year's Forum. "GIVEN alumnae have had a tremendous and varied impact over the years, with some saying yes to a religious vocation, serving as wives and mothers, and others starting organizations, ministries, and movements. None of it would be possible without the involvement of our wonderful volunteers and mentors, both lay and consecrated."

In addition to the Art of Accompaniment mentorship kick-off activities, highlights of this year's Forum include a number of special events. Attendees will tour the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

and visit the tomb of St. Katharine Drexel. Special presentations will be given from noted Catholic speakers and alumnae, and there will also be a red-carpet style Celebration of Catholic Female Leaders event on Wednesday, June 22 at 8:00pm, during which three GIVEN alumnae will be announced as semifinalists in the OSV Challenge. A full schedule can be accessed at <https://giveninstitute.com/given-forum-schedule/>.

For more information and a complete press kit, visit <https://giveninstitute.com/press/>.

To request an interview with Rachel Ullmann or to attend the 2022 GIVEN Forum as press, contact Carrie Kline at carriek@revolutionizingmissions.com.

###