

The GIVEN Institute Announces Leadership Changes, Expanded Plans for 2024 Forum

Washington, D.C., November 1, 2022— The GIVEN Institute’s mission is to activate the gifts of young adult women for the Catholic Church and the world and 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.”

GIVEN celebrates with thanksgiving the gifts of Rachel Harkins Ullmann who will step down as GIVEN’s Executive Director in mid-December 2022. Since June 2019, Rachel has served as GIVEN’s Executive Director. She brought energy, visibility, and enthusiasm to the organization. GIVEN wishes her great success in her future endeavors and looks forward to her engagement as a GIVEN mentor.

The GIVEN Board is pleased to announce both the appointment of Sister Mary Gabriel Devlin, SV, as Interim Executive Director effective mid-December 2022, and its launch of a national search for a new Executive Director. Sister Mary Gabriel is a member of the Sisters of Life. She has a gift for mentoring young women into the fullness of life in Christ and has served as both Vocations and Novice director for her community. A current member of the GIVEN Board, Sister Mary Gabriel was intimately involved with the conception of GIVEN and served as Co-Chair of the inaugural Forum in 2016.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Endee, FSE, Chair of the Board of Directors, stated, "Sr. Mary Gabriel will provide generous leadership and momentum for the GIVEN Institute as our Interim Executive Director. She is passionate about mentoring, faith formation and leadership development as offered through the many and varied programs of the Institute. She is astute about the needs and desires of young women and will lead the GIVEN Institute with great creativity and energy to meet these needs and desires."

In considering her forthcoming role for the organization, Sr. Mary Gabriel offered the following thoughts:

“I am grateful to Sister Mary Elizabeth Endee, FSE, the Board, and my community of the Sisters of Life for the opportunity to support GIVEN during this time. From its inception, GIVEN has been an inspiration of the Lord, who loves his daughters and delights to see them flourishing and bringing the gifts only they can give to the Church and the world. It will be a joy to serve the GIVEN staff, alumnae, mentors, partners and prospective participants while the organization secures new leadership.”

In response to frequent and sustained requests, and reflection, the GIVEN Board is pleased to announce two significant changes to its program this year:

First, GIVEN will expand and deepen its existing formation and networking opportunities for its ever-growing community of alumnae and mentors. Accordingly, it will host the next national GIVEN Leadership Forum in the summer of 2024. Young adult Catholic women interested in attending the 2024 Forum will be invited to submit an application, together with an Action Plan describing their unique initiatives to activate their God-given gifts in the Church and the world, in the fall of 2023.

Second, GIVEN is excited to expand the age range of applicants to the 2024 GIVEN Forum from women between the ages of 21 – 30 to women between the ages of 21 – 35.

These changes will allow a broader range of women to participate in GIVEN's year-long experience called the "Art of Accompaniment Mentoring Program," in which alumnae are matched with a mentor who offers personal and spiritual formation and professional leadership training throughout the implementation of the Action Plan. Additionally, The GIVEN network of alumnae and mentors receive ongoing spiritual formation and professional leadership training through the following programs - [GIVEN Academy](#), lecture series, and local GIVEN Gatherings - women in the GIVEN network are formed for mission and life.

Mentor applications from committed, faithful lay and Religious Catholic women over 35 years of age will be accepted on a rolling basis year-round to continue support for the extensive GIVEN alumnae network. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a GIVEN mentor, please visit [Mentoring](#) or [Contact Us](#). GIVEN treasures its relationships with a large number of women religious. The organization was formed as a non-profit in 2018 following the successful inaugural Forum hosted by the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR).

Over the past six years, nearly 4,000 Catholic women have engaged in GIVEN activities; the organization seeks to continue to serve this growing network of women intentionally with additional support offerings. The impact on GIVEN alumnae has been profound. A 2021 Alumna who returned to the 2022 Forum as a volunteer after launching her Action Plan said this about her experiences with GIVEN, "I look forward to continue engaging with the GIVEN network and engaging with the resources offered. GIVEN has been a major encouragement in my life." And as another young adult emphatically expressed after attending the Forum, "GIVEN is an affirmation like no other!" [Meet GIVEN Alumnae](#)

For more information on GIVEN programming, visit [The GIVEN Institute](#).