



The GIVEN Institute Honors Mary Ann Glendon with their Inaugural GIVEN Fiat Award

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Pope Francis has written about hidden saints. Your grandmother might be one of them, he says. Many of the women and men who do the work of daily virtue and faithfulness in the world will not be canonized saints, and yet they are living the Gospel in unacknowledged ways. At the GIVEN Institute, a leading organization dedicated to activating the gifts of young Catholic women, we celebrate women whose lives demonstrate for the rest of us that it is possible to live the Catholic faith in the world -- even in the most secular venues. This is why we are overjoyed to be honoring Mary Ann Glendon with this year's inaugural GIVEN Fiat Award in recognition for her dedication to upholding the values of the Catholic Church through her remarkable academic works, and unwavering commitment to defending human rights and religious freedom worldwide. The award will be presented in the context of the Catholic Women Leaders Celebration held on the final evening of the GIVEN Forum, Tuesday, June 11, and will include a "Fireside Chat" between Glendon and Montse Alvarado, President and COO of EWTN News.

Mary Ann Glendon is the Learned Hand Professor of Law, emerita, at Harvard University, and a former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. She writes in the fields of human rights, comparative law, and political theory. Glendon chaired the U.S. State Department Commission on Unalienable Rights (2019-2020) and served as a member of the Commission on International Religious Freedom (2012-2016), and the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics (2001-2004). She received the National Humanities Medal in 2006. In 1991 she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences from 2003 to 2013, and a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Institute of Religious Works (Vatican Bank) from 2013 to 2018.

With the aim of lighting a fire under lay Catholics, Glendon once wrote: "How many lay people, one wonders, have read any of the letters that popes have addressed to them over the years? For

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that matter, how many Catholics can give a sensible account of basic Church teachings on matters as close to them as the Eucharist and human sexuality, let alone the lay apostolate?”

The GIVEN Institute is devoted to empowering and nourishing young Catholic women to do exactly what Glendon’s life has clearly shown: giving a loving and consistent account of the teachings of the Church put into action in the world. This is why we are honoring Glendon. In this time of Eucharistic Revival in the Church in America, she shows the incarnational reality of what it means to receive Jesus and give Him – especially in her mentorship of countless students and in her fortitude in the public square.

Mary Ann Glendon has been fearless and indefatigable in representing the faith in some of the most prestigious venues of power (the United Nations, the State Department, the Vatican, and the list goes on). Glendon might be most famous for serving as the first woman to lead a Vatican delegation at the contentious United Nations 1995 Beijing Womens Conference, communicating the Church’s commitment to, as Saint Pope John Paul II who appointed her articulated, a culture of life and civilization of love. This same saintly Pope would later have her serve as the first woman president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

“All of our recent popes have emphasized the importance of the leadership of women in the Church. And they have relied on Mary Ann Glendon,” said Sister Mary Gabriel, President and Chair of the Board of the GIVEN Institute and Sister of Life. “Glendon’s integrity, humility, and advocacy for women’s dignity within the Catholic Church have made her a respected voice and trailblazer, embodying the principles of the GIVEN Institute’s core values. We are honored to celebrate her in seeking to both encourage and challenge women – especially young women – to understand from her beautiful example of faithfulness and excellence to live the GIVEN Institute mission to receive the gift you are, realize the gifts you’ve been given, and respond with the gift that only you can give.”

Among other books, Glendon is the author of *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and, most recently, *In the Court of Three Popes: An American Lawyer and Diplomat in the Last Absolute Monarchy of the West*.

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