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## **GIVEN INSTITUTE COMMEMORATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNATURE LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN**

### ***Applications for 2026 Cohort Open Through December 31, 2025***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — November 24, 2025 — The GIVEN Institute is accepting applications for its 2026 Catholic Young Women's Leadership Program as the organization prepares to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its inaugural cohort launched in 2016. The milestone underscores a decade of empowering young Catholic women through leadership formation, faith-driven mentorship, and vocational development.

Acceptance into the Leadership Program, for women ages 21 through 35, includes participation in GIVEN's flagship Leadership Forum, followed by a year of accompaniment with a trained mentor. Participants prayerfully cultivate leadership skills and bring to life a personalized Action Plan designed to serve the Church and their community. 300 women, including religious sisters and lay mentors, from around the world will attend the 2026 Leadership Forum from June 24–28, 2026 at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Sr. Bethany Madonna, SV, co-chair of the inaugural 2016 GIVEN Forum, will be a featured speaker at the 2026 Forum. Additionally, five alumnae from past cohorts will be speakers at the 2026 Forum, including Samantha Kelley (GIVEN '16), Katie Weiss (GIVEN '16), Ali Hoffman (GIVEN '16), Erin McAtee (GIVEN '19), and Amanda Achtman (GIVEN '24).

Kelley, founder of FIERCE Athlete, first envisioned her international women's ministry as her 2016 Action Plan. "At GIVEN in 2016, a small idea turned into a big dream as I felt the Lord boldly ask me to launch a new ministry for female athletes," Kelley said. "It was the witness of other strong female Catholic business leaders and religious sisters that gave me the courage to say yes."

Similarly, Weiss transformed her 2016 Action Plan into Behold Visio Divina, now a flourishing sacred art ministry. "Since participating at the GIVEN Forum in 2016, my action plan has turned into a full-time mission," she shared. "Behold Visio Divina has transformed into a large community for women to pray with sacred art and is a way that both my husband and I find life in serving others."

The Institute also celebrates the accomplishments of more recent alumnae, including Amanda Achtman (GIVEN '24) and Clarissa Prinszano (GIVEN '21), whose Action Plans address contemporary cultural and bioethical issues. Achtman continues to expand her pro-life initiative in Canada, Dying to Meet You, which raises awareness about euthanasia and affirms human dignity. "I built new relationships with dioceses and other large organizations that invited me to speak, give workshops, provide formation, and orchestrate

"Discover the gift that only you can give, because of the gift that you are."  
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creative spiritual activities all across Canada,” Achtman said, noting that EWTN Pro-Life Weekly recently interviewed her for international reach.

Clarissa Prisinzano (GIVEN '21) has focused her Action Plan on equipping high school students to think critically about bioethics through a forthcoming philosophy and bioethics textbook to be published by Ave Maria Press. “I find it necessary to expose high school students to moral teachings of the Church while encouraging them to think critically and build up a culture of life,” Prisinzano said. “Unlike anything I’ve seen before, this Institute normalizes a feminine drive for magnanimity... GIVEN drove me to reach my personal and professional potential.”

As the GIVEN Institute looks ahead to its next decade, it celebrates the remarkable achievements of its alumnae and welcomes the next generation of Catholic women leaders.

Applications for the 2026 Leadership Program close December 31, 2025. Women are encouraged to apply today for a seat as a participant or mentor. For questions regarding the application process, please visit [www.giveninstitute.com](http://www.giveninstitute.com) or contact [Communications@giveninstitute.com](mailto:Communications@giveninstitute.com).

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#### **About GIVEN:**

The GIVEN Institute (“GIVEN”) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to activating the gifts of Catholic young adult women for the Church and the world. Through leadership training, faith formation, and dedicated mentoring, GIVEN forms women for mission and for life.

#### **Media Contact:**

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#### **Interview Availability:**

GIVEN alumnae Amanda Achtman, Samantha Kelley, Katie Weiss, and Clarissa Prisinzano are available for interviews. Please contact Emilia Gore, Director of Events and Marketing, to arrange: [Communications@giveninstitute.com](mailto:Communications@giveninstitute.com) / (202) 455-6701