



Press Release

GIVEN: the Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum

November 10, 2015

Washington D.C. - The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) announced today a **first-of-its-kind leadership event for young Catholic women**, to be held June 7 – 12, 2016, at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Officially named GIVEN: the Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum, the event will be a week-long immersion in faith formation, leadership training, and networking. The GIVEN Forum will provide a platform for what St. John Paul II called "the feminine genius," and a response to Pope Francis' plea for a deeper understanding and activation of the unique gift of women in the Church and the world. Throughout the week, young Catholic women will engage three principal themes, which include receiving the gift you are, realizing the gifts you've been given, and responding with the gift only you can give.

The event will feature many distinguished women leaders as speakers. The keynote speakers include Dr. Carolyn Woo, the President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, Sister Prudence Allen, R.S.M., and Helen Alvaré. Helen Alvaré is currently a Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law, a prominent news consultant, and advisor to various Catholic organizations and United Nations conferences concerning women and the family.

Ms. Alvaré looks forward to the event, stating, "The GIVEN Forum is exactly what young women need today in the Francis era - a place to discover that every woman is called by God to contribute, a place to learn to overcome the fear of speaking out, and a place to be inspired to get to work."

The Forum is open to all young women between the ages of 20 and 30 who are vibrantly living their Catholic faith. Attendees must apply on the GIVEN Forum's website, www.givenforum.org, by the deadline of February 2, 2016. Women who are accepted to attend GIVEN will receive a scholarship covering the full cost of the Forum, including food, lodging, and travel.

The CMSWR, the host of the GIVEN Forum, is located in Washington, D.C. The CMSWR was founded in 1992 with the canonical approval of St. John Paul II, and the sisters of the CMSWR communities represent over 120 communities nationwide with approximately 6,000 sisters. For more information, including application links for the GIVEN Forum, visit www.givenforum.org.

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