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Nicole Perone named National Coordinator of ESTEEM

Young adult leadership formation program poised to grow on campuses nationwide

WASHINGTON, D.C./NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale Divinity School alumna, Nicole Perone, has been named the National Coordinator of ESTEEM, the faith-based leadership formation program for Catholic students at colleges and universities across the United States.

ESTEEM (Engaging Students to Enliven the Ecclesial Mission) provides young adults with a year-long curriculum, Catholic mentorship, exposure to the Church's myriad ministries, and an annual capstone conference to ensure each participant is equipped with critical leadership skills to remain actively engaged as young leaders in the Church after leaving college. ESTEEM was founded as a partnership between Leadership Roundtable and Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center (STM) at Yale University to develop young adult Catholic leaders. Perone is a proud graduate of the program.

"The role of young adults in the life of the Church has always been one of vital importance and the work of ESTEEM has always been prescient; now, during these unprecedented times, the role ESTEEM plays on college campuses is more urgent than ever," Perone said. "I am eager to work with Leadership Roundtable and STM to maximize the potential of ESTEEM in service to the Church we love, and I am humbled by the confidence placed in me by those who have played such critical roles in my own formation."

Perone, who herself participated in ESTEEM while studying for her Masters in Divinity at Yale, will lead the program nationally and work to grow its presence on campuses across the United States. ESTEEM has been offered on diverse campuses including:

- Yale University
- Robert Morris University
- The Ohio State University
- Purdue University
- Stanford University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Southern California
- University of Pennsylvania
- Drexel University
- Michigan State University
- Sacred Heart University

“Nicole Perone’s appointment to this role is a blessing for the Church writ large. We always want to emulate what we advocate and having a young, brilliant woman who is theologically erudite, knowledgeable about ecclesiology and passionate about Catholic social teaching demonstrates the value of including young adults in meaningful leadership within the Church,” said Kerry Alys Robinson, Partner for Global and National Initiatives at Leadership Roundtable.

“ESTEEM fills an essential need in the development and formation of young adult leaders to serve the Catholic Church,” according Joe Connolly, executive director at Saint Thomas More at Yale. “Nicole’s background and proven record of success make her ideally suited for this role. Her enthusiasm and energetic approach are just what is needed to help fulfill the vision and potential of ESTEEM.”

Prior to joining ESTEEM, Perone served for several years as Archdiocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., where she directed the first-ever Archdiocesan Women’s Conference and revived the Archdiocesan lay ministry formation program.

In addition to her work with ESTEEM, she serves as chair of the Board of Governors for the National Institute for Ministry with Young Adults and on the board of directors for All Africa Conference: Sister to Sister. She also serves on the National Advisory Councils for the NeXt Level initiative of the Center for FaithJustice.

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Leadership Roundtable *promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity.*

Saint Thomas More Chapel and Center at Yale University *serves the Catholic community at Yale by creating a vibrant and welcoming community through worship and service; cultivating informed faith and spirituality; engaging in reflective discourse on faith and culture; advancing the church’s mission of promoting social justice; and participating in the global church’s life and witness.*