

## **ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY NAMES 2021 CHRISTIAN CULTURE SERIES GOLD MEDALIST**

For Immediate Release – January 24, 2022

Assumption University is pleased to announce and congratulate the recipient of the 2021 Christian Culture Series Gold Medal:

### **THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAËLLE JEAN**

The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean is the embodiment of the Canadian spirit seeking to break down solitudes by connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. Madame Jean served as Canada's 27<sup>th</sup> Governor General and Commander-in-Chief from 2005 to 2010. She was the first person of African descent to assume the role and the third woman. Throughout her term, Madame Jean sought to build relations with Indigenous peoples, support the Canadian forces, work toward diplomacy at a human level, emphasize the importance of bilingualism as a richness, address women's rights, highlight the power of the arts, education and culture, promote diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for all, and engage Canada's youth. Following her appointment, Madame Jean was named the UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti by the United Nations Secretary-General. Her task was to support the reconstruction efforts and stimulate literacy and education in her native Haiti, which was devastated by the January 12, 2010 earthquake. In 2015, Madame Jean began her four-year term as the Secretary-General of La Francophonie. In 2020, Madame Jean was named Chancellor of St. Paul's University College in Waterloo. With her husband, Monsieur Jean-Daniel Lafond, Madame Jean is the co-president and co-founder of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation which provides support for excluded youth through the arts for social change and civic participation. Madame Jean's strong sense of compassion and empathy are integral components of Christianity. Moreover, her efforts to reach out to those who have been marginalized by society directly follows the example set by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The award ceremony will take place on April 5, 2022, with details to follow shortly. The evening will begin with the formal presentation of the medal followed by a special lecture from Madame Jean. Assumption University congratulates Madame Jean on this achievement and looks forward to conferring the award.

#### **About the Christian Culture Series Gold Medal**

This prestigious award was established in 1941 by Father Stan Murphy, C.S.B. and Father W. J. Guinan, C.S.B in order to recognize laypeople for their efforts in contributing to "Christian ideals" in modern society. In the past 81 years, the award has been presented to several prominent individuals, including Sigrid Undset, Barbara Ward, Dorothy Day, Marshall McLuhan, Dennis Archer, and Martin Sheen.

#### **Contact**

John Cappucci, Ph.D.  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
Assumption University  
[jcappucci@assumptionu.ca](mailto:jcappucci@assumptionu.ca)