



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2022

Media Contact: Laura Bowman

lbowman@catholicextension.org

Laura: 512.913.6624

Catholic Extension honors Loretta Brennan Glucksman with 2022 Spirit of Francis Award

Loretta is recognized for more than 3 decades of global philanthropic endeavors

Chicago — Catholic Extension honored Loretta Brennan Glucksman with the 2022 Spirit of Francis Award at their eighth annual New York City Spirit of Francis Award dinner. Loretta has been involved in philanthropic endeavors spanning three decades, focusing on education, the arts, health care, and peace initiatives in both the United States and Ireland. The Catholic Extension Spirit of Francis Award recognizes an individual or group who has made a significant impact on the mission of the Catholic Church in America through service or philanthropy.

Loretta is the Chairman Emeritus of The Ireland Funds America, where she served as its chairman for over 20 years. During that time, The Ireland Funds exceeded its goal of raising \$100 million under the Promising Ireland Campaign and reset the target to \$200 million. Previously, Loretta was a teacher of third and fifth grade, a university lecturer in English Literature, a television producer, and an on-air host for news and public affairs with PBS.

Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension, who presented the award to Loretta said, "As American Catholics, we have to take care of the poorest of the poor among us, and we have to do this together. Loretta has asked us all to live that mission, and she so graciously and gracefully radiates the very spirit of Francis through her life-giving presence and care for others."

"I am deeply touched, honored and humbled to have received Catholic Extension's 2022 Spirit of Francis Award," Loretta Brennan Glucksman, said. "This award means a great deal to me, as

I appreciate the breadth and depth of Catholic Extension’s work so much. As our world gets more and more chaotic, the work of Catholic Extension and helping others in need becomes even more crucial.”

Loretta and her late husband, Lew, established the Glucksman Chair of English and American Letters at NYU, where Loretta also serves as co-chair of the Glucksman Ireland House, and on the Board of Arts and Sciences. Other academic philanthropic endeavors include establishing the Glucksman Chair of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen; The Lewish Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork; the Map Conservation Library at Trinity College, Dublin; and Glucksman Library at the University of Limerick.

The Spirit of Francis Award is inspired by its three namesakes: St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis, and Father Francis Clement Kelley, the founder of Catholic Extension—all of whom are known for embracing and helping the poor. Proceeds from this Spirit of Francis Award Dinner will benefit Religious Sisters and their Ministries.

As part of its work spanning 87 dioceses, Catholic Extension supports the ministry of hundreds of sisters in the poorest regions of the U.S. Religious women lead many ministries for families and the most vulnerable of society. In each community they are supported by Catholic Extension, from Alaska to Appalachia, they are bearers of God’s compassion and joy.

For more information on Loretta Glucksman and the Spirit of Francis Awards please visit catholicextension.org.

###

About Catholic Extension: Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor and in America’s poorest regions. For more information visit www.catholicextension.org; follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/catholicextension or on Twitter at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2022

Media Contact: Laura Bowman

lbowman@catholicextension.org

512.913.6624