

## Catholic Diocese and Local Architects Reach out to Young Women: Inaugural Women in Architecture Will Introduce Students to the Profession and Its Rewards

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**GARDEN GROVE, Calif., (sep. 21, 2017)** – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, the American Institute of Architects / Orange County Chapter and Rosary Academy Catholic Girls High School have joined the global effort to encourage women of all ages to embrace a career rooted in mathematics and science. “Architecture is a fulfilling career; one that enables the creative mind to meld with the fundamentals demanded of mathematics and other science disciplines. The Orange County Chapter of AIA is thrilled to begin an outreach to high-school aged women that may ultimately encourage them to consider a fulfilling career in architecture,” said AIAOC past president, Mark Paone, AIA. Leading manufacturing companies, research facilities and other essential industries are today seeking novel ways of introducing new career paths to women. With female college enrollment at an all-time high, with women in general increasingly contributing to the nation’s overall economic well-being, and with the flexibility engendered by the new digital workplace AIAOC has embraced the concept of introducing architecture as an alternative career direction for young women already skilled in math and science curricula. “Like any artisan, the architect takes compensation in many ways. While ours is a well-paying if not lucrative professional field most architects consider their work as an expression of creative art, functional art, art that truly touches in the most direct manner all levels of humanity. From hospital or industrial building design, airport or transportation modalities, to supermarkets or nursing homes – an architect is involved. We already know that women are well-suited to our profession hence our invitation to this event,” he added. October 18 will see the beginning of a new relationship between AIA and its Orange County chapter and the Diocese of Orange. Several well established women architects will lead a discussion of WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE. The seminar will be held at Rosary Academy Catholic Girls High School – and is open to any student from any school in Orange County. “Our goal is to introduce the idea that architecture is welcoming to women. Indeed, our professional ranks have seen a steady rise in women members as the allure of turning hard science and math combines with the creative mind, resulting in new concepts suited to the end-user’s needs while satisfying the architect’s own instinct and imagination,” said program presenter, said Meghana Joshi, Assoc. AIA, Chair of the Women in Architecture Committee AIAOC is the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a professional organization formed in 1857 offering advocacy, education, community redevelopment and public outreach to support the profession and its relationship with the public. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange is one of the nation’s leading Catholic communities and operates many elementary and high schools across the County. Situated on a beautiful 35-acre campus in Garden Grove, the diocese complex is home to several iconic buildings designed by some of the world’s most renowned architects. “I cannot imagine a more fitting host for this pilot program than the diocese and its premier all girls high school, Rosary Academy. In the shadow of its magnificent buildings we see what is possible when the builders’ art and architectural innovation come together in a demonstrable fashion. The idea of inviting young women to consider our profession is the direct result of our AIAOC leadership visiting the campus and being inspired to invite women – and all students – to come and learn more. Architecture is waiting,” Paone concluded. **WHAT:** A presentation about accessing the professional field of architecture, the needed skills and education, and the personal and professional befits of the profession led by leading female architects that compose the Women in Architecture Committee of the AIAOC. **WHERE:** Rosary Academy 1340 N. Acacia Ave. Fullerton, CA 92831 **WHEN:** October 12 from 8 – 9 a.m. **FEMALE STUDENT POPULATION:** The Diocese of

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Orange’s combined elementary and high-school rosters currently enroll 20,000 students. Of these, roughly half are female. Rosary Academy, established in 1965 is a college preparatory institution; some 100% of graduates pursue higher-learning. While Rosary will host the inaugural Women in Architecture event, the program is open to all students – regardless of place of education or gender. Pastoral Center: Communications Department 13280 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

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