



*For immediate release*

*August 25, 2021*

## Applications invited for Study and Mentoring (SAM) Program

Since their foundation and throughout their 164-year history, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan have been committed to the flourishing of women. They have educated girls and women from pre-school to tertiary levels and have been engaged in adult education and adult faith formation.

Not only have they educated women, they have companioned them as mentors, counsellors, spiritual directors and simply as friends. The Good Sams recognise the need for women's leadership within the Church, for only when women contribute their experience and wisdom can the Church truly fulfil God's mission. The Church suffers when women's gifts are not called upon.

In his October 2020 prayer intention, Pope Francis asked everyone to pray that women be given greater leadership roles in the Church. "Today, it is especially necessary to create broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church ... We must promote the integration of women, especially where important decisions are made."

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan Study and Mentoring (SAM) Program offers financial assistance for women undertaking tertiary studies at a recognised theological institution. Core components of the program include opportunities for spiritual direction, mentoring and dialogue with like-minded women.

Financial assistance will be offered to a maximum of \$A8000 per year. The grant can be spent on tuition or other expenses associated with the completion of the qualification.

It is necessary that there be a consonance between the values of the applicant and the ethos of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

### **Criteria**

- Catholic woman aged 30 years and over who are resident in Australia, Kiribati, the Philippines and Japan – countries where the Sisters of the Good Samaritan live and minister;
- An interest in the academic, spiritual and mentoring components of the program;
- Identification of current study being undertaken or a proposed course at a recognised theological institution;
- Evidence of leadership exercised in any context. Leadership experience in a not-for-profit organisation or a faith-based institution will be highly regarded; and
- Special consideration will be given to women who are experiencing financial hardship or who live in isolated communities.

### **Application process**

Application packs are available from [samleadership@goodsams.org.au](mailto:samleadership@goodsams.org.au)

**Applications close on September 30, 2021.**