



## Holy Hour: On the Gospel of Life

Campus Ministry will host its third annual Holy Hour for Life at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22 in the Chapel of St. Basil, which will include a talk “On the Gospel of Life,” given by Dr. John P. Hittinger, vice president for Academic Affairs. He will address some of the moral and political dimensions of the pro-life position. Holy Hour will immediately follow the talk.

UST’s annual Holy Hour for Life began in January, 2005, in response to the American bishops’ request that Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision to

legalize abortion in Roe vs. Wade, should be considered a day of reconciliation and prayer in each parish.



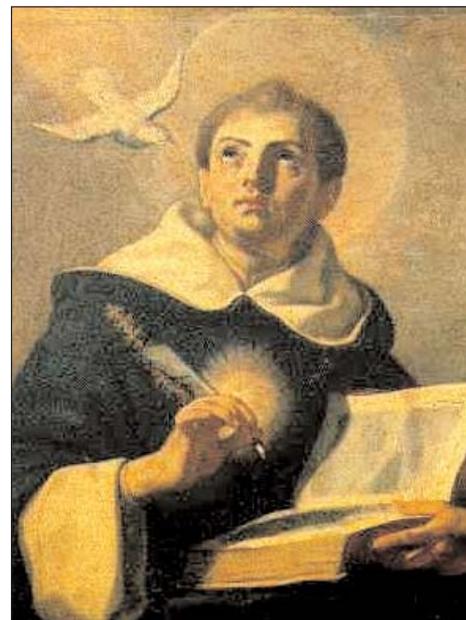
The General Instruction of the Roman Missal explains that it is to be a day of “penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.”

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information on Holy Hour contact Mireya Blankmeyer at 713-525-3589.

## Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas

The Mass of St. Thomas Aquinas, the opening Mass for UST's 2007 spring semester, will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 30, in the Jerabeck Center. This opening prayer service and celebration of Mass is for all students, staff and faculty of all denominations and faiths. There will be a reception after Mass in the Scanlan Room. UST students, particularly of the Philosophy Department, are integrally involved in the planning and execution of this service along with many of the Basilian Fathers. Plan to begin the new school semester with the blessing this event offers you and the entire UST community.



## Two Town Hall Security Meetings Scheduled

Recently two members of the UST community were the victims of robberies in the campus area. The University will implement additional security measures to safeguard our students, faculty and staff. These include accelerating street closings to prevent vehicle entry; the increased patrolling of the area by HPD officers; and hiring additional UST security officers. Later this month, HPD officers will walk the campus and offer their recommendations on security improvements.

The University of St. Thomas is located in HPD Beat 30, which encompasses an area from West

Gray to U.S. 59 and Montrose Blvd to near Kirby. A review of crime statistics in our area shows that the number of crimes committed on or near campus has actually gone down from 16 to 12 from 2005 to 2006, and represents less than two percent of Beat 30's crimes.

"Though the statistics show that crime has actually diminished in our area and on campus, we will be vigilant and take proactive measures to stay safe," said President Robert Ivany. In conjunction with the Houston Police Department, the University has scheduled **two town hall security meetings at 3:30 p.m. on**

**Thursday, Feb. 1, and Friday, Feb. 2, in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center.** Faculty, staff and students are asked to attend one of these meetings to learn more about upcoming security measures.

### Funny Foto Day

Funny Foto's will put your face on another person's body or put your body in a funny picture. Check it out from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center.



### Recital with Brady Knapp

Dr. Brady Knapp will perform in a recital at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 in Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. Dr. Knapp is an artist in residence, choir director and professor of voice at UST.



## Activate Yourself During UST's Week of Action



Week of Action, brought to you by the Offices of Volunteer Opportunities and Student Activities, begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, with a tree-planting effort in coordination with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, TxDOT and Trees for Houston. The UST team will participate in this community effort until noon. The UST team will plant five-gallon trees on Will Clayton Parkway. A van will leave from campus at 7:30 a.m.

Week of Action will continue on Tuesday, Jan. 29, with the all-day showing of the film "An Inconvenient Truth," a documen-

tary featuring Al Gore that examines global warming. Showings will begin at 10 a.m. in the Old Bookstore, Crooker Center, with the last showing at 9 p.m. The film will be shown again at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, in Guinan Hall. The screenings are sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and the student organizations Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students, Union of the Politically Progressive and the St. Thomas More Political Science Club.

Events are free and open to the public. Students attending both the tree-planting and the film showing will receive CELT Leadership credit.

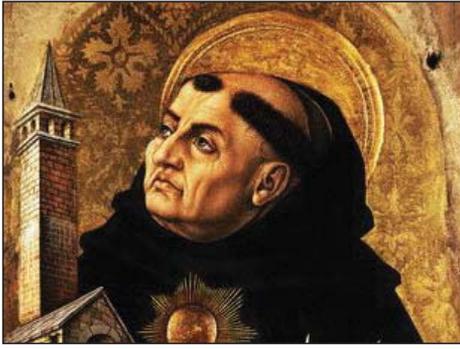
For tree-planting information call Ellie Collier at 713-525-3801. For film information call Angie Montelongo at 713-525-3572.

## Volleyball Tryouts

The University of St. Thomas Women's Volleyball team will host open tryouts for next season's team from noon - 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, in Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon.

The tryouts are open to all women interested in playing inter-collegiate volleyball. Graduating high school seniors must have completed their high school eligibility in order to participate. Junior college transfers are also encouraged to attend. Players must sign a liability waiver in order to participate. Also, those under 18 must have parental permission.

Interested women contact volleyball coach Jill Reynolds at 713-831-7220 or at [reynoljm@stthom.edu](mailto:reynoljm@stthom.edu).



## Aquinas Lecture Series

The 2007 Aquinas Lecture “Practical Reasoning after the ‘Fall’” will be delivered by John M. Rist, an internationally recognized scholar in classics and philosophy, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Cullen Hall.

The lecture will criticize certain “Kantian” aspects of the attempt to offer a new version of natural law associated with the names of Grisez, Finnis and George (in particular), and raises the question of the relationship between rationality, love and duty.

Rist will argue tentatively that a realistic attitude to public life must include not only a greater respect for consequences than one would wish, but also that it demands an Augustinian humility and recognition of moral inadequacy.

Rist is known for his refreshing and straight-forward style. He is a professor emeritus of the University of Toronto and visiting professor at the Istituto Patristico Augustinianum, Rome. He received an M.A. from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1963.

The lecture, sponsored by the Center for Thomistic Studies, is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Pam Butler at 713-525-3591.



## Talk on the Celtic Tiger

The Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum presents Dr. Joseph McFadden, UST professor of history and president emeritus, discussing “The Celtic Tiger,” at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1, in Cullen Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

The Celtic Tiger was an economic boom for the Irish state as well as an economic revolution precipitated by Ireland’s induction into a globalized economy. McFadden’s presentation will focus on the most important factors that account for the success of the Celtic Tiger as well as highlight the extent of economic improvement under the Celtic Tiger. He will also present a “micro” study of just how the Celtic Tiger works today. Ireland has targeted shipping/logistics as a new industry. Through interviews with those involved in maritime development and prospective clients in that industry, McFadden will illustrate how the factors that led to Ireland’s success operate in the transnational market.

No RSVP or tickets sold; first-come, first-served. A reception will follow in Doherty Library, hosted by the Friends of Doherty Library. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.



## Fr. Miller Lecture Series

William L. Saunders, senior fellow and director, Center for Human Life and Bioethics, Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., will deliver the 2007 Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture titled “International Law, the Supreme Court and the Family.” He will discuss international law and the family; the “right” to gay marriage; and abortion in U.S. Courts.

Saunders was a principal drafter of FRC’s “Building a Culture of Life: a Call to Respect Human Dignity in American Life.”

After earning his degree in politics, he attended the Harvard Law School. In 1999, Saunders founded Sudan Relief and Rescue, Inc., to aid the persecuted church in Sudan. In 2001 he was appointed by President Bush to serve on the United States delegation to the UN Special Session on Children.

The lecture, presented by UST’s Catholic Studies program, begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, in Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum. The lecture, sponsored by the John W. and Alida M. Considine Foundation, is free and open to the public. For more information contact Catholic Studies at 713-525-6989.



Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras (center)  
with UST Kiva volunteers

## Microcredit Gets Macro Results

In an endless cycle of giving and receiving, 10 student volunteers in the Center for International Studies Program will work with the non-profit organization, Kiva, to give loans to entrepreneurs in third-world countries. These students, with the help of their professor, are working to create the first CIS Microcredit Fund of the University of St. Thomas.

“The value of the project depends on the students’ will and energy for this cause,” said Dr. Rogelio Garcia-Contreras, first year UST assistant professor. “Students involved in this project will receive no class credit or income. I offer this project to my students to help them get involved. We talk about issues like poverty, social justice and equality in the classroom but these concepts are never put into action. This is a way to get students to understand these concepts in the real world, and to contribute our grain of sand to try to solve the injustices of this world,” said Garcia-Contreras.

Kiva allows anyone to connect with and loan money to unique small businesses in the developing world. Garcia-Contreras and his team will use Kiva as a tool to assign the microcredits. How it works: you choose a business on Kiva.org and set up a monetary loan for the entrepreneur in the country of your choice. The concept is that by providing these loans you are helping the world’s working poor make successful strides towards economic independence. Kiva partners with existing microfinance institutions and has access to entrepreneurs from impoverished communities world-wide.

Student committee members are responsible for setting up the account, raising the funds and managing the finances. Once money has been raised, the committee will choose where the money will be invested and a loan will be given out to individual entrepreneurs. Garcia-Contreras’ immediate goal is to have \$5,000 in the fund by September 2007.

For now, the CIS fund will be an official lender of microcredits through Kiva, meaning that the money loaned through Kiva will come directly from the fund set up by CIS. But Garcia-Contreras has a bigger goal in mind: to have this fund fully operate on its own without the help of Kiva.

The average microcredit loan amount is \$50. “So, on average, \$500 means 10 loans in 10 different places,” Garcia-Contreras said.

“Imagine how much good we can do. We will be impacting the world in a positive way. Now, we aren’t just talking about social change, we are participating in it.”

In the bigger picture, Garcia-Contreras envisions a legacy for future UST students and the Center.

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