News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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University of St. Thomas Presents Social Justice Seminar with members of Catholic Relief Services

WHAT: Alexandra Claire Causton and Quhramaan Kakar, Catholic Relief Services-Pakistan, will deliver the second lecture in the 2007 Spring Social Justice Seminar Series.

WHO: Sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee

WHEN: noon. – 2 p.m. Friday, March 23

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Ahern Room, Crooker Center
3909 Graustark
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

BACKGROUND: In their presentation, Causton and Kakar will discuss peace-building; Pakistani women; educational issues; border, refugee and immigration issues; the earthquake disaster response in Pakistan; and how this Catholic agency has been successful in a strict Muslim culture.

Catholic Relief Services is a non-profit organization operating on five continents and 99 countries, assisting the poor and disadvantaged. CRS Pakistan is specifically dedicated to promoting peace, justice and reconciliation within Pakistan by fostering harmony and collaboration between people of different faiths, supporting education and assisting those unable to provide for themselves.

Causton is head of programs for CRS Pakistan, managing field staff working on frontlines of operations and represents CRS at many national, church and community-wide meetings. She has previously worked with youth programs in the Dominican Republic, HIV/AIDS awareness programs in Burkina Faso and emergency relief efforts in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

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Kakar is program manager for the Self Help Groups/Extremely Vulnerable Individuals program, establishing urban development centers for vulnerable women to involve them in activities that strengthen their capacity and influence on their families and communities. Her background includes negotiating with Afghan authorities in Pakistan and Afghanistan for project assistance, project planning with the United Nations and serving as a national advisor for Afghanistan's 2004 Presidential election program.

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