News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of St. Thomas to Host "St Paul and Evangelization" Pauline Year Lecture Series

Houston (January 5, 2008) – The "St. Paul and Evangelization" lecture series is being offered as a contribution of the University of St. Thomas to the Church's 2000th anniversary celebration of St. Paul's life and mission. The lecture series will be held at 7 p.m. on **Wednesdays, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25 and April 1, 2009** at St. Mary's Seminary, Nold Auditorium, 9845 Memorial Drive.

Born in Tarsus, modern-day Turkey, in approximately 10 A.D., **St. Paul** experienced a profound conversion on the road to Damascus. Called to take the name of the risen Lord into the world (Acts 9:1-19), St. Paul became one of the earliest and most prominent evangelizers of all times.

"Throughout his journeys and his writings, Paul was faced with the mission of relating the Good News of Gospel love to the ways of life of diverse peoples and communities throughout the Mediterranean," Fr. Nesti, CSSp, director of UST's Center for Faith and Culture, said. "His efforts to lead people to freedom in following Christ modeled the mission of the Church in every culture and every age. This series of lectures will attempt to sharpen our understanding of what it means to minister in this way and unfold the beauty of the Gospel message."

Bible Scholar Dr. Ben Witherington III will launch the series on **March 4**. He will speak on "Paul and the Rhetoric of Evangelism." He is an Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary and on the doctoral faculty at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Witherington has written more than 30 books including *The Jesus Quest* and *The Paul Quest*, both of which were selected as top biblical studies works by Christianity. He has been featured on the History Channel, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, The Discovery Channel, A&E and the PAX Network.

Other speakers include Dr. Carolyn Osiek, Charles Fischer Catholic Professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University; Dr. Judith Ryan, associate professor of theology at the UST School of Theology; and Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Lectures are cosponsored by the Center for Faith and Culture and UST's Graduate School of Theology and are open to the public. For information, contact Jan Skrehot at cfc@stthom.edu.

The **Center for Faith and Culture** identifies University's interest and dialogue with a variety of cultures. It began in 1994 to study how the gospel can be a cultural leaven. Through conferences, symposia and courses, its activities study the relationship between the worldview of Roman Catholic faith and a mixture of cultures. It studies the relationship of the Gospel's vision, values, ethical and moral norms, symbols, relationships and roles within cultures. It primarily relates the Gospel to American subcultures – Hispanic, African-American and Asian.

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