News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Houston, Jan. 22, 2007

UST Presents the 2007 St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture Featuring John M. Rist on Practical Reasoning after the Fall

WHAT: John M. Rist, professor emeritus of the University of Toronto and visiting professor at the Istituto Patristico Augustinianum, Rome, will deliver the 2007 St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture on "Practical Reasoning After the Fall."

WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007

WHERE: Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon
University of St. Thomas
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

BACKGROUND: In John M. Rist's recent book, *Real Ethics*, he develops an "agent-relative" moral theory, one rooted in personal responsibility when answering the question "What ought *I* to do now?" His theory is derived from Plato and Augustine, and it is offered as an alternative to the disturbing nihilism of contemporary life. From this perspective, he doubts the usefulness of practical reasoning that assumes a utopian world, in other words, that ignores the "Fall". He argues instead that moral reasoning must confront what Augustine calls "this darkness of social life."

The lecture will criticize certain aspects of the "new" version of Natural Law proposed by Grisez, Finnis and George, and consider the relationship among rationality, love, and duty.

Rist will argue that a realistic attitude towards the political and social order must include, not only a greater respect for consequences but also an Augustinian humility in recognizing our moral inadequacies.

Rist is an internationally acclaimed scholar in Classics and Philosophy and known for his refreshing, straight-forward style.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Pam Butler at 713-525-3591.
####