News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS HIRES NEW ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT

HOUSTON (June 6, 2006) Dr. John P. Hittinger will join the University of St. Thomas as vice president for Academic Affairs on July 1. Hittinger replaces Dr. Kurt Geisinger, who served as VPAA since 2001. Dr Geisinger will become the director of the Buros Institute for Testing and the W.C. Meierhenry Distinguished University Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dr. Hittinger comes to the University of St. Thomas as a recognized scholar on the thought of Thomas Aquinas, an acclaimed teacher of philosophy and an academic leader. He presently serves as the assessment officer at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Before arriving at the Seminary in 2004, Dr. Hittinger was the provost and academic dean at St. Mary's College of Ave Maria University in Orchard Lake, Mich., a position he assumed in 2001. From 1994 to 2001, Dr. Hittinger taught at the United States Air Force Academy, where he was awarded the Civilian of the Year Award for the faculty in 1996. Dr. Hittinger also chaired the philosophy and theology department at the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., between 1988 and 1992.

"As an academic leader, John Hittinger has demonstrated an ability to inspire, support and develop faculty in diverse environments," said UST President Robert Ivany. "His valuable expertise in developing vibrant curriculums and flexible assessment plans will be instrumental in advancing our vision of becoming a great Catholic university. He is committed to our mission of educating leaders of faith and character at the graduate and undergraduate levels."

His degrees include a B.A. in philosophy, cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, and an M.A., magna cum laude, and a Ph.D. awarded with distinction in philosophy from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

The University of St. Thomas, dedicated to building leaders of faith and character, is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

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