



News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**University of St. Thomas  
2006 Annual Lee Lecture in English  
“Dante and the Resurrection of the Body”**

HOUSTON (Jan. 23, 2006) – Colleagues and friends of the Rev. Edward G. Lee, CSB, established the Lee Lecture in 1979 to bring outstanding figures from the arts and humanities to University of St. Thomas. The 2006 Lee Lecture is 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon. Free and open to the public.

This year’s speaker is a distinguished scholar, critic, translator and poet, Professor Anthony Esolen, of Providence College in Rhode Island. Esolen has written extensively on medieval and Renaissance literature. He is the translator of the celebrated Modern Library three-volume edition of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*.

On this year’s topic: “Dante and the Resurrection of the Body,” Esolen asserts that theologians tell us, following Scripture, that the body will rise again, and that our blessedness in heaven cannot be perfected without it. He then asks us: But what is that body good for? What it is a sign of? Why, other than that it is ours, would we want it back? Esolen believes that Dante provides answers that are at once simple and surprising – and that enrich our understanding of what it means for man to be made in the image and likeness of God.

Esolen received his undergraduate degree in English from Princeton University and his PhD from University of North Carolina. He has written a volume of poetry titled *Peppers* and is currently finishing a book called *Ironies of Faith*, for ISI Press. Other translations include Lucretius’ *De rerum natura* and Torquato Tasso’s *Gerusalemme liberate*. Esolen is a regular contributor to the Catholic press, and he is an associate editor of the journal *Touchstone*.

The Lee Lecture is sponsored by the University of St. Thomas English Department. For more information contact Dr. Clint Brand at 713-942-5072.

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