News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARY ELLEN BORK ON: 'THE NEW FEMINISM OF POPE JOHN PAUL II: VISION AND CHALLENGE'

HOUSTON (Jan. 9, 2006) — Mary Ellen Bork will deliver "The New Feminism of John Paul II" for the University of St. Thomas' second annual Archbishop J. Michael Miller Lecture in Catholic Studies at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, in Jones Auditorium, 3910 Yoakum Boulevard, on the St. Thomas campus.

The lecture, sponsored by the John W. and Alida M. Considine Foundation, is free and open to the public. Additional contact: Sr. Paula Jean Miller, 713-525-6989.

Roman Catholic women are responsible for taking on important leadership roles within the Church in order to build a culture that supports and respects life, according to the late Pope John Paul II. Mary Ellen Bork is a lecturer and co-founder of Women Affirming Life, an organization created in order to encourage Catholic women to speak publicly about life issues, including abortion, physician-assisted suicide, cloning and stem cell research.

One reason that Bork was chosen as lecturer relates to the University's new minor: Women, Culture and Society. "The new feminism has been a key topic in the Church and now is being reinforced in a new minor," said Sr. Paul Jean Miller, F.S.E., professor of Theology and director of the Catholic Studies program.

Mary Ellen Bork is a frequent lecturer on issues relating to Catholic life and culture. Bork's topic, the vision and challenge of the new feminism, was introduced by Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*, but the pope's thoughts on the dignity and unique genius of women were already developed in *Mulieris Dignitatem*, the Letter to Women, and the Theology of the Body. Pope John Paul II believed that the "old" feminism needed to be replaced because it did not serve life and often merely mimicked patterns of male domination and violence, making it one of the engines of the culture of death.

Bork serves on the boards of the John Carroll Society, the Institute for Religion and Democracy, and Women Affirming Life. She is a member of the editorial board of the magazine *Voices*. She's on the advisory board of the Catholic University of America's School of Philosophy, Christendom College, the Cardinal Newman Society, the Susan B. Anthony List and the *Chesterton Review*.

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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