



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of St. Thomas' Center for Thomistic Studies
Creates Honorary Order**

HOUSTON (Feb. 28, 2006)—To mark the 25th anniversary of its founding, the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas has initiated “The Order of St. Thomas,” an award to be presented to persons who have testified to the incomparable value of the philosophy of Saint Thomas Aquinas in their writings, teaching, philanthropy or way of life. Recipients received a medal bearing an image of Thomas Aquinas and the motto of the Order, “Quantum Potes, Tantum Aude:” (Dare to do all that you can.) The first two recipients of the award are Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., and George Strake, Jr., president of the Strake Foundation in Houston. The awards were bestowed at the 2006 Aquinas Lecture.

Avery Cardinal Dulles, was the 2006 Aquinas Lecturer, which took place on Feb. 21, the fifth anniversary of his creation as a cardinal by Pope John Paul II. He received the award for his exemplary scholarship and in gratitude for his life-long defense of the faith.

Strake, a former UST Board member, has received the award for his commitment to the Catholic tradition in higher education and his generosity to UST. Last year, the Strake Foundation provided a scholarship to assist college-age children of U.S. military service members who have died in the Iraq or Afghanistan Theater.

UST's Center for Thomistic Studies is the only graduate philosophy program in the United States uniquely focused on the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

University of St. Thomas 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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