News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 9, 2006

UST Presents the 2006 Spring Social Justice Seminar Series

WHAT: The first program in the University of St. Thomas' fifth annual Social Justice

Seminar Series will include a discussion on immigration reforms and a panel presentation led by Deacon Joe Rubio of Catholic Charities titled "Immigration

Reform: What Does it Mean?"

WHO: Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee at UST.

WHEN: noon -2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24

WHERE: University of St. Thomas

Ahern Room, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark

Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

BACKGROUND: Deacon Rubio, chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Immigrant

and Refugee Affairs, will lead a panel in a review of Congressional reform proposals, including the McCain-Kennedy Bill. Other panel members include: Wafa Abdin, an immigration attorney, Stephen Carattini from Catholic Charities and Benito Juarez, director of the

Mayor's Office on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

Among the questions to be addressed by the seminar are: what changes will occur with immigration reform; what can people expect; will there be a wall along the U.S. – Mexican border; will there be jail time for priests, physicians, social workers, teachers and others who render aid to undocumented persons; and can comprehensive reform deal with the reality of the immigration crisis in our nation?

Deacon Rubio is also chair of the Archdiocesan Justice for Immigrants Campaign that seeks comprehensive immigration reform. He serves as the chairman of the board of the Austin-based Center for Public Policy Priorities. Rubio is a deacon at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Clear Lake.

The other presentations in this series will be held from noon - 2 p.m. March 24 and April 21 in Ahern Room, Crooker Center.

COST: Free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Dr. Trish Vandiver at 713-525-3197.

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