News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2006

UST Presents the 2006 Spring Social Justice Seminar Series

WHAT: The second program in the University of St. Thomas' fifth annual Social Justice Seminar Series will include a discussion by Houston Habitat for Humanity President and CEO Laurence J. Payne, titled "Operation Love Thy Neighbor."

WHO: Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee at UST.

WHEN: noon – 2 p.m. Friday, March. 24

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Ahern Room, Crooker Center, 3909 Graustark
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

BACKGROUND: Among the questions to be addressed are: What are the implications for our working, living and serving together as we give witness to the gospel values of social justice; and who is our neighbor in contemporary society. "One of the cornerstones of Habitat's ministry is there is no such thing as a stranger," he says. "Stranger is only a neighbor that I have not met yet."

Payne, prior to joining Houston Habitat, was President of Educational Excellence Resource Group LLC. He has also continued his role as the Adjunct Director of Community, Institutional and Governmental Relations for the Institute for Urban Public Education at the University of Houston, and has over 25 years of experience in organizing, developing, marketing, delivering and facilitating training services in business and education.

Payne held several positions within the Roman Catholic Church including Executive Director of the Office of Social Development for the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Vicar of Urban Affairs for the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois and Director of Community Relations of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

The last presentation in this series will be held from noon - 2 p.m. 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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