

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Lewis, 651.552.9826
amy@renownmarketing.com

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY HONORS ARCHBISHOP HARRY FLYNN WITH 2007 OPUS SANCTI THOMAE AWARD

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 3, 2007 – The Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn, DD, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, was honored yesterday as the 2007 recipient of Opus Sancti Thomae award from Saint Thomas Academy. The award, given annually, honors friends and affiliates of the Academy who have made outstanding contributions to business, civic, church, educational and professional communities. As archbishop, Flynn has served as the Academy's chief officer since 1985.

Each year, the archbishop celebrates mass at the Academy and devotes a day to visiting classes, having lunch with students and chatting with staff. He also presides over commencement ceremonies at the Cathedral of Saint Paul each June.

Flynn is also "a wonderful role model for our students and our staff," said Thomas Schreier, Jr. '80, chair of the board of trustees. "He has a gentle spirit about him and a style of leadership that is knowledgeable, understanding and engaging."

The *Opus Sancti Thomae* recipient is chosen by a committee of Saint Thomas Academy administrators, alumni and parents. The Academy has given the award since 1992. Past recipients have included:

- Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst, founder of Rauenhorst Construction, now Opus Corporation
- Alan (Bud) Ruvelson '32, a business pioneer and venture capitalist
- The Most Rev. John R. Roach, DD, former archbishop of the archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
- Rev. Michael J. O'Connell '59, rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- Michael W. Wright '56, former CEO of Supervalu, Inc.

As for receiving the *Opus Sancti Thomae* Award, Flynn said he is honored to join the ranks of previous recipients.

"These are people who have contributed so much to our community. I'm also honored because of the association of Archbishop Roach with the Academy and of Archbishop Ireland who founded it so many years ago. The Academy was truly born out of the very heart of our local church."

Each recipient receives a medal designed by the Rev. Thomas Kolar, also a former recipient of the award. Its centerpiece is an encircled Jerusalem cross. Embedded sapphires grace each cross and representations of the two Academy logos denote its place of origin.

About Archbishop Flynn

Since his ordination in 1960, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn has responded whenever the Church has called, touching countless lives throughout his long and distinguished career.

Over the past 47 years, he has served in many capacities, including parish pastor, high school teacher, retreat master, seminary rector, bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, La., and since 1995, spiritual leader to the more than 750,000 Catholics in the 12-county Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The youngest in a family of six children, Flynn was born in an Irish neighborhood in Schenectady, N.Y. Both of his parents died by the time he was 12 years old and he was subsequently raised by elderly aunts and uncles who lived nearby.

He attended Siena College, near Albany, N.Y., where he earned both bachelor and master's degrees in English. He later enrolled in Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., to prepare for the priesthood.

Upon his ordination on May 28, 1960, he moved to Troy, N.Y., where he taught English in a large Catholic high school. In 1965, he returned to Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, where over a period of years he served as dean, vice rector and rector.

In 1979, he was called to the Albany Diocese to serve as pastor of Church of St. Ambrose in Latham, N.Y.

In 1986, he was named bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, La., a position he held until Pope John Paul II named him coadjutor archbishop for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in February 1994. On Oct. 1, 1995, he succeeded Archbishop John Roach as head of the archdiocese.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, military/leadership, Catholic, college preparatory school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the Academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom.

###