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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY HONORS KEANE'S YEARS OF SERVICE AND SUPPORT WITH SCHOOL'S HIGHEST HONOR, THE OPUS SANCTI THOMAE AWARD

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 1, 2009 – Saint Thomas Academy awarded its highest honor – the Opus Sancti Thomae Award – to former Academy English teacher Jim Keane on Tuesday evening, Sept. 29. Keane, now 88, dedicated his entire career (1946 to 1986) to teaching English at the Academy. The Opus Sancti Thomae award, given annually since 1992, honors friends and affiliates of the Academy who have made outstanding contributions to business, civic, church, educational and professional communities.

“The Opus Sancti Thomae Award is a fitting honor for Jim Keane, a man who has selflessly given himself and his career to Saint Thomas Academy,” said Dr. Thomas Mich, headmaster. “His intense love of language and literature was matched by his dedication to the classroom and his students. He modeled that love and dedication during his 40 years at the Academy.”

Keane is one of three living members of the “Old Guard,” a group of beloved professors who came to the Academy in the 1940s and devoted their careers and lives to the school. The men still get together and tell stories about the old days, attend alumni events and enjoy time with former students, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

In addition to his service to Saint Thomas Academy, Keane has volunteered reading for the blind for nearly 30 years and is active at Incarnation Church in Minneapolis.

He joins a distinguished group of individuals who have received the Opus Sancti Thomae Award, including:

- Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst, founder of Rauenhorst Construction, now Opus Corporation
- Alan (Bud) Ruvelson '32, a business pioneer and venture capitalist
- The Most Rev. Harry Flynn, DD, former archbishop of the archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
- Lawrence O'Shaughnessy '39, ardent supporter of Catholic education
- Michael W. Wright '56, former CEO of Supervalu, Inc.
- Charles “Chuck” Denny '48, former CEO of ADC Telecommunications
- George Schnell, who taught at the Academy from 1946-1984 and served as interim headmaster; he is a member of the Old Guard

The recipient is chosen by a committee of Saint Thomas Academy alumni, parents and parents of alumni.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership 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, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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