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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY HONORS FEDERAL RESERVE'S GAINOR WITH SCHOOL'S HIGHEST HONOR

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Sept. 27, 2010 – Saint Thomas Academy will award its highest honor – the Opus Sancti Thomae Award – to the former chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Thomas Gainor STMA '51, on Tuesday, Sept. 28. Gainor has long been a supporter of Saint Thomas Academy, is a former board of trustee member and chairman, and is an active contributor to the business and civic community in the Twin Cities.

Following active service in the U.S. Navy, Gainor spent 35 years with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, beginning in 1967 as an assistant vice president, working his way to first vice president and chief operating officer, a position he held from 1978 until his retirement in 1993.

And while he had volunteered with numerous community organizations during his career — Minneapolis United Way, Minneapolis Aquatennial and the Visiting Nurse Association, to name a few — Gainor began to narrow his focus to Catholic institutions following retirement.

“As I reflected on my values and where I wanted to put my energy in retirement, I realized how important the Church and its ministries were to me,” said Gainor, who had earlier served as a trustee and board chair at Convent of the Visitation School (1983-1989).

Since then, Gainor's record of service includes:

- Trustee at Saint Thomas Academy from 1989 to 1998, serving as chair for six years and as co-chair of the capital campaign in 1990.
- Board member of Catholic Charities from 1990 to 1996.
- President of the Catholic Community Foundation from 1992 to 2002 and a member of its Investment Committee since 2002.
- Member of the Archdiocesan Investment Committee since 1997 and on the Archdiocesan Respect Life Committee's Advisory Board since 2008.
- Financial counselor to the Franciscan Poor Clares since 2008 and a long-time volunteer with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Healthcare Ministries.
- Board member of Total Life Care Centers since 1998, president 2002-2004, and on the Dolan Fund Committee since 2008.

“In the Catholic Church, Tom has been a leader at the grassroots level in his own parish as well as at the lofty levels of Archdiocesan involvement and many levels in between,” said George Schnell, retired STA professor/headmaster and 2005 Opus recipient. “He is a consummate example of the product [the Academy] hopes to send out into the world.”

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.

Past recipients of the Opus Sancti Thomae Award include:

- 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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