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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SFTS graduates 116 during May 19 Commencement

San Anselmo, Calif., May 23 – San Francisco Theological Seminary graduated 116 students May 19 at historic Bouick Field on the San Anselmo campus.

SFTS President, the Rev. Dr. Philip Butin, challenged the graduates to “keep their balance” as they take the lessons of their theological, spiritual and practical formation beyond the Seminary. Referring to Deuteronomy 7, Butin noted that God cares how each of us lives because “God chose us” and not because of anything we have done.

“That’s why all of this matters so much – God’s heart is set on us. God loves us. God knows what’s best for us,” Butin told the graduates, noting that the stakes can be quite high. “As we move into God’s future for us, keeping our balance will continue to be among our most important and profound challenges.”

SFTS awarded 37 Master of Divinity degrees, 23 Master of Theological Studies degrees, 35 Doctor of Ministry degrees, and 16 Diplomas in the Art of Spiritual Direction.

The Graduate Theological Union awarded a Master of Arts degree to three SFTS students and the Doctor of Philosophy degree to two affiliates of SFTS at its own commencement May 10.

Two graduates were recognized for their outstanding achievements while attending SFTS. Kristin Anne Schmor was presented the Seminary Fellowship as well as the David Esler Award in Homiletics.

Soo Jung Yun, a student in the Southern California program, was awarded the Alumni Fellowship. In addition to earning the Master of Divinity degree, she also received a Juris Doctor degree this spring from Southwestern School of Law. Soo Jung is the daughter of Dr. So Young Park, director of SFTS’ Korean Theological Studies program on the Pasadena campus.

Mikel Baird Taxer was presented the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Taxer, a 1966 graduate in the bachelor of divinity program, served Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Diego for four decades before retiring in 2006. Prior to pursuing higher education, Taxer was a struggling young actor in Los Angeles. He put those artistic leanings to good use in his pastorate where he started an amateur theatre and dance program as an integral aspect of the church’s ministry.

The Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, dean and vice president for academic affairs, said the Seminary is extremely proud of the Class of 2007.

“Among the graduates are peacemakers, scholars, prophets and tender-hearted pastors, all prepared to spend themselves in ministry to the world’s great need,” Childers said. “We look forward to seeing how God will use them and their many gifts.”

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (USA) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena, to more than 500 students. For more information please call SFTS at 1-800-447-8820 in San Anselmo or 1-800-473-8772 in Pasadena. Also find information on our Web site: www.sfts.edu.