For Immediate Release
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DeSALES STUDENT HONORED WITH PAPAL MEDAL

Center Valley, Pa. (August 26, 2009) – DeSales University senior, MATTHEW KUHNER of Southampton, Pa., accepts a Papal Medal from Father Thomas Dailey, OSFS, director of the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture, during a presentation ceremony on August 26.

The Papal Medal was awarded to Kuhner through the initiative of Archbishop Claudi Maria Celli, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican after they learned Kuhner had earned “Best Student Essay” honors in the annual “Salesian Spirit” Essay Contest. The Medal, featuring the portrait of Pope Benedict XVI, recognizes Kuhner’s efforts to promote thoughtful discussion and reflection on the annual message of World Communications Day.

A DeSales University junior when he wrote the essay last year, Kuhner is majoring in philosophy and theology. He wrote about “Communicating Love: Friendship in the Technological Age,” a topic selected to support the theme of the 2009 contest which was “New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue & Friendship.” In his essay, Kuhner writes: “The union of friendship and the advances in our technologies of communication…are all pointing towards that unity which is only to be found fully in Christ and His Church. We must allow Christ to reveal the fullness of such communion with us . . .” The complete text of his essay, along with those of award winners in previous years, can be read at www4.desales.edu/SCFC/Heritage/HW-awards.htm.

Kuhner’s and the other essays were submitted during the University’s annual Heritage Week celebrations, sponsored by the Salesian Center, and expound on the relationship between faith and culture in contemporary life. In conjunction with World Communications Day, The Salesian Center for Faith & Culture sponsors the annual writing contest for members of the entire campus community.  

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