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***Two St. James Academy Students Receive Verbum Dei Award***

**Solana Beach, CA** -- St. James Academy 8th grade students Scott Kazmierowicz and Aliea Clark were recently presented with the Verbum Dei Award at Mater Dei Catholic High School. The Verbum Dei Award recognizes students who demonstrate Christ-like leadership, a positive attitude, compassion for others, role-model Jesus Christ, live the Ten Commandments, assist others and are selfless in their actions.

Principals from each of forty two elementary schools in the Diocese of San Diego were invited to send the names of two students, a young man and a young woman, to receive the honor. St. James Academy junior high teacher Leslie Beswick accompanied the students to the award ceremony. Awards were presented to students by Steve Laaperi, Director of Schools in the Diocese of San Diego and Thomas Beecher, Mater Dei Catholic High School President.

“I feel so proud to represent St. James Academy. Receiving this award is such an honor,” stated Aliea Clark. Scott Kazmierowicz shared her sentiment and added that even being considered was rewarding.

St. James Academy is a K-8 elementary school serving the North County communities of Solana Beach, Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Rancho Santa Fe, Encinitas, Carlsbad and La Costa. It is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and certified by the Western Catholic Education Association. For more information, please go to [www.saintjamesacademy.com](http://www.saintjamesacademy.com) or call 1-858-755-1777.

