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# Rah team!

## Lady Titans Raise Funds for Rockford's Poor Clares

By Amanda Hudson | News Editor

**O**n Feb. 13, Boylan Central Catholic High School's Lady Titans basketball team in Rockford was treated to what head coach Paul Perrone described as a "rare and special event" — Mass in the Poor Clares' Monastery chapel followed by a meeting with all the nuns.

The occasion allowed the girls and their coach to present both ceremonial and actual checks to the Poor Clares for \$16,138. The Lady Titans coordinated the fundraising effort, which ran from mid-December through Feb. 7. The Poor Clares were able to repair their lift chair/elevator with the money that was raised, Coach Perrone said.

The biggest event was "Poor Clares



(Photo provided)

Lady Titans' coach Paul Perrone had a cake delivered to the Poor Clares Jan. 16 with a picture of the Corpus Christi chapel.



(Photo provided)



(Observer photo/Amanda Hudson)

Members of the Lady Titans basketball team from Boylan Central Catholic High School in Rockford gather in the front of the Corpus Christi Monastery Chapel while the ceremonial check for more

than \$16,000 is propped against a pew in the back. The team spearheaded a fund drive that ran from mid-December 2019 through Feb. 7.

Night" at the Jan. 16 Lady Titans game at Boylan. The team's Twitter feed challenged followers, "Let's pack the gym for the Nuns." Donations received that evening were combined with others including from All Saints Catholic Academy in Rockford (which gave just over \$3,000 and more than 300 prayers for the sisters) and contributions from individuals in the community.

Father David Finn, spiritual director at Boylan, celebrated the Feb. 13 Mass. In his homily, Father Finn spoke about how prayers are heard, including the petition of the woman in the day's Gospel.

"How beautiful it is that we have this Gospel this afternoon being here at the Poor Clare Monastery," he said, "because the Poor Clares dedicate their lives to praying for the world. ... What a beautiful life it is to give your life to God, to become a bride of Christ, for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

"And so how wonderful it is that the Poor Clares have been praying for us for decades in this diocese. And so

then too, we can offer our prayers, Sisters, for you ... because we're all in this together. So, thank you from the bottom of our heart for all that you do for the Church and for the people of God. There is no prayer that goes unanswered by God."

After the Mass, first the donors and then the team visited with the nuns in their parlor. Laughter, introductions, promises of prayers from and for the nuns, the plan for a future meal for the nuns of donated Impossible (vegetarian) Whoppers and fries from the West Riverside Burger King, and some questions and answers were all part of their visit. The nuns had rosaries for the girls who eagerly received them.

"We all decided that we were going to have the game specifically for the Poor Clares, like a special night, and then we decided to do the fundraising so the whole team was kind of involved," said Lady Titan Mia Dally.

The Boylan team's Twitter feed on Dec. 14 promised that donors would



(Observer photo/Amanda Hudson)

The Poor Clare Colettines chat with Boylan's Lady Titans and their coaches during the visit on Feb. 13.

"receive a blessed gel bracelet and countless prayers." And sure enough, one of the donors attending the February Mass and visit was wearing her bracelet, as were some of the team members.

The bracelet idea came with the elementary school kids in mind, but "anyone who wanted one could purchase one," Dally said, adding that the whole effort was "my coach's idea, but everyone on the team gave as much as they could."



(Observer photo/Amanda Hudson)

Three of the Lady Titans basketball team show the rosaries they received as gifts from the Poor Clares to thank the girls for their fundraising efforts.

Rockford television stations Channel 23 (pictured) and Channel 17 featured the Lady Titans' fundraising efforts for the Poor Clare Colettine nuns. Mike Buda (left) interviewed a team member during the fund drive.

# Making the best memories

By Sharon Boehlefeld | Features Editor

Rosary High School's yearbook, Exodus 2019 Called, received first place from the American Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University in New York this spring.

The staff also received special recognition for their cover and theme development. Rosary was the only Illinois school to be recognized.

Judging is based on overall theme and themed development, layout design, writing, and photography.

While yearbooks are always a staff effort, last year's senior editors — Christie Cedeño, Alaina Fleming, and Luzane Draughon — and last year's junior editors — Kelly Curtis and Bethany Mladenik — led the team effort.

The yearbook moderator is Faith Etheredge, who said Rosary's first principal, Sister Mary Joseph Weigand, OP, told Etheredge when she began working with yearbook students that the key goal of each year's edition was to make it obvious that it represented the memories of a "Dominican institution."

Ella Zinken, a sophomore member of this year's staff, said the group gets together every Thursday to work on assignments from the editors.

Senior editor Kelly Curtis, with some prompting from Etheredge, admitted she spends some time every day during her study halls and sometimes

February is Catholic Press Month. This month we salute the award-winning staff of Rosary High School's yearbook.

before and after school working on the yearbook.

On Feb. 20, a usual Thursday session, a couple of the girls had to leave to take pictures during dress rehearsal for the annual talent show, scheduled the next evening.

"We all take pictures," said junior editor Catherine Whittier. Generally, she explained, those shots have to be taken before or after school.



(Photo provided)

Editors of the national award winning Exodus 2019 from Rosary High School in Aurora are (from left) Christie Cedeño, Alaina Fleming, Luzane Draughon, Bethany Mladenik, and Kelly Curtis with yearbook mascot Happy Jack, faculty moderator Faith Etheredge's dog.

"I like being able to capture the year," said Hannah Black, a sophomore staff member. "That's how people remember."

"It's kind of satisfying," said Whittier, "when it's finished to know you helped put it together."

leak the information about the 2020 yearbook theme. That, Etheredge explained, is traditionally a closely guarded secret.

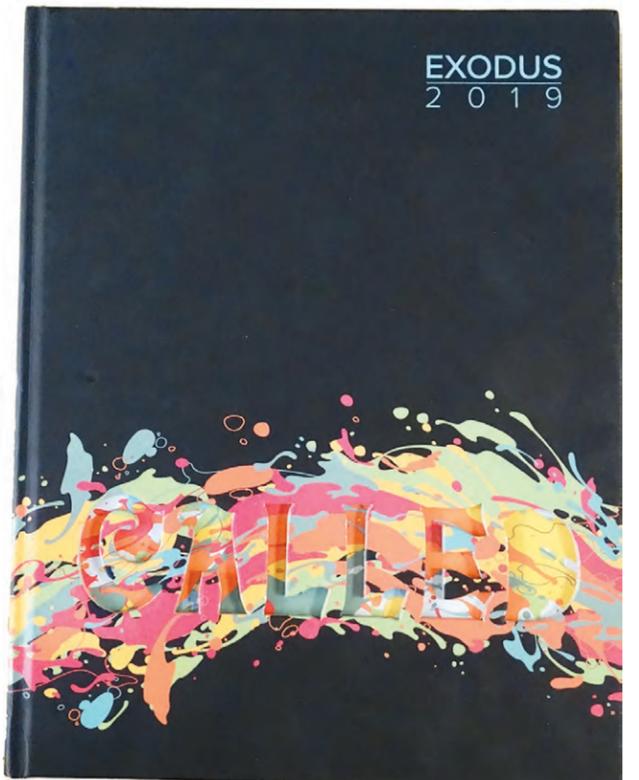
But senior editor Curtis is excited that it was selected after considering several options. Come fall, when the books are distributed, she believes it will be memorable.

No one would



(Observer photos/Sharon Boehlefeld)

Two interior pages showing section covers for sports (top left) and clubs (bottom left) and the yearbook cover (right) show some of the design work of the staff of Exodus 2019.



The yearbook theme, Called, is cut out in the color splash area of the cover. Cut-outs such as this are part of several previous Rosary yearbooks.



(Observer photo/Sharon Boehlefeld)

Looking over previous award-winning editions of the Exodus are staff members (from left) Ella Zinken, sophomore; Catherine Whittier, junior editor; Kelly Curtis, senior editor; and Charlotte Anderson, sophomore. Since 2003, the yearbook staff has won 15 first places, two second places and several special awards, such as cover design and theme, said faculty moderator Faith Ether-



(Photo provided)

Aiming for another award-winner is this year's Exodus staff (front row from left) Catherine Whittier, junior editor; Kelly Curtis and Elizabeth Sperlakis, senior editors; (middle row) Rachel Piscoran, Camille Sheetz, Abigail Vagnoni, Charlotte Anderson, Tia Ybarra, (third row) Maddie O'Brien, Maria Morones, Jessica Geriane, Bella Casanovas, Hannah Black, Ella Zinken, Kathryn Rachford and Samantha Willman. The yearbook's faculty moderator is Faith Etheredge (back center).