

# YOUNG OBSERVER



(Photo provided)  
Rosary yearbook editors holding the winning volume are (from left) Charlotte Anderson, Kelly Curtis, Catherine Whittier, Elizabeth Sperlakis and Abby Vagnoni. Their mascot, Happy Jack, poses with them.

## Rosary yearbook staff wins national honors

Rosary's 2020 yearbook, with the theme Moments to Memories, received first place from the American Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University in New York. They also received special recognition in theme development and cover design.

The yearbook, *Exodus*, competes with high schools and colleges throughout the country. Judging is based on overall theme and theme development, layout design, writing, and photography.

Last year's senior editors Kelly Curtis and Elizabeth Sperlakis, and editorial staff members Catherine Whittier, Abby Vagnoni and Charlotte Anderson were involved in the winning book. The yearbook moderator was Faith Etheredge, now retired.



## Rosary helps Toys for Tots

Members of Rosary's Interact Club helped sort toys for the Kane County Toys for Tots program on Dec. 9. The Interact Club is sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club.



(Photo provided)  
**Olek Drobek**

## St. Ed's Drobek aces ACT

ELGIN—St. Edward Central Catholic High School senior Olek Drobek earned a perfect score of 36 on his first attempt at the ACT college entrance exam. Only 0.334% of test takers earned this top score in 2020.

Last fall, Olek was also named a commended student in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. He was one of approximately 34,000 commended students throughout the nation being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Olek's plans include playing hockey at a collegiate or club level while pursuing a computer science degree focusing on artificial intelligence at one of three universities: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

# Safety first



(Photos provided)  
Students in Theology II and other classes at Newman Central Catholic High School have adjusted along with their teachers to social-distancing while at school.

## In and out of class, students play it safe

STERLING—In the classroom and on the athletic field, students at Newman Central Catholic High School here have been putting safety first for a long time.

During the COVID pandemic, students and faculty have adjusted to social distancing and mask-wearing in classes and for other activities.

Athletes at Newman have earned a different sort of safety record.

The Safe Sports School Award was recently created by the National Athletic Trainers Association. Newman has won the award each year since 2016, says Andy Accardi.

Accardi is Newman's athletic trainer, anatomy, driver's education and consumer education instructor, as well as assistant football and head boy's track coach.

"Schools are required to apply every two

years for the award," he adds. "Newman has received first team status — the highest award — each year. The current award is for 2020 through 2022.

The award recognizes secondary schools around the country that take the crucial steps to keep their athletes free from injuries.

Among other things, to win Safe Sports honors, athletic programs must provide or coordinate per-participation physical examinations; promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities; plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment; provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injured athletes, and develop injury and illness prevention strategies, including protocols for environmental conditions.



(Photos provided)  
Student athletes at Newman Central Catholic High School display their newest Safe Sports Award poster.