



RPR NETWORK

Real Presence Radio

Winter 2020

Inspiring Faith and Hope for 20 Years



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring Live Drive 2021

May 4-7, 2021

- Fargo Banquet

February 8, 2021

- Duluth Banquet

March 9, 2021

Celebrating 20 years

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you; plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."

-Jeremiah 29:11

At Real Presence Radio, we love to use the tagline, **"Your Family of Faith and Hope."** I believe this statement conveys the heart of RPR's mission.

Real Presence Radio is a sign of Godly hope in the Upper Midwest and a beacon of faith and hope for the world. As we approach 20 years of evangelization, the Holy Spirit has not only moved in 10 diocese and 5 states through RPR, but in countless of hearts and souls! That same Holy Spirit that breathed life into man is breathing faith and hope into a culture and civilization desperately in need. And that same Holy Spirit continues to use Real Presence Radio as a place and space for conversion!

In scripture, our paternal Lord makes a promise to each of us individually and communally. He says to each of us, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you; plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). Many of us may not feel hopeful as we look at our immediate surroundings, but our faith leads us through and past the tenacious waters in what can feel like an ocean storm. Our Lord will calm these waters with His spoken Word, just as He did in the Gospels. Why? To give us a future of hope. To transform the tenacious water into God's ocean of mercy. RPR seeks to make known His ocean of mercy!



Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director

Mission Driven - Mission Critical

Many of you have met Real Presence Radio through our Fundraising Banquets and Live Drives. These events are among my favorites, as they give us the opportunity to see and get to know our larger Catholic family and share the gift of being like-minded, while also being challenged to grow deeper in our faith. The financial reality for RPR is that these live drives and banquets make up roughly two million of our annual budget for 27 signals in our 5-state listening area. **Due to common challenges that many of us have faced, together with COVID-19, RPR has come up short nearly a quarter million of our budgetary goal for 2020.** I ask you to prayerfully consider giving to RPR before the end of this year. As many of us have experienced, Christmas can indeed be a time to give. Mike Kiedrowski, our Director of Advancement, will share with you some ways to creatively consider keeping RPR in your end of year giving.

I trust and believe in God's word when he reminds us of His plans for our welfare, not for our woe; I also believe that he invites us into His divine plan to ensure that hope carries on. I ask you to consider how you might participate in RPR's mission to build **Your Family of Faith and Hope**. Please know of our prayers for you. God bless you!

Mark Hollcraft is the new Executive Director of Real Presence Radio. Mark previously served as Eastern Regional Director for NET Ministries in Cincinnati for four years prior to coming to Real Presence Radio. NET Ministries is one of the leading youth evangelization organizations in North America. In his 22 years of youth ministry, he has grown most passionate about the formation and outreach of young men, Theology of the Body, and Marriage and Family Life. He and his wife, Meredith, have six children, and he likes to hang out with his family, play sports and tell stories.

Real Presence Radio Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to assist the Roman Catholic Church in drawing all people to the knowledge and love of Jesus and His Church through radio and other mediums, in full accord with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

New Faces at RPR

STAFF:

Brittany Schwebach

I am the RPR Business Manager and Executive Assistant. Graceville, MN is my hometown; I have lived in Fargo, ND for almost 10 years. Some of you may know me from my time as the Business Manager at St. Paul's Newman Center. It is a joy to oversee the finances of RPR as well to assist Mark as he transitions into his new role!



Heather Karrow

I'm the new Programming Director at Real Presence Radio! I've worked in Catholic Radio for the past 7 years, and for the last 3 years with RPR. I'm headquartered out of the Sioux Falls office and am so excited to get started in my new role! I feel God has called me to it, and I pray I can serve Him and all of you well.



Joyce Hajostek

I started with RPR in June as the Business Office Assistant and am thankful to serve you, talk with you, and pray with you! I was born in a small dairy community in Wisconsin, and spent my high school years on a small grain farm in southeastern North Dakota, where we also raised chickens. My husband John and I have two grown children and a golden retriever who keep us young and active. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, reading, cooking, baking, sewing, quilting, card making, and fishing.



Lori Lefor

Blessings! I work as a Listener Relationship Coordinator with Real Presence Radio for Western North Dakota. I grew up in Lefor, ND. My high school years were in Dickinson, ND, followed by college at NDSU in Fargo. My journey with God includes prayerful years "begging" Him to bring Catholic radio to western North Dakota, allowing more exposure to Him. I enjoy home projects, landscaping, yard work, gardening, my two dogs, reading, sewing, and cooking. God has blessed my life with the gift of raising five children!



Therese Splonskowski

I am the Programming Assistant at Real Presence Radio! I assist with the planning and production of Real Presence Live. I am the oldest girl in a family of seven. In my free time, I enjoy working with my horse and having fun with my family. I am currently enrolled at Minnesota State, working to earn my degree in digital marketing!



BOARD:

John Hajostek

I joined the RPR Board of Directors in August. I was born in Crookston, MN and grew up in Moorhead. I'm a graduate of St. John's University with a degree in Accounting. As a Certified Public Accountant, I spent 17 years with Forum Communications Company as CFO. I am currently employed with Bekrom Foods, Inc. as Interim CFO. I reside in Fargo with my wife, Joyce, and we are parishioners at St. Joseph's in Moorhead.



Vicki Larson

In 2005, my husband Bruce and I came into full communion with the Catholic Church after being life-long Lutherans. Real Presence Radio was in its infancy during our RCIA process, and the programming was a great help in learning about the Truth of Jesus and His Church! We are blessed with 3 married daughters and 8 grandchildren. I have been on the RPR Board for one year.



Our first 20 years!

It is hard to believe that Real Presence Radio will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on December 12! There have been many changes since our humble beginnings with only two employees when our office was located in a closet at St. Mary's School in Grand Forks, ND. Our headquarters has relocated and grown, and we have fifteen employees spread throughout our listening area in Fargo, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Dickinson and Stanley.

The early days of RPR were filled with many hours of learning about the radio business and how to keep the Grand Forks signal on the air. There was, and still is, a group of very faithful board members that kept the ball rolling so we could bring our listeners local Catholic programming one day a week for two hours. In 2008, we began broadcasting Real Presence Live three days a week, and in July 2019, we transitioned to five days a week.

The demand for a Catholic radio station continues to be a mission that is near and dear to the hearts of the RPR staff, board and the many supporters throughout our listening area! Real Presence Radio has grown from one signal in Grand Forks, ND to 27 signals throughout a coverage area of five states. It has the potential to reach 2.4 million people in that five-state region. Just take a minute to let that number sink in—2.4 million people have the opportunity to listen to Real Presence Radio!

The radio stations' growth has been off the charts, adding 26 signals from 2009-2020, and there's more work to do! This network has changed lives throughout our listening area. We hear over and over again how people have come back to their Catholic faith, have deepened their relationship with Jesus Christ, or have had a conversion to Catholicism all because of a radio station that started in a closet in Grand Forks, ND. How blessed we have been!



Dr. Ray Guarendi, Jacinta, Steve, Stephen, Claire, Therese and Gregory Splonskowski



Steve Splonskowski in 2007



Father Raymond Courtright in our first studio in Grand Forks, ND



Jerry Usher from EWTN interviewing Father Jason Lefor

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who supported our Fall Live Drive. Your generous support raised \$544,000 of our \$625,000 goal! Our mission continues only because of you!

The Real Presence Radio Mission Continues

As we all know, COVID-19 has an element of fear associated with it and as a result, some are hesitant to extend financial gifts this year. With the end of the year drawing near, you may be thinking "This wasn't as bad of a financial year as I thought it was going to be. Taking into consideration the stimulus checks and that the stock market is up at this point, I/we have weathered this storm pretty well. Thanks be to God." On the other hand, many people are still struggling with losses in many ways—know of our prayers for you!

Real Presence Radio has not been immune to the effects of COVID-19. Our two Live Drive fundraisers usually bring in \$1.25 million and the 8 fundraising banquets bring in \$750,000. Both of our Live Drives were down by \$100,000 and we had to switch to virtual events for three of our fall banquets. Currently, the in-person fundraising banquets across the network scheduled for November and December show a significant decline in attendance. At this point, our cash flow may be down 25% or over \$250,000 by the end of the year.

Many times I'm asked about some creative gift planning tips that you can offer as we consider end-of-year giving. Here are some different options you may prayerfully consider as you make your end of the year donation:

IRA Rollover

Ag Commodities

Appreciated Stock

Precious Metals

Real Estate

Life Insurance



**Mike Kiedrowski,
Director of Advancement**

Philanthropy is not only for the super-rich; in fact, individuals at any level of income can experience the joy of giving. Being in this business for many years, I have met many good, good folks who have opened up their hearts and pocket books and have given high impact gifts to help ensure that RPR will continue its ministry. The joy of giving can be seen in their eyes and how they articulate their generous heart!

At this point in this COVID 19 era, we need you to please have a generous heart and experience the true meaning of the joy in giving! If the Holy Spirit moves you to support Real Presence Radio, please use the self-addressed envelope that we've included in this newsletter. If you have any questions about the above options, please feel free to give me a call at 701-290-4503. May God abundantly bless you!

It is such a blessing to listen to Catholic Programming here in Wyoming. Thank you for all you do to nourish and support us as we strive to grow in and share our Catholic Faith!

-Kathy

Thank you for all you do to bring the TRUTH to so many of us! It has brought me to New Life in Him!

-Karen

Real Presence Radio, thank you for bringing Jesus Christ and the Church He founded to the ears of His sheep!

-Fr. John Paul Gardner

DID YOU KNOW?

Get to know who Real Presence Radio is today

10 DIOCESE

from which RPR broadcasts



Bismarck, ND
Cheyenne, WY
Crookston, MN
Duluth, MN
Fargo, ND
New Ulm, MN
Rapid City, SD
Sioux Falls, SD
Superior, WI
Winona-Rochester, MN

27 REAL PRESENCE RADIO SIGNALS



780 HOURS

of local Catholic programming each year

5 STATES

in the RPR listening area

Minnesota
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wisconsin
Wyoming



25 PRIESTS

who host Real Presence Live



68 PRIESTS

honored with doughnuts in the Honor
Our Fathers Program

That's 816 Doughnuts!

Nominate your favorite priest on our website.

2.4 MILLION

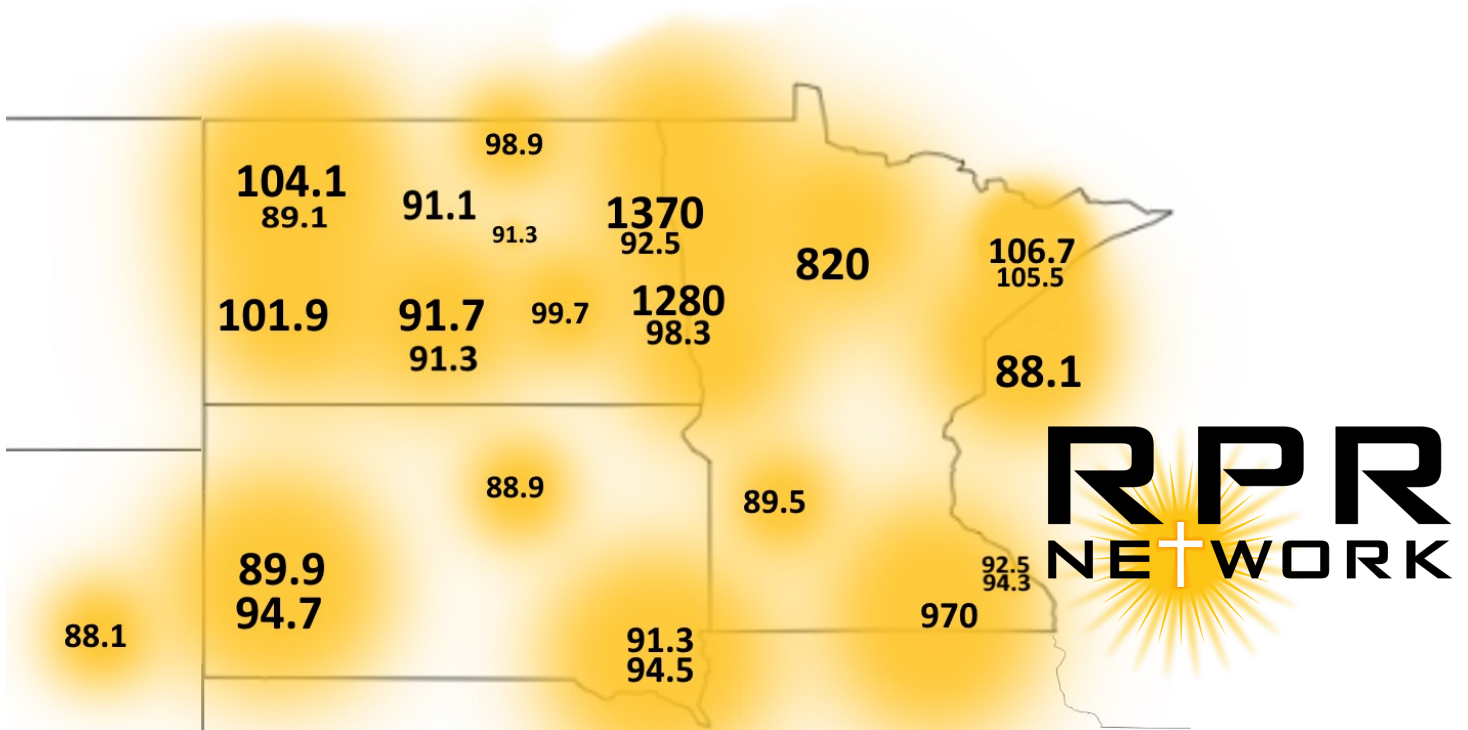
people in the RPR listening area



Real Presence Radio
503 7th Street N #101
Fargo, ND 58102

Non-Profit
stamp

Donors Name
Address 1
Address 2
City, State, Zip Code



RealPresenceRadio.com