

***Awaken!***

**RPR**  
**NETWORK**

**Real Presence Radio**

**December 2021**

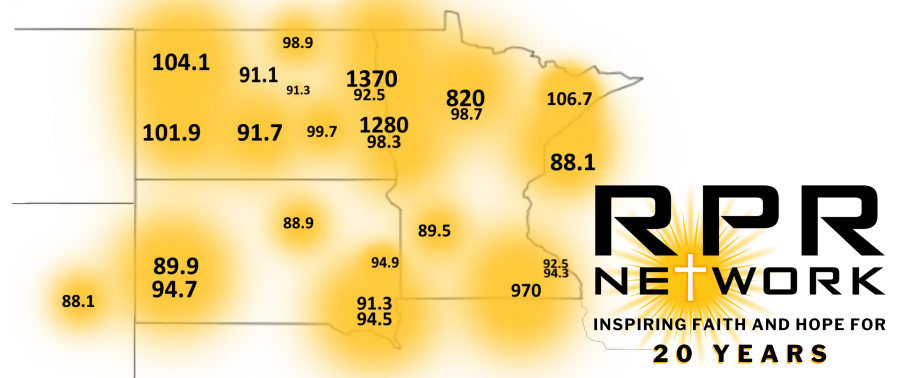


***Inspiring Faith and Hope for 20 Years***



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Real Presence Radio



[RealPresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com)

## 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.*

Cover Photo: "Education of the Virgin" by Charles-Antoine Coypel

# “For Nothing Will Be Impossible for God”

*-Luke 1:37*

When it comes to reading scripture, context means and offers everything. We know, as people of faith, that with God all things are possible. It's a powerful statement of faith, so why does this stand out this time? Context!

We pick this up immediately after St. Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear a son and name him Jesus and just prior to Mary traveling to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Even before the miraculous birth of Jesus, we encounter hints of His importance and the sanctity that surrounds Our Lord and His mother.

Mary continues to draw and point us to Jesus, her son. This has always been her role, to point us to Jesus. This also draws our attention to Mary's role throughout history and the present. She continues to reveal herself through her maternal role to point us to Jesus and “do as He tells us.” (Luke 2:5) This revelation and encounter did not stop 2000 years ago.



**Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director**

We are continually reminded of Mary's maternal role to each of us through Mother Church and the miracle of Marian Apparitions, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of La Salette, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Akita, and the revelation of Mary as the Immaculate Conception. Throughout time and the ages, Mary and Mother Church come to us sharing the message to repent and believe in Christ.

This is the same message that was shared in the Gospels by John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin who first recognized Christ when he leapt in Elizabeth's womb before his birth. In Luke 1:41, we come almost full circle to connect the dots of Mary's visit to Elizabeth to Mary's continual visits to the people of God.

It is the same now as it was then. She appears to us so that we can come to know her son Jesus. Jesus gave his Mother to us and we are reminded of that gift. It has never grown old, nor has she ever grown old.

I am often asked by our listeners what we can do in a time that is so discouraging. Turn to Mary in prayer. The power of prayer is real. These are not my words, but a reference for us from Mary. Her consistent message, and that of Christ in the Scriptures, remains the same. We are to turn back to Jesus in all things (repent) and trust in Our Lord and his promise (believe). She models for us how to trust with her great fiat, “Let it be done to me according to your Word.” (Luke 1:38)

I encourage you, if you have found yourself discouraged or struggling with hope, go to Mary. Flee to Mary! Mary loves us and never wearies of leading us to her son, Jesus, the Divine Mercy. To Jesus, through Mary in all things. For NOTHING will be impossible for God.

***“We enjoy the programs, especially Dr. Anders (I learn a lot about Catholic teaching) and I catch the Divine Mercy Chaplet on my drive from work. It's good to listen to a station that emits truth and education!”***

*-Eileen, RPR listener*

# But for the Grace of God

## An inmate's journey back to his Catholic faith

By Lori Kalgard, Director of Marketing

Will is 42 years old and has spent most of his life in detention centers or behind bars. He was removed from an abusive home at 12 years old and then went into foster care. Will was raised Catholic, and even though some of the foster homes he lived in didn't practice Catholicism, his Catholic faith remained within him. "I was baptized Catholic. When I was growing up, I went to CCD and attended Mass. When I went into foster care, no matter what town I ended up in, I always found a Catholic Church."



As he grew into a young man he strayed away from his Catholic faith or any faith. "I blamed God for my lot in life and when I prayed, there was no answer to my prayers so I wrote Him off." With no stability in his life, he fell in with the wrong crowd and was soon a member of a very dangerous street gang and was taking and dealing drugs. While in the gang, he had to prove himself as a "tough" guy and saw many things most of us only see on TV or read about in books. He said, "I had no problem seeing someone being killed, but to see a puppy in pain ripped my heart apart. I had to portray this tough guy image to fit in with the gang, but that wasn't me. I found my true self again in jail."

When a drug deal went bad and he was sold counterfeit drugs, Will felt he had no choice but to kill the man who sold him the drugs. As there were no drugs to show the gang for the purchase, he felt he would face a certain death. He believed there was no way out of this and his plan was to kill the man and then kill himself.

Before he carried out his plan, he went to confession. He wanted to ask God for forgiveness before he took another man's life and then his own. When he came out of confession he had a complete healing of his heart and felt that Jesus had come to him in those very moments. He had forgiven his enemy, no longer wanted to kill him or himself, and was freed from the desire to take drugs. Two lives were saved that day.

Years passed, and Will was able to separate himself from the street gang, but still ended up back in jail. When I met him, he was an inmate at a county jail awaiting his court date. The man on the other side of the video screen was a very peaceful man who seemed to have a lot of life under his belt. He was very open about his past choices and was eager to move his life along a completely different path.

As we talked, he told me of the loneliness he has experienced while being incarcerated. When he arrived, there was no one he knew or anyone he wanted to get mixed up with, as he had left that life behind. It was just him, day in and day out, looking at the four walls of his cell for the better part of his days. Looking back, he calls that time his silent retreat.

When another inmate left, he gave Will his transistor radio, and Will found Real Presence Radio. He had not forgotten the roots he had in the Catholic faith. However, the battery life in his radio was limited, so he had to decide to which programs he would listen. He picked the Divine Mercy Chaplet

and Daily Mass. Will is so passionate about listening to RPR that he would skip dessert and forego many other "jail luxuries" in order to trade for batteries for his radio.

Will continues, "Being imprisoned is a very lonely place and can be at the least, quite negative. Deacon Tim and Julie and RPR have helped me with those times. RPR has been good company for me in a very negative place. It has helped me learn so much more about my faith. If I have a question about my Catholic faith, when I listen to RPR, the answer is always there for me. I wish I would have found this deep faith when I was younger."

Will met Deacon Tim and Julie Dickes a year ago when they came to the county jail to do jail ministry. They minister to inmates in both the county jail and state prison. Each week, they meet either in person or over a video call with inmates who are seeking to know more about the Catholic faith or Jesus Christ. They have been answering this call for six years. Deacon Tim and Julie say, "What we do in this ministry can be summed up in a prayer we pray before we go into the jail. 'Jesus, when they see us, may they see You. When they hear us, may they hear You. And when they experience us, may they experience Your love.'" They continue, "And then in return, we experience Jesus through them."



**Deacon Tim and Julie Dickes**

Will is making the best of his situation while in jail and tries to stay positive. He now mentors others who want to know more about the Catholic faith or Christianity. "In jail, faith is seen as a weakness but I hold my own and try to stay as positive as I can. Freedom starts in the heart and soul, and my faith has helped me be free even behind bars."

For many years, Will could not see how God worked in his life. In his youth, God gave him a foundation in the Catholic faith. From there, Christ pulled him out of a life of drugs and gangs and placed that particular priest in the confessional with the words that would turn his heart. Will met Deacon Tim and Julie Dickes and found Real Presence Radio. God has carefully orchestrated all the parts, and even when Will couldn't find Him in his life, he now knows how to trust and be open to God's plan.

There are many powerful takeaways from Will's story that we can take to heart. The power of forgiveness, the power of the sacrament of reconciliation; can you imagine being the priest who heard Will's confession? The Lord gave him the wisdom to say the words to heal Will's heart and help him make better choices for himself.

Will's case will soon be heard, and his hope and prayer is that he will be cleared of all charges. When I asked where he thought his faith would take him when he was released, he didn't hesitate to say he feels he's being called to the priesthood.

*Because of legal reasons, I am not able to share the details behind why Will is incarcerated, but I will keep him and all those who are called to do prison ministry in my prayers. This is a calling like no other and I am honored to tell this part of Will's story. I hope one day I will be able to tell you the rest of the story and how God unveils the plan He has for Will. Stay tuned!*

# New Employees & Board Members

## STAFF:

### Karen Gebes

Karen has represented Real Presence Radio in the Rapid City area since January 2019 and is now transitioning into the new position of Advancement Assistant. She is looking forward to helping the Advancement staff succeed in all their fundraising endeavors! Karen and her husband, Darren, have been married for 21 years. They are grateful for the blessing of homeschooling their eight children, their 40 acres of solitude north of Sturgis, and the many opportunities to serve their God by volunteering in the Rapid City Diocese and their parish.



### Anna Kliner

Anna, our new Business Office Assistant, is from Euclid, MN. She has held various jobs including working for the Diocese of Crookston's Office of the New Evangelization and for Digi-Key Electronics. She spent several years discerning a vocation with the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus and with the cloistered nuns at the Monastery of the Holy Name of Jesus in Denmark, WI. She graduated this spring with an associate's degree in web page development and design which she hopes to use to continue to share the faith.



### Kathleen Kovarik

Kathleen calls the Black Hills of South Dakota home and is our new Listener Relationships Coordinator there! She has nursing degrees from Carroll College and University of Washington and a PhD in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga. Dr. Kovarik has taught nursing and health-care ethics. She was Executive Director for the Northern Plains Eye Foundation and Director of Family Life Ministries for the Rapid City Diocese. Currently she is a spiritual director and health coach. Kathleen is passionate about helping others know the Lord more intimately through RPR's mission. Kathleen loves to hike, bike, play pickleball, kayak, ski, and occasionally dust off her harp when no one's around to listen!



## BOARD:

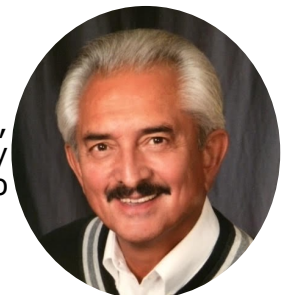
### Larry Canfield

Larry is the founder and CEO of Canfield's Business Interiors in Sioux Falls, which is also the location of the Sioux Falls Real Presence Radio offices. Larry has sought to imbue the faith into his community offices by inviting RPR staff to witness the faith into his staff and the local community of downtown Sioux Falls. In addition to the board of RPR, Larry also serves on the board for the Catholic Men's Business Fraternity and the planning team of the Sioux Falls Business Conference. Larry and his wife have four grown children and attend the Cathedral of St. Joseph.



### Richard Rangel

Richard and his wife Toni are the parents of four grown children, all practicing Catholics, and the grandparents of many. They are the founders of Rangel Construction Company in Rapid City and are members of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. Richard also currently serves as the President of South Dakota Catholic Social Services.



### Wayne Sanders

Wayne is owner and managing partner of Coaches Choice Corporate and Athletic Apparel in Fargo, a company he runs with his son. He has held many other professional roles, including 40 years spent working in management for radio and telephone companies as well as CEO of DMS Health Group. He brings experience on a wide variety of boards of directors, both in the non-profit and for-profit sectors. He and his wife Lorna have two grown sons and attend Sts. Anne & Joachim Parish in Fargo.



# Engineering Update

By Brad Wilson, Real Presence Radio Chief Engineer

This time of year, we are preparing our transmitter sites for winter and buttoning up projects before the deep snow hits!

We are currently working on replacing tower lights at the KZTW site in northwestern ND.

We are also updating various equipment at other transmitter sites as we are financially able.

The Bemidji FM translator project is moving along. It will be on the air no later than December 8th as required by the FCC. The call sign is K254DJ and operates on 98.7 FM. This is a fill in translator for WBKK 820 AM.

At this time of year, there is a lot of last-minute tower work going on at the tower sites we rent. This causes outages for us that are out of our control. If there is a planned outage, please know they work as quickly as possible to get signals restored.

We are currently working on replacing the generator transfer switch for the KGWD Sioux Falls site.

The Brookings SD translator will be changing frequencies from 94.9 MHz to 94.7 MHz on the FM dial. We need to do two frequency changes to move this out of the commercial band so it can be fed via the internet vs. off air from KGWD (over 50 miles away). This will greatly improve the audio quality and keep it consistent. Stay tuned for updates!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me anytime at [Brad.Wilson@RealPresenceRadio.com](mailto:Brad.Wilson@RealPresenceRadio.com). Thanks for your continued support!



**Brad Wilson**

## Save The Date For These Upcoming Events:

**Fargo Banquet:** Monday, February 7 with Dr. Stacy Trasancos

**Duluth Banquet:** Tuesday, March 8 with Teresa Tomeo

**Spring Live Drive:** May 11-13

**Fall Live Drive:** September 7-9

**Rapid City Banquet:** Thursday, November 3 with Dr. Ralph Martin

**Aberdeen Banquet:** Tuesday, November 8; keynote speaker TBA

**Sioux Falls Banquet:** Thursday, November 10 with Dr. Ralph Martin

**Bismarck Banquet:** Tuesday, November 29; keynote speaker TBA

**Williston Banquet:** Thursday, December 1 with Dr. Ralph Martin

**Rochester Banquet:** Tuesday, December 6; keynote speaker TBA

**Fargo Banquet:** Monday, February 6, 2023 with Dr. Ralph Martin

**Duluth Banquet:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023; keynote speaker TBA

To register, host a table, or sponsor the banquet, email [Jessica@RealPresenceRadio.com](mailto:Jessica@RealPresenceRadio.com), go to [RealPresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com), or call 977-795-0122!

Tune in to our Spring and Fall Live Drives to hear local stories of faith, hope, and encouragement! Contact us for giving opportunities!



# Carrying the Cross for Christ

## Al Wolf lives his family faith

By Lori Kalgard, Director of Marketing



**Al Wolf**

Al Wolf is a kind and gentle man with a family history that is riddled with hardship, sorrow, joy, and incredible faith. Throughout the ups and downs in their lives, he and his family have held true to the mantra his grandfather, Michael, passed on to his family when homesteading their land over 100 years ago. "If you accept the crosses in the name of the Lord, you can always accept one more."

Al's grandfather, Michael Wolf, immigrated from Germany to Russia as a young man. At the time, Russia promised immigrants land ownership and freedom to practice their religion to entice people to make the move. Years passed and the settlers still had no land and weren't able to practice their faith. They heard America was advertising for homesteaders to come to North Dakota and South Dakota, so they decided to head to America. Meanwhile, Michael married and was then drafted into the Russian Army for 2½ years. When he came back, he found that his wife and child had both died in childbirth.

Years later, Michael remarried and they had their sights set on leaving Russia. With his wife and children he made the trip across

the Atlantic Ocean to Canada near Winnipeg, where they lived for two years. With their wish to still go to North or South Dakota, Michael worked for the railroad building the route to the West Coast. He earned \$1.25 per day which helped buy horses and carts and make the trip to North Dakota.

In 1903, they were able to save enough to move and homesteaded on 160 acres near Linton, ND. They built their house of sod and soon their family grew to many children. However, Michael knew they needed a church and he headed to the Diocese, then located in Jamestown, ND, to get permission to build a parish 13 miles out of Linton. Once it was approved, he took two wagons to Linton to get the timber, ordered from South Dakota, to build the cross.

Michael was very involved in the community of Linton and someone asked him how he was able to be so involved in the community, the church and school while raising a large family. His unflinching response, "If you accept your crosses in the name of the Lord, you can always accept one more."

The oldest child was Al's father, Adam, who with his wife Magdalena, had eleven children; Al was the youngest of the eleven. They were not wealthy people, but they were very prayerful people. They always set time aside for daily prayer, as did many of the people in their community. As he grew up he remembers, "there were no kids out on the playground when it was time to pray, all the kids were praying." As a family, they said morning and evening and mealtime prayers in both German and English.

It was very important to Al's father that his children were educated, and he was a strong advocate for better teachers in country schools. This motivated the school board to hire seven school Sisters of Notre Dame from Mankato, MN. Their education level was far beyond what the area offered in the country schools at the time. Four of the nuns taught at the high school level and three at the grade school level.

When Al was in high school, his dad suffered a stroke and therefore didn't feel he could provide any further education for his children past high school. Enter Sister Leonilla Wolf (not related), the



Strasburg High School principal. When Al was a senior, Sister asked him and the class to organize their own graduation, which Al would chair as president of the class. She said she wanted something interesting and memorable. Al delivered! While he did not expect to go to college, Sister Leonilla had other plans for him. She suggested St. Thomas College. When Al then explained that there was no money for him to go to college, she insisted that he apply, and he was accepted. Unbeknownst to Al, Sister Leonilla often met with Al's mother to discuss Al's future, and by the time he graduated, Sister had gathered enough scholarships so that he could afford to attend St. Thomas College. She even arranged for him to have a job when he got there! Sister Leonilla saw a gift in Al that she knew she wanted to nurture.

After graduating from St. Thomas College in 1952, he went on to study at the University of Minnesota Law School and graduated from William Mitchell College of Law. He served in the US Army and spent three years in the Judge Advocate General

(JAG) office. Since his return to North Dakota, following the example his father set for him, Al has been very involved in the community and school systems. The list is very long, but includes being a member of the Serra Club since 1962 and currently serving as the District Governor, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Pioneer Heritage (Lawrence Welk Homestead), University of Mary, Light of Christ Catholic Schools, Shiloh Christian School, United Way, Home on the Range, Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, and the Benedictine Health System where he currently resides.

As a practicing lawyer, Al also brought the Red Mass to Williston at the ND State Bar Convention, which has been celebrated every year since 1961. A Red Mass is a Mass celebrated annually in the Catholic Church at the opening of the judicial year for all members of the legal profession, regardless of religious affiliation: judges, lawyers, law school professors and law students. Through prayerful petition and thanksgiving, this Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the legal community an opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession.

Al has endured the crosses in his life with deep faith. He said, "I think what I am is because of my faith, and I relied on the people who preceded me. They believed that their faith would preserve them, and it has for the many generations that have followed. All put together, their family values stem from being a good Catholic and Christian, getting a good education, being good to each other, reconciling our lives with God, and praying that we will be with God in heaven."

Al's life teaches us a very important lesson about living a life of faith and accepting all crosses that God gives us and then one more. These strong values have been in his family for many generations, and it continues through his children and grandchildren and now each of us!



**The church that Al's grandfather built**

***"We couldn't receive your signal at our home until now, when we get it with the RPR phone app. Thanks for this addition. It works! God bless your ministry!"***

*-Kathy, Piedmont, SD*

# Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

Dr. Ray & Joyce Gruby become members of the Real Presence Radio Legacy Society

Dr. Ray and Joyce Gruby started listening to Catholic Radio in 1999 and haven't turned the dial since! They were hooked when they tuned into Catholic Answers and found answers to their questions about the Catholic faith. We are honored to welcome them as the initial members of the Real Presence Radio Legacy Society!

Ray was raised Lutheran and talks about his childhood: "Bless my Mom. She made it mandatory that I attend all the meetings with the pastor and I was tutored in the Biblical language. When I went to college, I thought I knew a lot about the Bible, but I didn't." The search for more knowledge began. Ray had a resource on Catholicism that was very close to him. He said, "the deep faith of my wife being close to Christ all this time was a blessing to me."



**Joyce & Dr. Ray Gruby**

One Sunday, their priest spoke about the Order of Melchizedek, which led Ray to start exploring the Bible more. "Joyce belonged to Mary's Helpers, who prepared meals for the priests, and I would go with her. I would ask questions of the priests and their answers opened my eyes."

Ray found another source in RPR. "Radio opened this entire area of formation because it spoke of marriage, profession, neighbors, life in Christ, the early Christians and apostles." A great thirst to know

more led Joyce and Ray to research the Catholic Church, diving into the Bible and encountering Christ, culminating with Ray becoming Catholic in July 2006.

He started to burn CDs of the Catholic Answers program. In 2009, they grabbed a 12" stack of CDs and drove to Birmingham, AL for the EWTN Conference. During one session, the speaker played testimonials, including one from a man who told a story of sitting with a revolver beside him. He "happened" to turn on Catholic radio. It changed his life, and he was alive to tell his story!

Ray and Joyce continue to support Real Presence Radio. "The reason we wanted to continue to give to RPR is because it has benefited us so greatly. We want to extend that gift to the souls of others who will arrive in heaven because of what they gain from RPR. When recently constructing our estate plan, we included Real Presence Radio as one of the beneficiaries, desiring to leave a spiritual legacy."

The RPR Legacy Society is new, and we are excited to introduce here! The Society consists of donors who have included a gift to RPR in their estate plan to support RPR and its 20-year mission of evangelization!

Our goal is to have 50 members by our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2025. If you have already included RPR in your estate plan and would like to share your story, please let us know. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we will respect your wishes!

Estate gifts can include will bequests, life insurance, and a portion of, or all of, a retirement fund such as an IRA or 401(K). Some estate plans include charitable trusts which provide great income and tax benefits during the life of the donor.

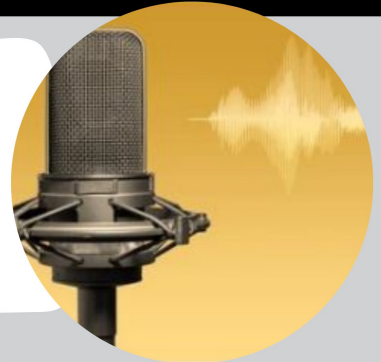
Director of RPR Advancement, Mike Kiedrowski, says, "Ray and Joyce were instrumental in the efforts needed to initiate the Bismarck signal and with their legacy gift, they help assure quality programming today and for generations to come."

For more information on planned giving, please visit our website at [RPRlegacy.org](http://RPRlegacy.org) or contact Mike Kiedrowski, CFRE, [mike@realpresencerradio.com](mailto:mike@realpresencerradio.com) or 701-290-4503.

# 5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT REAL PRESENCE RADIO

**243,251 hours**

of RPR programming streamed between November 1, 2020, and October 30, 2021



**356 new donors**

in 2021 who donated a total of \$83,725



**228 prayer requests**

received through our online portal so far in 2021



**2,273 people**

who attended Real Presence Radio Banquets in 2021



**1,154 hours**

of local Real Presence Radio programming



## HOW TO HELP:

**CONTACT US:**  
**REALPRESENCERADIO.COM**

**CALL US AT:**  
**877-795-0122**



**Real Presence Radio**  
503 7th Street N #101  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Donor ID: Donor ID

Non-Profit  
stamp

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

Donor ID:

Map of North Dakota showing radio frequencies in various regions:

- Top Left: 104.1, 98.9, 91.1, 91.3
- Top Middle: 1370, 92.5, 820, 98.7
- Top Right: 106.7
- Middle Left: 101.9, 91.7, 99.7, 1280, 98.3
- Middle Right: 88.1
- Bottom Left: 88.1, 89.9, 94.7
- Bottom Middle: 88.9, 89.5, 94.9
- Bottom Right: 92.5, 94.3, 970, 91.3, 94.5

**RPR NETWORK**  
INSPIRING FAITH AND HOPE FOR  
**20 YEARS**

**RealPresenceRadio.com**