

RPR
NETWORK

Real Presence Radio

Fall 2021

Awaken!



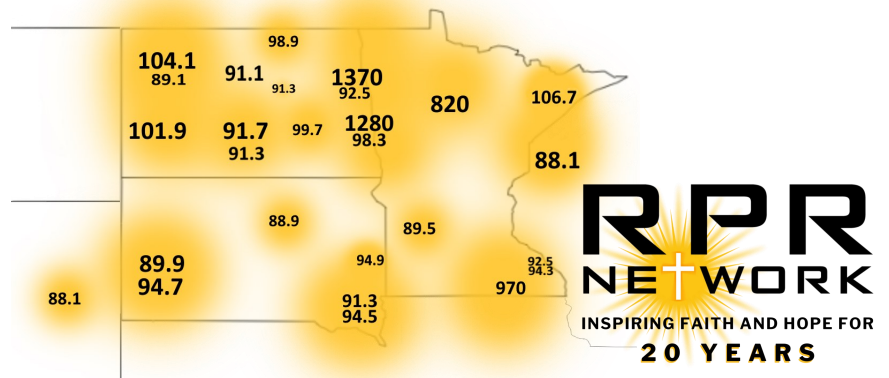
Inspiring Faith and Hope for 20 Years

OUR FAMILY OF FAITH &



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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.

Birth of Our Lady, Queen of You and Me

"Through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

-St. Augustine of Hippo

Once in a great while, once or twice a generation, an event so major occurs that it crystallizes the memory that surrounds it. Stories begin with "where were you when (fill in the blank) happened..." For many, such dates are never forgotten, such as:

- November 22, 1963: John F. Kennedy's assassination
- October 17, 1989: World Series earthquake
- September 11, 2001: Terrorist attacks

The events we remember most may depend on where in the world or country we were. These events bore significance in political, moral and economic realms, but personally they may have left us feeling void and empty. If our hearts had a hole, these experiences only exacerbated it.

It can be very tempting to get lost in thought and go down rabbit holes over these historic events, especially when we claim associations to them that make them more significant. We know where we were, we remember what we were doing, we recall who we were with. They are significant because we...**REMEMBER!** This has even developed into a slogan for 911: **Never Forget!**

Let's make a quantum leap to another significant event, the birth of a particular girl before Christ was even born. A girl who, by today's secular standards, would amount to nothing. She perhaps would be described as unimportant, passive, a goody two-shoes, and harmful to the feminist ideology that has made so many advances for women. She would grow up known as having said few memorable things and as a stay-at-home mom of only one child. Even that had all kinds of rumors surrounding it! Her husband almost divorced her and her only son was killed. Why is this woman so important? What event occurred that would compel us to want to **remember, and never forget?**

As a woman, this girl changed everything. Her best-known quote is "Let it be done to me." Her greatest accomplishment is that she was faithful and obedient, though she would say the birth of her son. Her greatest strength is meekness. By the grace of God, she gave birth to one son. By the power and authority of that same God, she became mother to millions to the end of all time. So, what was this singular event of significance? **MARY WAS BORN!**

Is it too much to say that the salvation of all, in God's master plan, laid with Mary's parents, Sts. Anne and Joachim, saying yes to life and faith? I think not! Sts. Anne and Joachim were getting up in years for childbirth and the pagan times in which they lived were not conducive to raising a family.

Why should we never forget? The birth of such a significant, unassuming and beautiful girl reminds us that God's ways, indeed, are not our ways. The Father would choose as the great forebearer of the Messiah, even before John the Baptist; a gentle woman chosen from among ALL women. A forebear who would usher in the ultimate Eucharistic Revival, she would be the Arc of the Covenant, the one chosen by God to bear the fulfillment of not just the faithful, but for all. The forebear of the one that would ultimately remind us to **"do this in memory of me."** *Never forget that for this to be, Mary was to be born.*

Perhaps ironically, as we are told to never forget 9-11 in 2001, the Lord allowed for something else to begin in 2001, Real Presence Radio. RPR is celebrating 20 years in the upper Midwest, striving to give Jesus and Mary their due place in our homes and culture. With good reason, America wants to never forget September 11. But the world ought to remember Mary's birthday on September 8, and may it ever be so. As Tertullian, an early Church Father, said of the early church, "the blood of martyrs became seed for the Church." Indeed, we should never forget the witness of the faithful from whom the Catholic Church grew, let alone Real Presence Radio. God's ways are not our ways!

Mary, Tower of David, Help of Christians, Gate of Heaven... Pray for Us! Sts. Anne and Joachim, thank you!



Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director

A Holy and Fitting Guide

"From now on, all generations will call me blessed."

-Luke 1:48



Roxane Salonen

By Roxane B. Salonen, author, speaker, and host of Real Presence Live

After living in three white homes, we had our house's exterior painted, and have enjoyed its bolder, cozier adornment. "It looks like a cabin in the woods!" my husband said of the dark, warm, "Rockweed" color.

I, too, was thrilled, but what caught my attention was our small, white statue of Mary in our front flower garden. Until recently, she'd looked a bit washed out against the house she guards. Not only did our house seem to come alive, but so had Mary! I smiled at her prominence and thought of the many friends and strangers who would be welcomed by her—including those delivering our mail.

This got me thinking about my devotion to Mary. I was not initially drawn to Mary through regular Rosary recitations, but still Mary found her way into my heart.

Maybe it's because we share a birthday month. Maybe my middle name, Marie, had something to do with it. Or perhaps my Grandma Mary, with her deep devotion to Jesus and Mary, had been interceding on my behalf.

Growing up in the Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Poplar, Montana may have influenced me. I was about nine when our parish watched the film, "The Song of Bernadette," inspiring me to yearn to be as holy as the peasant saint, and special enough to be visited by Our Lady.

My closeness to Mary continued in college, when, far from home, I sensed her presence, knowing that though my own mother was hundreds of miles away, I had another nearby. I sensed her accompaniment. She undoubtedly played a role in my staying in the Church and near God.

In early motherhood, Mary became my constant guide. We gave our firstborn daughter, born on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the same Marian middle name, desiring her to be guarded by Jesus' mother.

Finally, my closeness with Mary seemed sealed forever in September 2014 when I consecrated myself to her.

History of devotion

Many hundreds of volumes of books have been dedicated to Mariology, and millions of conversations surrounding Marian devotion have taken place through the centuries.

In a brief article about the origins of Marian devotion, author Taylor Marshall notes three levels of evidence present in the Church's first three centuries.

Biblical evidence: "The Holy Bible speaks of the powers and dignities of Mary, though in a muted and mystical manner," Marshall says. He notes that the first chapters of Matthew and Luke, along with Revelation and Sirach 24, are the primary Scriptural evidence for Mary's significance in the Church.

Patristic evidence: The early Church Fathers spoke of Marian devotion. Marshall points to the Protoevangelium of James, written around AD 150, as evidence of the Church's early awareness of just how "uniquely holy and powerful an advocate of Christians" Mary was, along with St. Irenaeus' "Against Heresies," V:19,1.

Archaeological evidence: "A recent discovery showed that early Christians not only hailed Mary as 'Mother of God,' but prayed to her for her protection." Irrefutable proof, he said, can be found in Rylands Papyrus, p. 470. "This is a piece of paper found in Egypt dating to AD 250," he said, which translates, from Greek: "Under thy compassion we take refuge, O Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in times of trouble, but from dangers ransom us. Singularly Holy, Singularly Blessed."

A holy and fitting guide

Whether your devotion to Our Blessed Mother is ancient or new, deep or just beginning, you can be assured that at whatever stage you jump into the fray of Mariology, you will find yourself with a most holy and fitting guide as you continue your walk toward the living God, her Son, who constantly seeks your heart, and has given us his mother to help us traverse this vale of tears, our sights set on heaven.

Friends, Roman Catholics and Countrymen, Lend Me Your Ears!

By Brad Wilson, Real Presence Radio Chief Engineer

It's been a mad scramble for the Engineering Department to get all the outside antenna and tower work complete before winter. We've been working on several projects in the 2020-2021 calendar year to ensure that you have a great listening experience.

In early 2020, we added an FM translator in South Fargo on the Forum Communications tower on South University Drive. The call sign is K252GC and we are licensed for 205 watts on 98.3. This is a fill in for the 1280 AM signal from Moorhead and covers the Fargo-Moorhead area quite well.

Last September, we added an FM translator in Grand Forks, ND. The antenna is mounted on the roof of St. Mary's Catholic Church and is licensed for 200 watts on 92.5. The call sign is K223DF and is a fill in for 1370 AM.



Brad Wilson

This spring, we were happy to get a translator on the air in Brookings, SD, a goal we've been working towards for a while! It's licensed for 250 watts (max translator power) and operates at FM 94.9. It is a fill in for KGWD out of Sioux Falls, SD.



Currently, we are working on getting a FM translator on the air in Bemidji, MN. This should be completed, God willing, by late summer or early fall. This will be a full 250 watts on FM 98.7.

Of course, our top priority is to keep all the transmitters and translators on the air and continue to maintain that equipment. Engineering is also required to keep up-to-date with the Emergency Alert Systems and the FCC rules and regulations.

On the IT side, our automation system is routinely being updated and computers are being rebuilt or replaced. We feed our signal from the Fargo studio via the internet to all of our transmitter sites, so it is vitally important to do this on a continual basis. We are definitely at the mercy of the internet service providers sometimes!

Our local show, Real Presence Live, is always on the move doing remote broadcasts from multiple locations in the five-state region. We are always testing remote signals and updating and repairing equipment for the live shows.

I try to always be available to our listeners. If you have any questions or ideas, please email me at: brad.wilson@realpresenceradio.com or on our website at realpresenceradio.com/contactus.

"I so appreciate listening to your programs, especially when driving in my car. You always air programs that help me to grow in my faith. I can't imagine not having Catholic radio to listen to!"

-RPR listener, Gillette, WY

An Encounter With Jesus

Corpus Christi Procession in Minot, ND

By Lori Kalgard, Director of Marketing

It was a beautiful, almost cloudless Corpus Christi Sunday when Jesus processed through the streets of Minot, ND to each of the four Catholic Parishes in town. It was as if He planned the weather for the day! Even beautiful days in North Dakota may include a bit of a breeze which, at times this day, were gusts. However, the wind served as a poetic way to carry the melodic sounds of prayers and hymns to others He would meet along the way. The impetus behind this Eucharistic Procession was to bring Jesus to those who had perhaps lost their Catholic faith, were wavering, or needed a little nudge to renew their faith and to pray for unity in our country. Jesus was no longer waiting for them to come to Him. On June 6, He went to them!



Photo by Harrison Foltz Photography

Father Bruce Krebs, Pastor at Our Lady of Grace, said, "This Eucharistic Procession was important to Minot, because we need God in a time when the world, and our culture, deny the need for God, even trying to push God out of our culture. This was a way for us to make Him more visible, to express our faith, and hopefully to strengthen the faith of those who have a weakened faith in God and the Blessed Sacrament."

In Orvieto, Italy, the Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated in a grand ceremony. Bishops, priests, and seminarians arrive from all over the world for a Mass at the Cathedral at Orvieto and then lead a huge procession through town. Father Justin

Waltz, pastor at St. Leo the Great in Minot, has been part of this procession in Orvieto. "The streets are decorated with petals from thousands of flowers. These petals, in every color imaginable, are used to make beautiful mosaics of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus so the Eucharist only walks over flowers in the procession dedicated to Christ."

Minot took their cues from the Eucharistic Procession in Orvieto. Their procession began at Our Lady of Grace where Father Bruce Krebs celebrated Mass and followed with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. As the crowd left Our Lady of Grace, children scattered red rose petals on the streets to pave the way. These petals lingered in the streets long after the procession passed as a reminder of the Lord's blessing and that He had been there.

Sue MacLeod, parishioner at St. Leo the Great, participated in the procession and said, "I think the Eucharistic Procession was a very powerful witness to people in the community that we believe Jesus is physically present in the Eucharist and we are carrying Him into the streets of Minot and praying for the whole city."

The next destination was St. Leo the Great, where Father Justin Waltz humbly accepted Jesus and then the group headed to St. Therese the Little Flower to meet Father Ken Phillips.

Fr. Krebs described his experience of carrying the Eucharist: "It's a very humbling experience to carry the Blessed Sacrament in Procession because I know that it is God that I'm carrying, the Almighty One, the Creator, my Creator, the Creator of the world! It is an awesome experience of humility. I think, 'How can I ever do this? I'm so undeserving of carrying God in procession, so it's very humbling.'"

On each leg of the procession, the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet were prayed and a number of hymns were sung. When the procession reached each parish, the priest would lead the prayers of minor exorcism. Hannah, a parishioner at St. Leo's, said, "The prayers of minor exorcism are a great reminder of the battle that is going on between good and evil, and to hear Satan so publicly rebuked was really powerful. It is a great reminder that we are up against more than what we can see, and that we have spiritual weapons

like our Guardian Angels, the Eucharist, Mass and the Sacraments to help us." As Jesus journeyed on to the next parish, Adoration continued at the receiving parish and the adorers prayed for our country.

The five-mile procession ended at St. John the Apostle with Benediction, placing Jesus back in the tabernacle. Now He waits, always humbly present in the tabernacle, after many of His children witnessed Him processing through the streets.

Fr. David Richter, pastor at St. John the Apostle, said, "The Eucharistic Procession is a way of glorifying and honoring the Lord and professing in a very physical way our belief that He is our Lord, our God, our King and He is real and truly present in the Eucharist."



Photo by Harrison Foltz Photography

On June 6, the streets of Minot followed the example set in Orvieto, Italy. The Lord was present for those who walked, those who prayed, and even those who chose to turn away. He came to us that day and now He's waiting for us to come to Him.

Editor's Note: If any of our readers or parishes would like to know more about how to organize a Eucharistic Procession, please contact Jeff Case from Our Lady of Grace parish. Luke DeMers filmed the procession and the video can be found at stleosminot.org or on St. Leo's YouTube channel.

Mark your calendars for the 2021-2022 RPR Banquets!

We're excited to bring you three great keynote speakers for our next round of upcoming fundraising banquets! You won't want to miss their inspiring stories, the dinner, or the community!

Mark your calendar for the banquet location nearest you! To be a sponsor, host a table, or register to attend as a guest, call us at 877-795-0122, visit RealPresenceRadio.com/banquet, or email jessica@realpresencerradio.com! Sponsorship is available at the \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and higher levels. You don't want to miss the Catholic event of the year!

Dr. Stacy Trasancos:

Sioux Falls, SD: Tuesday, November 2nd
Rochester, MN: Thursday, November 4th
Williston, ND: Tuesday, November 9th
Fargo, ND: Monday, February 7th

Steve Ray:

Bismarck, ND: Monday, November 29th
Rapid City, SD: Tuesday, November 30th
Aberdeen, SD: Thursday, December 2nd

Teresa Tomeo:

Duluth, MN: Tuesday, March 8th



I Tuned In

My journey to Catholicism

By Marcus Ashlock

I found myself with a spiritual void in my late 30s and early 40s, when my Southern Baptist upbringing left me looking for something deeper. I had many questions, but few answers. A friend took me to Mass and explained the nuances of what I was seeing—it was new and somewhat odd, but beautiful and interesting.

Later, she mentioned how she prayed a rosary each night with her significant other. I had heard about and seen rosaries before, but I knew almost nothing about them or how to pray with one. She suggested I download a rosary app and try it. This was the start of my Catholic faith journey.



A year or so later, I spoke to a high school friend who was also raised Baptist. I mentioned my rosary app to her, and found she had converted to Catholicism! She told me about Scott Hahn's *Rome Sweet Home*. I read it in less than a day and knew in my heart I needed more!

At the time, I had begun to get back into attending church, albeit in an independent fundamental Baptist congregation. The pastor's wife worked for me, so I felt a bit obligated to attend but never agreed with all that was taught. Additionally, I had met another Catholic

Fr. Peter Tran with Marcus Ashlock at his confirmation

through a friend. The ball began to roll very quickly, as I had someone in my life to talk to about Catholicism with who described herself as being "in love with her faith." I had never looked at faith this way before!

She introduced me to Catholic radio. The area of southwest Kansas in which I lived had few radio stations, so I listened to EWTN on the Lamb Radio and eventually the Real Presence Radio apps. I tuned in initially to Called to Communion, Open Line, and Catholic Answers Live. These shows were designed for my inquisitive mind and helped me to see the shortcomings of my previous faith experience. I even called in with my own questions several times.

I quickly realized my upbringing was what I call "a la carte Christianity." The pastor picked out-of-context scriptures to undergird his version of Christianity but dismissed the true teachings of Jesus. The more questions I asked, the more he could not answer.

In the fall of 2018, it finally ended for me when we were discussing John chapter 6, where Jesus spends many verses laying out the importance of the Eucharist. All my pastor could say in response was 'we do not believe in that and you should really pray about it.' It was all I could do to not tell him I had been praying about this for almost a year. The Holy Spirit is calling me to become Catholic.

I had been periodically attending Mass on Saturday evenings throughout 2018 while attending my own church on Sundays. After a communion service at Easter where the fill pastor brought saltines and grape juice, I asked God for forgiveness for partaking in such a blasphemous act. I vowed to never again receive communion until I was fully Catholic.

I sought out the local priest, Fr. Peter Tran, who had several rural parishes in the area. He was a diocesan canon lawyer and led me through my own private RCIA. I was in tears after my first confession. Though I was apprehensive before hand, I felt the love of God in my heart and His grace overflowing afterwards.

I was confirmed in March 2019 at St. Raphael in Syracuse, Kansas. In April of 2020, I moved to Sioux Falls, where I now belong to Christ the King parish. I now understand my friend's sentiment and I, too, am in love with my Catholic faith!

Meet the new Real Presence Radio Staff

Real Presence Radio welcomes three new members to our family! We are blessed to have them join us, and we are excited for you to meet them!

Theresea Curley

**Listener Relationship Coordinator,
Eastern South Dakota**

One of eight siblings, Theresea grew up on a small homestead in Bethune, SC, where she learned how to milk cows, raise hogs, and make sorghum syrup. Theresea previously served with the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy in Massachusetts and New York City and then lived, worked, and went to school in Lander, WY. She is passionate about Catholicism, kombucha, and the writings of Catherine Doherty. Theresea is excited for this opportunity to spread the Gospel with Real Presence Radio and to get to know the listeners in the eastern South Dakota area!



Joyce Hajostek

Business Manager and Executive Assistant

You may already recognize Joyce, as she has worked as our Business Office Assistant for the past 15 months! Joyce and her husband, John, live in Fargo and have two adult children. Joyce is one of four girls who grew up in Durand, WI, a small dairy community with a strong 4-H influence. Joyce enjoys teaching religious education and leading Children's Liturgy of the Word. She is passionate about fishing and gardening, as well as sewing, cooking and baking. Joyce is excited for the challenges that lie ahead with her new position and places all trust in His hands!



Karen Selensky

**Listener Relationship Coordinator,
Western North Dakota**

Karen and her husband, Vince, live in Bismarck and have been blessed with two beautiful daughters, Kourtney and Katelyn. She has a twin brother, and they are the oldest of four total siblings. Karen's professional background includes event and conference planning at Bismarck State College, program management for the North Dakota Safety Council, and coordination of development for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Karen volunteers as an usher and Eucharistic minister at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, exercising, reading and scrapbooking. Karen is looking forward to being part of the Real Presence Radio team to help spread the importance of the Catholic faith and how it can change a person's life!



"We are amazed how many inmates are listening to the station! They are finding it without us even telling them of it. It's miraculous and divinely inspired—just yesterday a young man who has been listening listened to the Mass. He said he cried, which he hasn't done for a very long time."

-Julie, Sioux Falls, SD

The Gift of a Charitable Stock Plan

If you are like most individuals, the value of your stock and other investments has grown over the years. Perhaps you are entering your retirement years and wondering how you can turn your highly appreciated asset into extra income.

You may also be concerned about the mounting capital gains taxes due. If you sell your stock in today's market, you will forfeit a portion of the proceeds to taxes and that means less cash for you. In short, you need a way to sell your stock and avoid capital gains.



**Mike Kiedrowski,
Director of Advancement**

If you identify with any of these situations, the solution is a charitable stock plan. A variety of charitable plans can help you achieve your goals for tax savings and even provide income.

Outright Gifts of Stock:

Two charitable stock plans may help avoid income or estate tax:

- **Current Stock Gift**

By transferring your stock to Real Presence Radio today, you can enjoy the benefits of tax savings on this year's return. In addition to your charitable deduction, you will avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due on the sale of your appreciated investment.

- **Stock Bequest**

If you are still enjoying the benefits of holding your appreciated stock but looking to avoid estate tax in the future, a stock bequest is a good choice. In your will or trust you may wish to include instructions for transferring your stock to Real Presence Radio. Your estate will benefit from a charitable deduction that will lessen the impact of taxes on your estate and your heirs.

Gifts of Stock For Life Income:

These charitable stock plans may provide you tax savings and income for retirement:

- **Gift Annuity for Stock**

You may transfer your stock to fund a charitable gift annuity that will partially bypass capital gains tax and pay you fixed income for life. The rates can be quite high depending on your age and a part of your income stream may even be tax free! You will receive an income tax deduction for your gift in the year you set up the annuity. At the end of your life, you have the satisfaction of knowing the remaining value is going to help our mission.

- **Unitrust and Sale of Stock**

By giving your stock to fund a unitrust you can avoid capital gains tax because the trust will sell your stock tax free and then invest the proceeds to provide you with income for life. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year the trust is established and benefit from tax savings that could be spread out over a number of years. RPR will benefit from the future remaining trust value.

Please contact me to learn more about planning strategies that can help you make the most of your resources!

This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation. Copyright 2015 Crescendo Interactive, Inc. Used with permission.

**To find out more about charitable stock plans
and other creative giving options**

**please visit our RPR Planned Giving Website at RPRlegacy.org or contact
Mike Kiedrowski, CFRE at Mike@RealPresenceRadio.com or 701-290-4503.**

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WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT REAL PRESENCE RADIO

CONTINUED SUPPORT

- Evangelist Level: \$250 or \$20.83/month
- Messenger Level: \$360 or \$30/month
- Disciple Level: \$500 or \$41.67/month
- Apostle Level: \$1,000 or \$83.34/month
- Archangel Level: \$5,000 or \$417.67/month

SUPPORT A CAUSE

- Update RPR office technology: \$50,000
- RPR billboard in your city: \$3,600-7,200
- New Comrex for live remote broadcasts: \$5,000

SPONSORSHIP / UNDERWRITING

- Real Presence Live broadcast: \$300
- Honor Our Fathers: \$150
- RPR fundraising banquets: \$250-\$5,000+
- Parish packages: \$250-750
- Advent and Christmas greetings: \$50
- One day of programming: \$500/market or \$7,000 network-wide

PRAY FOR RPR

- Remember RPR in your daily prayers
- Pray the Our Lady of the Rosary Novena before our Fall Live Drive
- Offer a Mass for RPR

BE AN ON-AIR GUEST OR REFER A FRIEND

- Share your own faith journey with our listeners
- Let us know of someone who has a great story of faith to tell

HOW TO HELP:

CONTACT US:

REALPRESENCERADIO.COM

CALL US AT:

877-795-0122

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

Donor ID:

Awaken Fall Live Drive: September 15-17

The Real Presence Radio Awaken Fall Live Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 through Friday, September 17! We are excited to bring you a new format, new hosts and guests, and new opportunities to deepen your Catholic faith while supporting Real Presence Radio. This year, we will again be having daily drawings for RPR duffle bags and travel mugs. Visit our website to check them out! For those who donate at the Apostle level (\$1,000+) or higher, we have this beautiful Our Lady of Grace Rosary that has been touched to a relic of Our Blessed Virgin Mary's veil!

Our goal for this Live Drive is \$560,000! That's about \$187,000 a day. With your help, we are confident that we can reach that goal!

You can call in between 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM CT Wednesday through Friday. If you aren't able to call in, you can donate anytime online at realpresencerasdio.com/donate. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support of Real Presence Radio!

