

**CONSECRATION!**

**RPR**  
**NETWORK**

Real Presence Radio  
Fall 2022

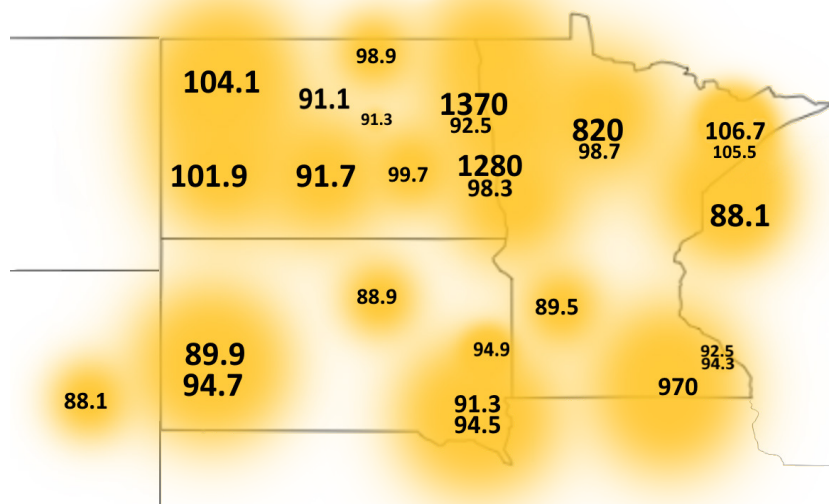
***Your Family of Faith and Hope***





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**RealPresenceRadio.com**

Cover Art: St. Helena by Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano, 1495

## 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.

# The Eucharist and the Cross

Dear Friends of Real Presence Radio,

So, here we are...full throttle into the first year of the Eucharistic Revival. The mission of the National Eucharistic Revival Initiative is to "renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." If you are a regular listener to Real Presence Radio, you are familiar with the Eucharistic Revival. In fact, not only are you aware of what it is, but also how you can actively participate in the Revival within your own community. Three of the 53 Eucharistic Missionary Preachers have been selected from the Real Presence Radio listening area. What a blessing it is to have this happen so close to home. I believe the Lord has something so much more in store for us in light of this incredible initiative!



**Mark Hollcraft**

One of the great feasts of the Church is on our doorstep. September 14th is the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which ties together the most profound teachings, theology, and realities of our Catholic faith. The

Eucharist is the completion and culmination of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. The victory over sin is won through the weapon of the Cross, hence the image of St. Helena on this newsletter's cover.

St. Augustine reminds us of this incredible mystery, reminding us why we have hope, and in whom our hope lies for all things: "Recognize in this bread what hung on the cross, and in this chalice, what flowed from His side."

For those of us who have had an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, and have experienced healing, conversion, peace, consolation, or just been drawn closer to Jesus and His Church, I encourage you to share these stories and those moments with those around you.

I want to leave this short note with you while entering this fall season and as approaching our 2022 Fall Live Drive, which by the way, still leans into our annual theme of "Consecration." It is Jesus Christ to which, as Catholics, we are consecrated. I implore you, for every time that you find yourselves discouraged or in doubt of Our Lord's kingdom on earth, you find peace in the Holy Mass. Indeed, may your hearts be renewed in and through the Eucharist. I firmly believe this can occur one soul at a time. God love you!

Your brother in Christ,

**Executive Director**

***"We so appreciate RPR programming and their efforts to increase and support the knowledge and prayer that our rich Catholic faith provides!"***

***-Jeanette & Dean, South Dakota***



# Finding God in Life's Detours

Her grandparents' example helped to form her faith

By Lori Kalgard, Director of Marketing

As the pitcher of the Blasters, the South Dakota United, and the Midwest United softball teams, Sophia Janssen has had several injuries throughout her years of playing. This past year, one serious injury made her continue to question the direction in which God was leading her. She missed her senior year



**Sophia Janssen with her grandparents, John and Patricia Janssen**

of summer travel softball, as well as her first year of college softball, and experienced many spiritual and physical challenges throughout her first year of college. Thanks to the influence of a good friend and a supportive family, she was able to realign her priorities and discover how to put God back into the center of her life.

Sophia's faith journey has not been without a few bumps along the way. She admits, "I have experienced multiple detours throughout my spiritual journey. During middle school and high school, I put sports, especially softball, as my priority, and even knowing being absent from my Catholic faith would be wrong, it still took me a while to figure it out."

While she was dealing with her injuries, a friend told her there would likely be something good to come out of it. Their conversation led her to spend some time in deep reflection. She said, "It made me realize that God had a better plan and I needed to trust Him instead of questioning Him."

The time away from softball gave Sophia the opportunity to attend SEEK. SEEK is a conference for college students run through the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. She was also able to spend more time in and grow her relationships with friends and family. Most importantly, it allowed her to be with her maternal grandmother, June, while she was suffering from cancer at the end of her life. She was able to be there every day to help take care of her and her grandfather, Wayne, during that heartbreaking time.

The time away from sports also allowed Sophia to reconnect with her paternal grandparents, John and Patricia Janssen. Her grandfather converted to Catholicism after he married Patricia and became a great follower of the faith. "He has read the Bible more times than most people will in their entire lifetime," Sophia said. "He attended Mass and Adoration, and most would believe he was a cradle Catholic."

The summer after her 6th grade year, she would ride her bike down to their house every day and pray the rosary with them. "They taught me how to be true to my faith through every encounter possible. I loved praying the rosary with them, because it allowed me to have a closer relationship with them, with God, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary." They taught Sophia how her Catholic faith can and should play an important role in her life.

Sophia attended elementary and high school in the Rapid City Catholic School System. This was a blessing, as it gave her the opportunity to learn so much more about her Catholic faith. "I was able to attend religion class every day and continue to dive deeper in my prayer life and faith," she said. In



high school, she was introduced to RPR: "We would see Real Presence Radio around the school when they would broadcast during the Live Drives and National Catholic Schools Week, and live stream the Men in Black basketball games." This made her investigate the radio station further, and soon she was listening when she could and catching podcasts when she couldn't. Sophia said, "RPR brings a reality to life that we think are coincidences, and it helped me realize that there is a purpose for each thing."

Sophia is now a sophomore at the University of Mary working towards a degree in Physical Therapy, which she says "will allow me to help athletes rebuild from their injuries and also inspire them to realize the great plan God has for them."

She feels God is also calling her to work with the younger generation in her diocese, because by teaching she also learns, and Sophia loves to learn all she can about her Catholic faith! "The best way I can honor my grandparents is by continuing to truly live out the Catholic faith they taught me."

Through the great framework of faith-filled family and friends, she knows that God is always charting her journey forward and all she has to do is trust in His plan!

## New Real Presence Radio Programming!

You may have noticed different programming on Real Presence Radio over the summer. We are excited to announce the addition of two new programs to the Real Presence Radio weekday schedule! The changes begin with Friday morning. In lieu of *Real Presence Live*, we have added Fr. John Riccardo's *Christ Is the Answer* at 9:00 am central, followed by *Beyond Damascus* with Dan Dematte and Aaron Richards at 10:00 am.

Additionally, due to our expansion of podcast platforms of *Real Presence Live* ([RealPresenceRadio.com/real-presence-live-podcasts](http://RealPresenceRadio.com/real-presence-live-podcasts)), we no longer air *Real Presence Live Encore* on Saturdays. Instead, you can continue to listen to EWTN's excellent programming and catch all our other RPR local programs, such as *Awaken*, *Ignition*, *Catholic Views*, etc., also available on our many podcast platforms and the RPR app.

Real Presence Radio has these 5 primary goals in our apostolate:

1. Strengthen marriage
2. Increase Sacramental Practice
3. Promote Vocations
4. Promote the dignity of the human person
5. Support goals of the local diocese in RPR's network (10 diocese, 5 states)

The changes in our programming particularly draw attention to the network area bishops' vision of missionary discipleship, which aims to strengthen marriage, vocations, the Sacramental life, and the dignity of the human person. Once you tune into *Christ Is the Answer* or *Beyond Damascus*, you hear from among the leading voices in missionary discipleship for adults of all ages and for our youth and young adults!



**Fr. John Riccardo**





Please tune in and support the  
**Fall Live Drive!**  
**September 14-16**  
**7:00 AM-7:00 PM**  
**877-795-0122**



It's time for the Real Presence Radio Fall Live Drive! We are taking over the airwaves September 14-16 from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM CT to ask for your help to reach our \$550,000 goal! Don't forget to tune in as we broadcast from throughout our five-state network to share amazing stories of faith and hope, and how RPR has made a difference in so many lives.

### Daily Drawing items:

We will have several daily drawings for those who call in and donate. Tune in to find out when, so you don't miss your chance to register to win these great gifts!

**Palette Bluetooth Speaker:** This black 3-watt speaker has a retractable kickstand. The operating range is 33' and it has up to two hours of playtime. It's perfect for when you're on the go and you want to listen to RPR!

**Handmade Crucifix:** Matt Schettler from Watford City, ND has graciously donated four beautiful, handmade crucifixes. They measure approximately 13½" x 9" and are made from fence posts. It would make an excellent addition to your home or make a one-of-a-kind gift!

**RPR Mug:** This 15-ounce mug is the perfect size for coffee, cocoa, tea, or anything else that whets your whistle! The speckled white mug has a black insert and handle and the RPR logo on the outside.

### New Donors:

Are you new to RPR? If so, you can get your very own RPR t-shirt. For new donors of \$100 or more, we have this great t-shirt just for you! This heather blue t-shirt is 50/50 poly/cotton and has a beautiful picture of a monstrance on the back. The quote is from St. Augustine, "Recognize in this bread what hung on the Cross, and in this chalice what flowed from His side."

### Apostle Level Gift:

The Apostle level gift is a 7" olive wood crucifix on a stand. It is imported from the Holy Land and touched to a reliquary of the True Cross, making it a third-class relic. It is the perfect size for your desk, dash, or home altar! The giving at the Apostle level is \$1,000 or more.





# Creative Gifting

## Donating collectibles in lieu of cash

By Marcus Ashlock

Each baptized Christian is called by Christ to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Evangelization may seem complicated, but in reality, teaching your children about the love of Christ or living your Catholic faith openly so others may see Christ in you is evangelization in its purest form—being the light of world as one point of light. Imagine the enormous light groups generate!

Such is Real Presence Radio. RPR spreads the Gospel by evangelizing to practicing and fallen away Catholics, Protestants, atheists, and anyone channel surfing—in total, 2.5 million listeners across five states. As a donor, you, too, are spreading the Gospel!

Finding extra money at the end of the month can be difficult. Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN, said to always put your donation between your gas and electric bill. In 2022, maybe we can start thinking out of the box for other donation ideas.



**Wilbur Polensky**

Wilbur “Willy” Polensky of Dickinson, N.D. has done just that! A lifelong coin collector, he has donated many valuable coins to RPR for their resale value. Costs he incurred many years before have turned profitable for the funding of RPR’s daily mission of evangelization.

“I started collecting in grade school,” Polensky said. “I built up a collection of a few nice pieces and gave it to my son. When I started my own business, I didn’t have a 401k, so I started investing in coins again to help. I then decided to donate some coins to the radio station.”

Polensky sets a value based on the current price and grade of the coin. For example, a 20-coin roll of 1897 Morgan S silver dollars could bring around \$2,000 today. Depending on the grade, some could go as high as \$375 each. The coins, always going up in value, can then be sold to fund RPR’s annual budgetary needs.

“You can have fun with it in a lot of ways, and I’ve donated some really high-grade pretty coins,” Polensky said. “It kind of hurts sometimes, you know, but then again, it brings good money. It brings way more money than what I paid for it.”

Polensky listens to RPR and knows what having a local Catholic radio station means for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

“When you turn on Real Presence Radio, you’re tuning into a different avenue than being at Mass,” Polensky said. “It brings you to God in a way. It keeps your mind focused on Him.”

Polensky suggests anyone can find creative ways to donate they may have not considered. Collectors of memorabilia, such as baseball cards, comic books, or even antique cars or guns can turn his or her past investments into high dollar donations today.

“There’s always an outlet for collectibles and you don’t have to give the whole collection,” Polensky said. “It gives people an opportunity to donate without directly paying cash. Someone could simply select one item.”

Are you an avid collector who finds it difficult to make a cash gift, but you want to support Real Presence Radio? Consider donating a piece of your collection. Contact Mike Kiedrowski, CFRE, RPR’s Director of Advancement, at [Mike@RealPresenceRadio.com](mailto:Mike@RealPresenceRadio.com) to plan a gift from your collection.



# RPR Welcomes New Staff!

## **Blake Ritteman, Listener Relations Coordinator: Eastern North Dakota and Northern Minnesota**

I was raised in Cavalier, ND. After high school, I was a seminarian for the Diocese of Fargo for five and a half years. For the past 12 years, I served those with intellectual disabilities through community-based programs and therapies in Grand Forks and Minot.

I have been married to my beautiful wife Megan for 11 years, and we have been blessed with six children: John, Ruby, Libbey, Clare, Thomas, and Cecilia. I am so excited to be part of the Real Presence Radio family and to hear how RPR has led you closer to the Heart of Jesus and His Church!



## **Cody Klam, Network Underwriter**

I grew up in Crookston, MN, where I participated in football, basketball, and track. After graduation, I served on a team with NET Ministries for two years in New Ulm, MN. I attended the University of Mary for a degree in Business Administration. Following graduation, I moved to Plymouth, Minnesota with my beautiful wife, Hannah, and my son, Maximilian. We enjoy long walks, biking, camping, playing guitar, and traveling. I am also an avid Minnesota sports fan. I am excited to start this journey with Real Presence Radio, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve him in this way! God Bless!



## **Ed Lee, Listener Relations Coordinator: Western South Dakota and Wyoming**

I live in Rapid City, SD. I have been married to the love of my life, Barb, for 48 years. Our son, Ryan, also lives in Rapid City with his wife and two daughters. We are members of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish.

Real Presence Radio has helped me understand the beauty and depth of our faith. Programs like *Called to Communion* and *Real Presence Live* have helped me immeasurably. I look forward to sharing RPR with you over the coming years!



## **Meredith Hollcraft, Advancement Assistant**

My husband, Mark, and I live in Fargo with our six children: Thomas, Luke, David, Michael, Dominic and Sophia. We are members at Sts. Anne and Joachim parish in Fargo and feel blessed to be part of the vibrant faith community there.

I believe strongly in the mission of Real Presence Radio, bringing the gospel to people through media, at a time when our culture is in desperate need of hope. I am looking forward to the opportunity to advance the mission of Real Presence Radio!



## **Rachel Juve, Board Operator**

I'm excited to be a part of the team at Real Presence Radio! I am originally from Thompson, ND, but I recently moved to Fargo to pursue an associates degree in paramedic technology. After graduating from high school, I served for nine months as a missionary with NET ministries in Minnesota, helping to lead retreats for junior high and high school students. I then spent one year working as a housemother at St Gianna's Maternity Home in Warsaw, ND. I enjoy hands-on ministry in both leadership and behind-the-scenes roles. Some of my other interests include playing piano, singing, going on outdoor adventures, camping, and hanging out with my six siblings.





# Join Us for a 2022-2023 RPR Banquet!

We're excited to bring you three exciting keynote speakers for this year's upcoming fundraising banquets!

Dr. Ralph Martin is the author of *A Church in Crisis* and *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. He is the president of Renewal Ministries and a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Teresa Tomeo is host of EWTN's *Catholic Connection* as well as a bestselling author, pilgrimage leader, and print, radio, and television journalist with more than 30 years experience in media.

Steve Ray is a convert from Evangelicalism, a pilgrimage leader, the author of several books including *Crossing the Tiber*, and a frequent guest on Real Presence Radio.

To sponsor the event, host a table, or register to attend as a guest, call us at 877-795-0122, visit [RealPresenceRadio.com/banquet](http://RealPresenceRadio.com/banquet), or email [Jessica@RealPresenceRadio.com](mailto:Jessica@RealPresenceRadio.com)! Sponsorship is available at the \$500, \$1,500, \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 levels.

You won't want to miss their inspiring stories, the delicious dinner, or the delightful community!

- Thursday, November 3, 2022 in Rapid City with Dr. Ralph Martin
- Thursday, November 10, 2022 in Sioux Falls with Dr. Ralph Martin
- Thursday, November 17, 2022 in Aberdeen with Teresa Tomeo
- Monday, November 21, 2022 in Bismarck with Dr. Ralph Martin
- Thursday, December 1, 2022 in Minot with Dr. Ralph Martin
- Tuesday, December 6, 2022 in Rochester with Steve Ray
- Monday, February 6, 2023 in Fargo with Dr. Ralph Martin
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023 in Duluth with Dr. Ralph Martin



## Thanks to Our Summer Interns!

Real Presence Radio had the honor to have two interns work with us in our programming studio this summer. They were Brooklyn Greening and Mark McLaughlin, and you may have heard their voices over the air as they announced our guests for the following day. They worked with our programming department to make sure our hosts and guests stayed on time and transitioned correctly, and that our underwriters were given their proper airtime.

Brooklyn and Mark are in their junior year at Shanley High School in Fargo and were a great addition to our staff, even for a short time. Brooklyn's favorite part of operating the board this summer was "pressing the buttons and recording the on-air previews," and Mark's favorite part was "meeting new people by talking to guests and hosts over the phone."



**Brooklyn Greening    Mark McLaughlin**

Their last days with RPR were the week of August 19th, and we hope to see and hear them again. Our thanks to both of them!

# One Vine, Many Branches

Aberdeen's Catholics strive to serve the community and some pancakes

By David Vetch of the Aberdeen Catholic Foundation

The One, Vine, Many Branches event was a first of its kind in Aberdeen. A collaborative Eucharistic celebration, it involved all of Aberdeen's Catholic stakeholders, including St. Mary's Parish, Sacred Heart



Parish, the Presentation Sisters, the Aberdeen Catholic School System, Presentation College, Avera Health System, and the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center at Northern State University (NSU). The Scripture verse John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches," was the inspiration for the event, which took place on June 5th, Pentecost Sunday.

The image of the vine and the branches depicts the importance of cooperation with Christ, one another and the fruit of

## **Bishop DeGrood and area priests celebrating Mass**

collaboration, which creates a loving community with a bright future. Aberdeen's Catholic Community has a rich legacy of service and tradition of collaboration.

"Our history and legacy have helped make Aberdeen a great place to raise a family. We were excited to celebrate our legacy, and we were equally excited to point our eyes to the future. Our celebration of the One Vine cooperating with the Holy Spirit to create a 'Future Full of Hope' was really the crux of the day," said Dave Vetch, Executive Director of the Aberdeen Catholic Foundation.

The One Vine, Many Branches event was held at NSU's Barnett Center. In honor of the Solemnity of Pentecost, a goal of the gathering was a collective invitation to ask the Holy Spirit to engage the Aberdeen Catholic community to Bishop Donald DeGrood's vision of forming "Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship through God's Love." No parish Masses were held on that Sunday, rather, everyone was invited to take part in the One Vine Eucharistic celebration. Anyone in the community was welcome and encouraged to attend. Guests of honor included Bishop DeGrood, the Presentation Sisters, Sisters of Pro Ecclesia Sancta, and many area and retired priests.

The celebration began with a mayoral proclamation, declaring June 5 "One Vine" day in Aberdeen. It was followed with a keynote address from Fr. Michael Griffin, who along with Fr. Mark Lichter, former pastors of the parishes, envisioned holding a community-wide Mass. Fr. Griffin had a unique perspective to share with the faithful regarding his vision for the Aberdeen community. An Aberdeen native, having been raised at Sacred Heart Parish and graduating from Aberdeen Central High School, Fr. Griffin was assigned to pastor St. Mary's parish from 2015-2021.

Fr. Griffin not only shared his impression of the impact the Catholic Community has made in Aberdeen; he also shared a challenge. Known for division and some rivalry between the parishes historically, Fr. Griffin said, "No more." Stating emphatically at one point, "We are one!" Fr. Griffin reminded the faithful to be mindful that the parishes, parish ministries, and Catholic missions can better serve the greater community by continuing in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support. The future of the Catholic





community will be challenged in the “apostolic era.” Reminding the 1400 faithful gathered in the arena to look around at each other, he cheered them all, declaring “We are better together!”

Part of the festivities included storytelling and skits about Pentecost for the children, provided by the Lumen Christi missionary team during the keynote address.

The Mass procession was majestic, with local seminarians and altar servers guiding the celebrants to the altar, located at midcourt. A combined parish choir

filled the large arena with beautiful hymns, incorporating a brass quartet. Bishop DeGrood shared an inspiring message of hope during his homily. The consecration was a view to behold with Bishop DeGrood surrounded by a host of priests, deacons and altar servers, filling the altar in reverence to the Holy Eucharist.

Following the program and Mass, the area Knights of Columbus headed by Council 820, hosted a free-will pancake feed, where over 800 were served. Games and youth activities were offered following Mass, with time for people to mingle and celebrate as families. Twenty-six local and regional ministries provided resources and information for those attending the celebration.



Pentecost Sunday 2022 was a day to celebrate the legacy of the One Vine and Many Branches in Aberdeen. Turning the page to the future, the stakeholders are trusting and hopeful in the Holy Spirit as they collaborate to provide for the needs of those they serve.

*Photos care of Barbara Grosz Photography*

## Coming Attractions

Be on the lookout for a new and refreshed website and mobile app! We’ve been hard at work with a redesign to give you more resources to help you deepen your prayer life, learn more about your Catholic faith, and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ.

There will be many things changing behind the scenes on both the website and mobile app that will enhance your user experience. This includes less scrolling, easier navigation through and to pages, and more cohesiveness between pages, making transitions smoother.

Podcasts and the schedule for upcoming *Real Presence Live* broadcasts will be easier to find, and a new prayer page will be added that will include resources for praying the rosary, chaplets and novenas, and the daily readings will be back and better than ever!

Stay tuned! It’s a big deal for us and there will be a huge announcement towards the end of the year!





**Real Presence Radio**

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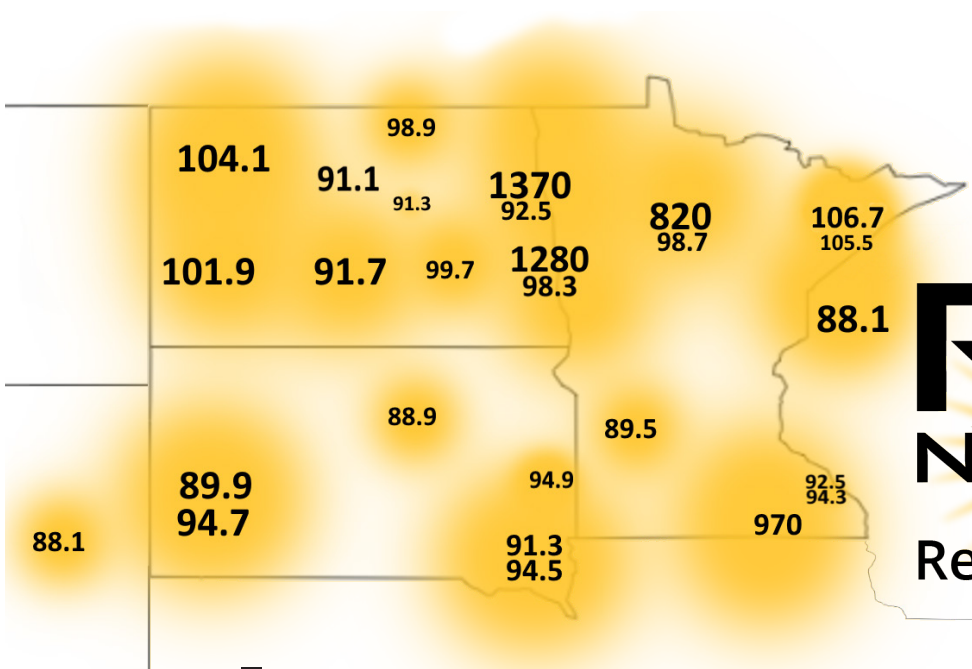
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