

Real Presence Radio Review



Your Family of Faith & Hope

North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin

December 2017

RPR Pilgrimage to EWTN in Alabama

Our Stations:

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AM 1370
- Fargo/Moorhead
AM 1280
- Bemidji
AM 820
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- Minot/Harvey
FM 91.1
- Williston
FM 104.1/89.1
- Dickinson
FM 101.9
- Rapid City
FM 89.9/94.7
- Duluth/Superior
FM 88.1
- Montevideo
FM 89.5
- Jamestown (AF)
FM 99.7
- Belcourt (AF)
FM 98.9

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Save the Date! 4

Hello, fellow Real Presence Radio listeners! My name is Ella Wagner, and I attended the RPR Alabama Pilgrimage this past October. This was my fourth pilgrimage with my 81-year-old grandma, Evelyn. It was a super-fun trip!

We left the Fargo airport early Tuesday morning on October 10th. Once we got to Atlanta, a huge tour bus picked us up. The bus driver was so nice! We got checked into the hotel and put all our bags in our rooms, then went to Mass at the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart.



On the set of "At Home with Jim & Joy"

After mass, we went to the Botanical Gardens, where they had many cool statues and beautiful plants! We had an amazing full southern supper. I have never had better sweet tea in my life! After eating, we walked around and saw the gardens.

On Wednesday, we went to morning Mass at the Holy Spirit Monastery. They had a huge gift shop full of beautiful things! The monks also showed us a video of the history of the monastery. It was very inter-

esting. They lived in a barn for months before they built the actual monastery, and the barn is now a museum. The monks were so nice and funny!

We then left for Irondale to go to EWTN. We prayed the rosary and ate supper with the brothers. It felt so surreal seeing people on TV and then seeing them in person!



Fr. Mitch Pacwa addresses the tour bus.

We went back to EWTN again the next day for a full studio tour. We even saw Mother Angelica's office! When we were touring the radio section of the studio, Father Pacwa surprised us! He was so funny, and he was even wearing cowboy boots and hat! He told one of the pilgrims that he would go hunting with him.

After the studio tour, we got to watch "At Home with Jim and Joy" live! It was such a cool experience! They talked to us during commercial breaks, and after the show, they posed for pictures. They are such nice people and a cute couple! Before we left EWTN, Father Pacwa came on the bus and gave us a blessing.

We left EWTN for the Ave Maria Grotto, where we toured all the amazing and detailed statues (Continued on page 2)

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and replicas. I can't even describe how beautiful they all were!

a statue of a lamb that had blood coming out from its chest. The tour guide explained



Pilgrims at the EWTN headquarters in Alabama

At St. Bernard's Monastery, we saw how the monks say Mass, which was really interesting. They provided us with supper, and they have their own hotel, where we stayed. Their hotel was different from the others we stayed at because they didn't have TVs in the rooms. It was nice to have a quiet room so I could talk to my grandma with no distractions.

We left early Friday morning for Mass at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That church was so pretty—walking in those doors took my breath away! The mass was beautiful. The nuns sang like angels! We got a tour of the church and heard its history. There was a Crucifix that was life-sized. It looked so real, too. A few people started tearing up when they saw it.

We also got to see Mother Angelica's tomb. It was gorgeous. A few pilgrims touched the tomb and said a prayer for her. After touring the church, we toured the St. John Paul II building. They had a gorgeous fountain with

parts of the Bible with replicas in the building that looked real. It made me understand everything much better.



Ella Wagner and Evelyn Hegle at the EWTN studios

The next morning, we took the shuttle to the airport. The plane was huge and even had TVs on the seats. When we got to Minneapolis, it was sad to say goodbye to the pilgrims who were flying to Bismarck. While waiting for the flight to Fargo, a group of us visited for a long time over coffee, and I got to know them so much better! That's what I love about these trips, you meet so many amazing people who love God.

I highly recommend going on a pilgrimage through Real Presence Radio. They are such a good group of people. You meet so many people with a love for God! I had an amazing time on this pilgrimage. I can't wait for the next one! Hope to see you there!

God Bless,

Ella Wagner

"We're called to go to the margins and be evangelists...Catholic Radio is one of the easiest ways to bring the Good News, the teachings of Christ, to the margins. It reaches so many people—if you want a tool that makes evangelization much easier, it's Catholic Radio."

-Bishop Robert Gruss, Diocese of Rapid City

New Beginnings

by Fr. Chuck Huck

In her wisdom, the Catholic Church provides us with many opportunities for NEW BEGINNINGS. Advent is a "New Beginning." Every celebration of the Eucharist is a "New Beginning." Every Reconciliation becomes a "New Beginning." Lent is a time for a "New Beginning." Every morning when we awaken to a new day, we have a "New Beginning." How do we take advantage of new beginnings offered to us in a world that moves faster and faster and provides us with more things to do, more events to attend, and more TV and videos to watch? In all our busyness, we might find ourselves weighted down, feeling alone, unappreciated, unloved and sometimes not listened to. We or those around us are just too busy.

God created us to be in relationship. The basis of a good relationship is COMMUNICATION. To have that, we need to be aware of whether we are talking **with** someone or **at** someone. Also, communication means that sometimes we talk and sometimes we listen. Growing up, my dad would often say, "Charlie, you tend to talk more than listen." I also thought he created the saying, "You have one mouth but two ears... why do you think that is?" The fact that he said this to me more than once is proof that I failed to listen at times.

When visiting with couples and families, I approach the issue of how communication works in their relationship. For example, one individual gets to state a problem, as they see it. Before allowing another member of the family to respond, I frequently ask, "What did you hear your spouse/child say?" I suggest that before responding, the listener pauses, takes a breath, and then starts by saying, "I heard you say..." If the person who made



the statement can say, "Yes, that is what I said," then the listener can respond. If not, then they must take the time to listen again and make sure they have it right before they can respond. These types of conversations will take 2 to 3 times longer, but have more meaning.

As a society, we struggle to listen first before preparing our response. Many times, we have our response already prepared before the individual has completed sharing their thoughts. A pause, and then, "What I heard you say..." could clear up confusion. When confusion is gone, a resolution is possible. When resolution occurs, the problem should not resurface again within the relationship.

Every conversation is an opportunity for a new beginning. A new beginning of understanding, sharing, and caring about everyone and their thoughts and feelings. Together, we can pray for a world where we are in relationship as God planned. Just for today, for practice, try to listen to your spouse/child as much as you talk **at** them. Just for today, for practice, try to hear what is being said clearly before offering a response.

"Every conversation is an opportunity for a new beginning. A new beginning of understanding, sharing, and caring about everyone and their thoughts and feelings. Together, we can pray for a world where we are in relationship as God planned."

We have a "New Beginning" coming with the Advent season. It may be time for us to celebrate a "New Beginning" in how we communicate with those that God has placed around us—with our family or friends or in our work or social environments, including our church community.

May God bless you on your New Beginning!

Fr. Chuck Huck is pastor of St. Philip's Church in Bemidji, MN.



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Mark Your Calendars For Our Upcoming Fundraising Banquets!

In 2018, Real Presence Radio will welcome two dynamic speakers to keynote our annual fundraising banquets! Johnnette Benkovic will be the keynote at our Duluth banquet on Tuesday, February 27, and Teresa Tomeo will be the keynote at the banquets in Fargo on Monday, February 26, in Bismarck on Monday, November 19, and in Rapid City on Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

Johnnette Benkovic is host of EWTN's "Women of Grace," and founder and president of the organization by the same name. After years as a non-practicing Catholic, Johnnette experienced a deep conversion back to her Catholic faith. Through this conversion, she found a



Johnnette Benkovic

Teresa Tomeo

vocation to share the Gospel message through media, including radio, television, and writing.

Teresa Tomeo is host of EWTN's "Catholic Connection," as well as a bestselling author and print, radio, and television journalist with more than 30 years experience in media. When Teresa reverted to the Catholic faith, her broadcasting experience came with her, and she now uses these skills to advance the mission of Christ.

For more information about the events, or to become a sponsor, host a table, or register to attend as a guest, please visit yourcatholicradiostation.com, call (877) 795-0122, or email jessica@yourcatholicradiostation.com!

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