

Real Presence Radio Review

RPR
NETWORK

Your Family of Faith & Hope

North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, & Wyoming

Fall 2019

A Journey of Faith and Trust

By Ed Schmitz, Former President of the Board

In 2005, I responded to a note I noticed in a magazine rack at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Fargo, ND. That led to attending an organizational meeting, resulting in an invitation to serve on the Real Presence Radio Board of Directors. I accepted, not knowing what would unfold. I always had a thirst to know what the Church really taught and was convinced early on that Catholic radio, and especially EWTN programming, was a very effective way of increasing our knowledge of the Catholic Church's teachings. It also fit with St. Pope John Paul II's call to evangelize.

Thanks to a very dedicated group of Catholics, the first station (AM 1370 in Grand Forks) had begun operating in November 2004. Without their persistence, dedication, and financial backing, it is hard to imagine that RPR would be what it is today! In 2006, I was asked to become chairman of the board. It just seemed that I was called to be part of whatever would become of the apostolate! As with many pursuits, the beginning was very challenging, with no radio experience by any of us involved and very little financial support. It was a team effort, with each step steeped in prayer asking for guidance, strength, and wisdom as we were making decisions. In 2007, we hired our current executive director, Steve Splonskowski, who was able to start putting together the internal systems RPR needed to be successful.

Early in the life of RPR, we wanted to get a signal into the Fargo-Moorhead area, which took until

2009. The previous five years were spent establishing our one signal and growing a listenership. We had much to learn, and we spent many hours working on plans to enhance what we had and trying to address the continued requests to bring RPR to other locations.



As chairman, I was asked by the board to lead the pursuit of any additional radio location opportunities and/or requests. Before expanding into any diocese, we needed the permission of the local bishop. It has been such a blessing to have met personally with each bishop and experience their enthusiastic support! I have also had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with many of our great priests in each of the dioceses. We are very fortunate to have so much support and encouragement! Every new station had its own spiritual story, and after doing research on each location, we have been able to launch many new signals.

In such troubling times, it is such a blessing to access spiritual sanity by listening to the RPR Network programming. Working with Steve Splonskowski, Steve Loegering, the board, and the staff is so very gratifying! We kept the faith and trusted in the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the many challenges and decisions that were made. To have been a part of this apostolate is and has been such a blessing. We are also grateful for the wonderful support of all of the listeners. We are making a difference!

May God continue to bless the board, staff, and all of the listeners!

Director's Note From Steve Splonskowski:

"Ed Schmitz was on the RPR board from 2005-2019 and presided as board chair from 2006-2018. He is a great friend and was a wonderful mentor. We are so grateful to Ed for his many years of dedication and leadership at RPR!"

A Journey of Service and Renewal

By Laken Novak

In July of this year, I traveled to Chimbote, Peru for a mission trip through the Friends of Chimbote. There were ten of us from five different churches. We raised enough money to build two wooden houses and furnish them. We split up into two teams, each building a house for a family.

Our family was a 25-year-old single man, Dayjor, who had three small boys ages 2, 4, and 6. The boys' mom left six months ago for another man, and Dayjor was struggling to provide for the boys. He works collecting recyclable plastic bottles and metal cans from the streets, parks, and garbage dumps, and earns about \$7 per day. His neighbors told the social workers about him and asked if they would help, although Dayjor didn't initially want to accept the help. They live on the outskirts of Chimbote in a rundown house made of estera matting, cardboard, and plastic. The house has two rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom, with one bed for all of them. There was no running water or electricity and the floors in his house were sand, as Chimbote is a desert.

On our first day, we tore down the old, worn out house and started to level the floors. For two days, we shoveled sand, one wheelbarrow at a time, to get the foundation level. We dug a trench for the brick foundation. As we dug, the sand poured right back into the trench. Eventually the brick was laid and mortared. Next came the pre-fabricated wood walls, similar to fencing in the U.S. Then paint, windows, and doors. Dayjor would come to the house with the boys each day to help us shovel sand. The oldest boy sat and watched us work and tried to



Volunteers taking direction for the day

help as well. He was so excited to be getting a new house!

Once the house was finished, we furnished it with beds, one for each of them. The boys had one bedroom and Dayjor had another. There was a small kitchen area with new pots and pans and a dining room with tables and chairs. The boys were very excited to have their own beds and kept exclaiming, "mi cama!" (my bed!).



Laken painting

At the end of our week, everyone went back to the

houses for a blessing by a deacon. After the blessing, Dayjor, a stoic man, began to cry as he told us he had lost faith in God because of the hardships he had been experiencing. Now his faith has been renewed, and he was extremely grateful. What a wonderful feeling to be able to make such a difference in a family's life!

The poverty in Peru is like nothing I have ever seen. Rundown buildings and roads, garbage in the streets, and sand and dirt everywhere. It's hard to imagine living this way without modern conveniences, but many do each day without a complaint--this is all that they know! Like Jesus, we are called to serve those who are less fortunate than us.

Laken Novak is a senior at Sheyenne High School, Fargo, ND.



Nearing completion on the new house!

The Need is Great; The Wants are Few

The Banquet meal ministry was founded in 1985, when it served just one meal per week. They now serve 13 weekly meals at two locations in Sioux Falls. A volunteer-based ministry, all of the meals are paid for, prepared by, and served by volunteer groups from the Sioux Falls area.

Run completely on donations from the community and faithful donors, Madeline Shields, Director of Development and Marketing for the Banquet, admits there are times when they don't know if they will have a donor or volunteers for a meal, but the Lord has always provided what they need.

Recently, the Real Presence Radio staff and a number of their volunteers had the opportunity to serve an evening meal at The Banquet. There is no reservation system, so staff never know from day to day or meal to meal how many people will be there. That evening, we served about 320 people.

Our responsibilities included greeting visitors at the door and providing a token which was "cashed in" for a meal, allowing staff to track impact and how many children and adults were served. We helped serve food and drinks, provided assistance with trays, and wiped tables and mopped floors.

This wasn't the first time helping out at The Banquet for many of our volunteers. "Each time I volunteer at The Banquet, I see the value they provide for the

community of Sioux Falls. The people who are here for meals are very thankful for everything they are given. Oftentimes, they will reach out to others who may need this type of help and bring them to the next meal," commented Heather Karrow, RPR Listener Relationship Coordinator in Sioux Falls.

Many who come are children, veterans, disabled, homeless, or those with no means to provide for themselves. This is a home base where they can have their mail delivered or pick up a variety of donated items from fresh vegetables to backpacks with school supplies. At Christmas time, a photographer will provide pictures at no cost to the families.



Real Presence Radio Volunteers

The Banquet is making a huge difference in many lives in Sioux Falls. They are doing Christ's work 13 meals at a time. The RPR volunteers were honored to be part of the experience and thank The Banquet for the opportunity to extend the reach of their ministry.

Save the Date for Upcoming Banquets Near You!

We're excited to bring one of three great keynote speakers to this year's fundraising banquets, to be held in seven different locations across the listening area. Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss their inspiring stories, the dinner, or the community!

Mark your calendar for the banquet location nearest you:



Johnnette Williams Dr. David Anders Dr. Ray Guarendi

Bismarck, ND: Monday, November 18, 2019 at the Bismarck Event Center with Johnnette Williams.

Rapid City, SD: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at the Best Western Ramkota with Johnnette Williams.

Aberdeen, SD: Monday, December 9, 2019 at the Dakota Event Center with Dr. David Anders.

Sioux Falls, SD: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at the Best Western Plus Ramkota with Dr. David Anders.

Rochester, MN: Thursday, December 12, 2019 at the Mayo Civic Center with Dr. David Anders.

Fargo, ND: Monday, February 17, 2020 at the Delta by Marriott with Dr. Ray Guarendi.

Duluth, MN: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the DECC with Dr. Ray Guarendi.

Keep an eye out for more information or contact us (877-795-0122, visit yourCATHOLICradiostation.com, or email jessica@yourcatholicradiostation.com) to be a sponsor, host a table, or register to attend as a guest! You don't want to miss the Catholic event of the year!

"Real Presence Radio connects listeners to the truth of our faith with charity and clarity. This connections helps us meet our responsibility to be missionary disciples walking with one another and helping all people to know and love our one and only Savior Jesus Christ."

- Most Rev. Michael Hoepfner, Bishop of Crookston



Real Presence Radio

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Our Stations:

- Grand Forks** AM 1370
- Fargo/Moorhead** AM 1280
- Bemidji** AM 820
- Bismarck/Mandan** FM 91.7/91.3
- 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
- Rochester** AM 970
- Sioux Falls** FM 91.3/94.5
- Aberdeen** FM 88.9
- Gillette** FM 88.1
- Babbitt/Ely** FM 106.7
- Jamestown (AF)** FM 99.7
- Belcourt (AF)** FM 98.9

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't Miss the Fall Live Drive!

September 18, 19, & 20

Throughout the Live Drive, we'll journey around the listening area with a stellar line-up of hosts and guests, sure to inspire you to learn more about your Catholic faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus. Check out the schedule to find out when we will be in your area!

We look forward to connecting with you and hearing about your stories of faith and hope!

Call **866-795-0122** anytime between **7:00 AM and 7:00 PM CT** to help us reach our **\$600,000** goal! Online donation is also available at yourCATHOLICradiostation.com.

Join us at one of our local tailgating parties for treats and fellowship!

CT	Wednesday, Sept. 18	Thursday, Sept. 19	Friday Sept. 20
7:00 AM	Sioux Falls, SD	Minot, ND	Fargo, ND
8:00 AM	Sioux Falls, SD	Minot, ND	Fargo, ND
9:00 AM	Fargo, ND	Rochester, MN	Tower, MN
10:00 AM	Fargo, ND	Rochester, MN	Tower, MN
11:00 AM	Fargo, ND	Rochester, MN	Sioux Falls, SD
12:00 PM	Pine Island, MN	Bemidji, MN	Napoleon, ND
1:00 PM	Pine Island, MN	Bemidji, MN	Napoleon, ND
2:00 PM	Pine Island, MN	Bemidji, MN	Spearfish, SD
3:00 PM	Bismarck, ND	Aberdeen, SD	Spearfish, SD
4:00 PM	Bismarck, ND	Aberdeen, SD	Duluth, MN
5:00 PM	Rapid City, SD	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth, MN
6:00 PM	Rapid City, SD	Grand Forks, ND	Duluth, MN

Indicates Tailgate party location.