

Awaken!

**RPR
NETWORK**

Real Presence Radio

Spring 2021



Inspiring Faith and Hope for 20 Years



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Live Drive
May 4-7, 2021

Fall Live Drive
September 14-17, 2021

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.



Let Your Yes Mean Yes!

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

-Matthew 11:28-30

I have come to really value and appreciate the gift of people who mean what they say and say what they mean. This quality is revealed through expressions like, "he does not have a guilty bone in his body," or "she has an unassuming personality," or scripturally speaking, "let your yes mean yes and your no mean no" (Matthew 5:37). In today's world, the aforementioned qualities are sought all the more. Judging recently by conversations I have had, it seems to be true for others as well as myself. Maybe it is even true for you!

Over the past few months, I had begun to ask myself: ***'Why am I feeling so discouraged?'*** I did not receive a satisfactory answer until I brought that question into prayer. I can truly say, when I brought this question before Jesus, finally saying what I meant and felt, the answer came as soon as I asked. You might ask, 'So, what was the answer?' I am a little embarrassed at its simplicity:

Because you have come to me, but you have not brought your worries to me!

This answer cut to my heart, and my contemplation of it led to a couple points of consideration I would like to share with you.

- 1. Are you inviting Jesus into those pungent points of discouragement, self-doubt and second guessing?**
- 2. What have you been allowing into your heart and mind that feeds those spirits of discouragement and self-doubt?**

Both questions build upon each other. I would like to briefly explore the second question—What in our broken society, might you be allowing to penetrate your mind, even with the best of intentions?

I am a huge fan of Lord of the Rings, both the books and the movies, and I recently heard them referenced in this apt analogy from author and speaker Chris Stefanick. In the books, the palantír was a stone that allowed people to see into the mind of the evil one. Good people would pick it up thinking, "I will figure out what he is thinking," and over time, they would become demented and become evil themselves. The people would stare and eventually crumble and give in. Why? Because good people fall apart and lose the joy and faith that is their strength when they stop thinking about the things that lift them up and focus only on the bad things going around them.

While TV, social media and the internet are not evil unto themselves, they are being used to accomplish great harm. They have become our modern day palantírs. We need to stop staring into the palantírs for the answers of our age. Christ is timeless, and will always be the answer to every age and time—yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). It is Jesus Christ who tells us to go to Him when we labor and are heavily burdened. Our society is burdened indeed, but what a change would occur if and when we labor and bring our burdens to Him!

Join Real Presence Radio as we labor and proclaim Jesus Christ to the nations! Join us also as we learn from Him what it looks like to be meek and humble of heart. May we rest assured and grow in confidence that Christ and His Church give witness of how to love and heal that which is broken. With the heart of Christ, let our yes mean yes and our no mean no. God bless you!



Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director

Answering God's Call

Tammy and Brian Lardy met when they worked in Medora, ND at the Medora Musical and in the Medora Stables during their high school and college years. Perhaps you are familiar with the musical skit featuring horses riding up San Juan Hill—that's where their story began.

Tammy grew up in a faithful Lutheran family and Brian in a strong Catholic family. In high school, Tammy attended a SEARCH weekend that sparked a desire for more of something, but she didn't know what or pursue it any further after that weekend. When she and Brian began dating, the topic of religion came up again, but neither felt compelled to pursue one religion or the other.



Tammy & Brian Lardy

They became engaged, and even though Brian was lukewarm in his Catholic faith in college, they still wanted to be married in the Catholic Church. When they went to see the priest to prepare for their wedding, Tammy left in tears and Brian was upset and decided not to go back to the Catholic Church. They ended up eloping instead. Brian laughs as he remembers, "Tammy always wanted to be married on the beach. So, I took her to Beach, ND and we were married by the justice of the peace at the city park."

When their children were born, their first daughter was baptized in the Catholic Church. Brian was still not going to Mass, so Tammy went to a Lutheran church alone with their daughter. Brian eventually converted to the Lutheran faith, and their second daughter was baptized in the Lutheran Church. While there, they were involved in the Sunday school program and other activities, but still there was a wandering feeling.

Then a life change moved them to Glen Ullin, ND, where they attended a Lutheran church but didn't feel a real connection—there was something missing. They enrolled their daughters in the faith formation program at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glen Ullin.

This started their journey back to the Catholic Church, and they began attending Mass as a family. Everything changed one Sunday at Mass, when their youngest daughter, then 7, refused to kneel. The discussion in the car on the way home began with Brian's question, "Why weren't you kneeling during Mass?" The seven-year old's response was, "I am not going to be Catholic! I am going to be Lutheran like Mom!"

This was a HUGE awakening for Tammy! She states, "Our daughter's refusal to kneel brought me to the realization that we needed to be on the same page both as a husband and wife and as a family."

With a new sense of motivation, Tammy and Brian enrolled in RCIA wanting to have their whole family in the heart of one faith. The more they learned together, the deeper in love they fell with the Catholic faith and with each other! Their marriage was blessed by the Church in March of 2005. Shortly afterwards, at the Easter Vigil Mass, Tammy was brought into the church.

Another life change moved Tammy and Brian to Bismarck in 2006. They became members at Corpus Christi Parish and embraced opportunities to be involved in many parish activities and grew closer to Jesus and each other. After a few years, Brian was asked by some of his friends to attend a Cursillo weekend with them.

It was there that he felt the call to the diaconate. When he told Tammy that he thought God was calling him to the diaconate, Tammy responded "Are you sure He has the right number?" Brian continued to discern, and at that time was working for Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck as the Director of Finance. That allowed him to really dig deeper and discern how he felt God was calling him. A couple of years passed, and Brian still felt the call to the diaconate. He made the focus of his prayer that Lent a desire for clarity—to either move forward with the call to the diaconate, or that the call would go away. Brian is now in his last year of formation for the permanent diaconate with Tammy's full support!

While the Lardys wandered before coming back to Catholicism, Brian in retrospect shares that his decision to leave was rooted in youth and an immaturity of faith. When meeting with a priest while engaged and learning of all the marriage preparation to go through, he was angry at first. Operating on emotion versus the truth of the matter, he left the church to get married. It was not until years later, with a learned maturity and an increased depth of faith, that they realized that until one commits to learning the truth found in the Catholic Church, one does not gain the whole formation or the whole gift being offered. Tammy and Brian live by the saying, "God qualifies the called, He does not call the qualified."

God is always knocking on our door and calling us to Him! Many of us may not always answer on the first, second or third call. However, He keeps calling us, and when we answer, amazing things happen! As for their daughter who refused to kneel? She is now a faithful Catholic wife and mother!

By Lori Kalgard

Welcome to RPR!



Nick Modelski, OFS

Nick is excited to join RPR's ministry as the Listener Relationship Coordinator for southeastern Minnesota! For five years he witnessed the power of Catholic radio first-hand as Program Manager for the Baraga Radio Network, an EWTN affiliate serving northern lower and eastern upper Michigan. Nick is a Secular Franciscan and a diaconal candidate for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Nicholas. He and his wife, Maria, have 3 children, Anne (5), Daniel (3), and Charles (1).

AWAKEN SPRING LIVE DRIVE: MAY 4-7

Mark your calendars! **Real Presence Radio's** 16th Annual "Awaken" Spring Live Drive fundraising event is **Tuesday, May 4 through Friday, May 7**. RPR is one of the best resources available to find the answers about our Catholic faith and to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ! RPR is 100% listener supported, which means our mission continues only because of you!!

Our goal is to raise **\$575,000 in four days!!** Phone lines will be open from 7:00

AM to 7:00 PM CT each day. Donate and be entered into a drawing for one of the many great prizes



awarded throughout the drive. Donors who donate at the \$1,000 Apostle level or higher will receive, as a gift of thanksgiving, a beautiful Chaplet of St. Joseph in honor of the Year of St. Joseph. The chaplet, pictured here, has been touched to a relic of St. Joseph's cloak.

Call in with your support to **877-795-0122**, or find more information and make a donation online at **RealPresenceRadio.com/Live-Drive!**

A promotional graphic for the RPR Network. It features a central image of Jesus Christ in a white robe with a red sash, set against a dark background with a bright light behind him. To the right of the image is the RPR Network logo in large, white, stylized letters. Below the logo, the text reads "INSPIRING FAITH AND HOPE FOR 20 YEARS". Further down, it says "Please tune in and support the Awaken Spring Live Drive! May 4-7 7:00 AM-7:00 PM CT 877-795-0122 RealPresenceRadio.com".

RPR NETWORK
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Awaken Spring Live Drive!
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RealPresenceRadio.com

Gratitude Leads to God's Gifts

His generosity is never outdone!

Each morning, I try to start my day by reading from my favorite devotional. This particular day, the Real Presence Radio event team was in Duluth the morning after our fundraising banquet, and the passage spoke to watching for the gifts that God places in our path every day. Our plans that day included taking a ride on a Duluth City bus, and I was excited!

It may seem like an odd thing to do and more odd to be excited about it. About mid-summer last year, I was blessed to receive a call from a donor in the Duluth/Superior area asking how he could help with our marketing efforts. I had wanted a city bus wrap in each of our markets for over a year, so of course I suggested a bus wrap! After giving him the details, he said he would bring it to prayer.

A few days later, he called and told me he'd like to fund some billboards at that time. I was very humbled by his generosity and grateful for his offer, and I was thrilled to be able to have three new billboards!

Later that fall, I received another call from that same donor. He had given some more thought and prayer to the bus wrap and felt the Holy Spirit was telling him to make this happen. He was sending RPR the funds that we needed! I was excited to see the first bus wrap come to fruition and have a Real Presence Radio bus wrap traveling throughout Duluth for the next year.

Houck Transit Advertising created a design that beautifully portrays the Real Presence Radio mission, and they even arranged for our team to ride the bus wrapped in the design when we were in Duluth!

When we arrived at the bus station, Leo, the ticket agent, was so helpful! I had never ridden a city bus before. I knew what time the bus left the depot, where it went, and what it looked like. Leo did the rest to make sure we were at the right place in the depot at the right time!

Our bus driver, Melissa, had been driving for the Duluth Transit Authority for 22 years. She was so kind and gave us the royal treatment when she found out this was "our" bus! As we traveled with her on her route, she pointed out different Duluth landmarks and gave us some history of the beautiful city. We had a scheduled stop at the Superior Zoo and she took our picture by the bus. She also shared the positive feedback she receives from riders of the RPR wrapped bus in comparison with the feedback she receives from riders when she is assigned one of the other city buses, which is wrapped with Planned Parenthood advertising.

At one of the stops on the way back to the depot, we picked up Henry, who is a Duluth Transit Authority board member. Melissa took the time to introduce him to us, and as he sat with us he told us the remarkable history of the Duluth Transit System and how important it is to the residents of Duluth. When we got back to the depot, he gave us a tour of the depot and invited us to come back any time.



Janelle Schanilec, Mark Hollcraft, Lori Kalgard, Jessica Foley, Eli Koppenhaver

While enjoying the sites on our route, I couldn't help but think of how many gifts God had put on my path on that day; our generous donor, the Houck Transit Advertising team, Leo, Melissa and Henry. It made me pause to thank God for those gifts and to continue to look for the gifts that God brings to me every day. On to the next market!!

By Lori Kalgard, Marketing Director

New Real Presence Radio Programming: Awaken

Have you had a chance to catch the latest addition to Real Presence Radio's local programming? Tune in to Awaken on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:00 AM CT with RPR Executive Director, Mark Hollcraft, and his brother, Dr. Joseph Hollcraft, Professor and Director of the High Calling Program at the Avila Institute.

What does it mean to Awaken in Christ? This program will answer that question as we explore the Catholic faith and awaken the spiritual life within us and within our soul. Awaken will draw from the shared experiences of Mark and Joe as they grew into their Catholic faith and educate in the entertaining way that only brothers can do.



Dr. Joe Hollcraft

Mark Hollcraft

Some of the topics that will be discussed are:

Intercessory Prayers
Pray in the Holy Spirit
Pray in Faith
Pray from the Heart
Pray Fervently

Pray on the Spot
Pray with Specifics
Pray in Friendship with Christ
Pray in Thanksgiving and Praise to God
Pray with Mary

Join us as we take the Awaken journey together. Don't miss our other local programming listed on our website at RealPresenceRadio.com!

Watch for these new RPR billboards throughout our listening area!



The Gift That Begets All Gifts

The time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, the 50 days of the Easter season, are a unique time in the life of the Church. During this time, we also celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and the Feast of the Ascension. In these feasts and in this season, we are given the opportunity to deeply contemplate and trust in Christ's redemption and mercy, to receive the gift of His Body and Blood, and to prepare to receive on Pentecost the gifts of His Holy Spirit.

One of the precepts of the Church, our 'Easter Duty,' is to reverently receive the Eucharist during this time. While we hopefully all strive to do more than the bare minimum required of us, this precept gives us an opportunity to meditate more deeply on both the responsibility we have and the gifts we receive from Christ. At every Mass we attend, we gift our bodies and our souls to Christ, and he simultaneously gifts to us His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.



Archbishop Fulton Sheen in his book "Calvary and the Mass" states that when we receive Communion, what we receive is not just a host but "a pure gift of an all-merciful God who so loved us that He willed to be united with us." The gift we receive is the Divine Life of Christ! He says, "God has given us our lives as wheat and grapes. It is our duty to consecrate them and bring them back to God as bread and wine—transubstantiated, divinized, and spiritualized. There must be harvest in our hands after the springtime of the earthly pilgrimage."

In other words, when we receive the Eucharist, the gift we receive in His Body and Blood is the redemption and mercy that freely flows from His heart and His five wounds. Everything we are and everything we have we receive freely from Him. Like in the parable of the talents, we are called to be fruitful with what Christ has given us, graciously receiving His gifts, multiplying them, and then unreservedly returning them to Him.

I listen to RPR whenever possible and, even as a cradle Catholic, I learn so much about our faith and religion. It is such a blessing! I would be lost without it.

-Jeanine

At the end of our lives, when we seek to follow Christ to heaven, we can "take nothing for our journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money" (Lk 9:3). Like the disciples, we are called to live and to give in this way. We are called to give everything Christ has given to us away. At the end of our lives, we can bring nothing we have to heaven with us, but Christ will look at our hands to see if they are like His—if they bear the marks of labor done for His sake; if they bear the wounds of crucifixion.

As we continue to celebrate Easter, and prepare for the Feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, may Christ's redeeming fire be present in us as we go out to tell the Good News! May the gifts of the Holy Spirit bear much fruit in our lives and in our families, and may we seek to increase and to give what we have received in imitation of Christ!

By Jessica Foley

I enjoy listening to Catholic radio because it gives me an opportunity to hear from people about their own experiences of faith. There are so many marvelous men and women out there who are sharing their own life stories, their faith stories. There are so many people that have such important questions and these all come across on Catholic radio. It's been a real blessing to me personally.

-Bishop John Folda

Real Presence Radio has really been a blessing for me. I really appreciate the fact that it's authentic Catholic radio. I appreciate the fact that when I'm listening to it I'm hearing the truth of the Gospel from a real Catholic perspective.

-Randy

What is a Charitable Life Estate?

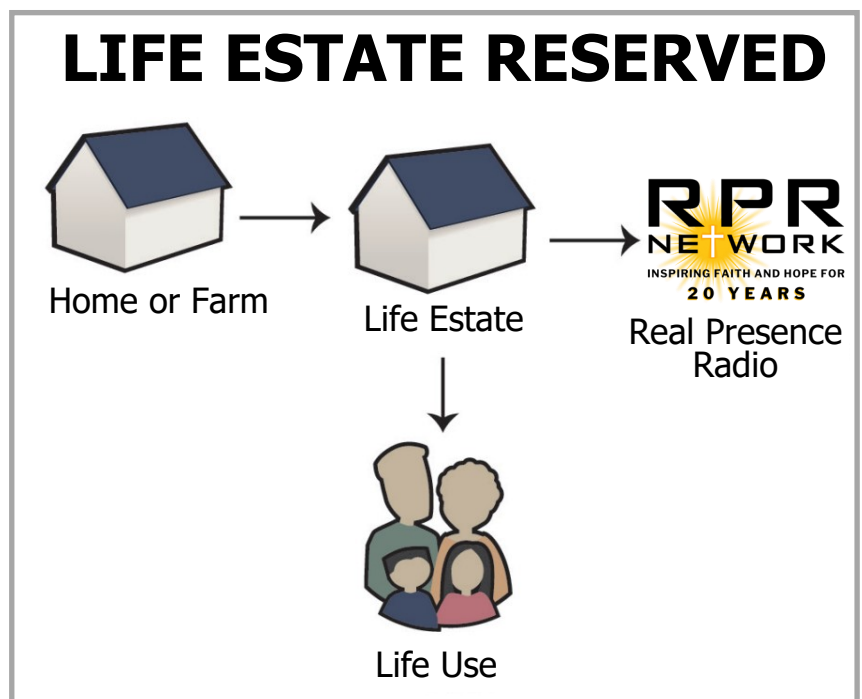
A charitable life estate is a way for you to give your home or farm to charity while continuing to use and enjoy the property.

How Does a Charitable Life Estate work?

A charitable life estate may be created by deeding your home, farm or ranch to a charitable organization. A provision is included in the deed that reserves your ability to continue to use and enjoy the property. This right of use—called a life estate—can last for your life (and another person’s life) or a number of years. When the person who owns the “life estate” passes away, we will make full use of the property or sell it and use the proceeds to further our mission.

LIFE ESTATE BENEFITS

You can receive an income tax deduction this year even though we won’t own or use your property until the future. A life estate is a useful way to give if you wish to support a charitable organization like ours and want to make a gift today without using cash or other assets. It is especially attractive if you own property that has appreciated in value, you are willing to give the property away and you don’t plan to pass it on to your heirs. A life estate offers you the opportunity to make a meaningful gift this year, while also receiving a tax-saving charitable deduction. While there are issues to consider, such as who will pay for the maintenance, insurance and property taxes, the arrangement is generally as simple as transferring your property under state law.



LIFE ESTATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

You receive a deduction based on the value of the property and the number of years before the charity is estimated to take possession. You are entitled to take an income tax deduction in the year the gift of your property is made. The deduction is equal to the present value of the charity’s remainder interest in the property. Although we will not take possession for many years, the gift is considered made when you deed the property to us. In addition to an income tax deduction, your gift qualifies for a charitable gift tax deduction.

QUALIFIED PROPERTY

Nearly any property you use as a residence or for agricultural purposes will qualify for a charitable life estate gift. Residential Property: You may take an income tax deduction for a gift of any property used as a personal residence. A personal residence is “any property used by the taxpayer as his personal residence even though it is not used as his principal residence.” Your vacation home or even stock owned by you as a tenant-stockholder in a cooperative housing corporation may be used if the home is used by you as your personal residence.

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.

Measuring the Life Estate

You may create a life estate for a number of years or your life.

LIFE ESTATE FOR LIFE:

You may reserve the life estate for your life and another person's life.

LIFE ESTATE FOR A TERM OF YEARS:

You may reserve the life estate for a specified number of years; for example, ten years.

Farm Property: A remainder interest in a farm also qualifies for a life estate charitable income tax deduction. A farm is any property (including the fixtures, buildings, grain bins and other permanent improvements) you or your tenant may use for the production of agricultural products or the sustenance of livestock.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Your circumstances may require special consideration when creating a life estate.

Restrictions: The deed creating your gift to our organization must not be restricted. You may not, for example, require that we sell the property and divide the proceeds with another individual.

Mortgages: Please talk with us and your advisor if you wish to use mortgaged property. Your deduction may be based only on the equity you own in the property. Any indebtedness secured by the property will pass with the property to charity.

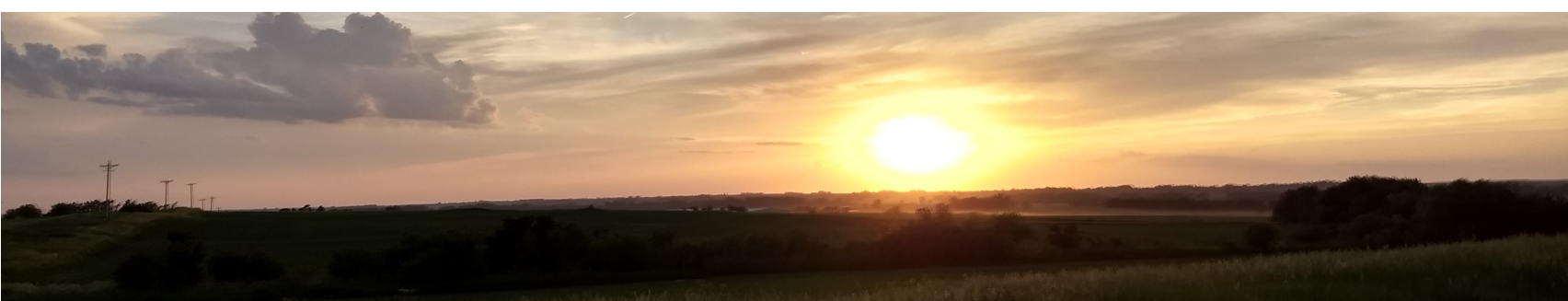
Retirement Homes: If you later need to move to a retirement facility, you can still maintain your charitable gift. You have the ability to lease the property and receive rental income for the remainder of your life or the life estate term.

Maintenance Insurance and Taxes: At the time you create your life estate, you will need to sign a separate agreement stating your obligations as life tenant. You will be required to pay for the maintenance costs, insurance and property taxes.

Terminating the Remainder: Once the life estate is created, you may sell the portion of the property reserved for your use to the charity or simply give it to charity early. You and the charity may also agree to sell the property to a third party.

Charitable Gift Annuity: It is possible to exchange your right to use of the property for fixed payments from a charitable gift annuity.

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**To find out more about a charitable life estate
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.

HOW DO YOUR DONATIONS HELP KEEP RPR ON THE AIR?

\$296

Average operational cost of an hour of RPR



\$400

Average monthly cost of one billboard

Average cost per month to keep our website and mobile app running

\$500



For each Comrex used to broadcast from unique locations across our network, we need

\$5,000



\$2,000

to fundraise per half hour of the Live Drive

\$7,097

Average operational cost of one day of RPR across all listening networks



\$213k

RPR's average monthly operational budget



Operating costs per year for all transmitter locations

\$568k

HOW TO HELP:

TO MAKE A DONATION:

REALPRESENCERADIO.COM/DONATE

CALL US AT:

877-795-0122

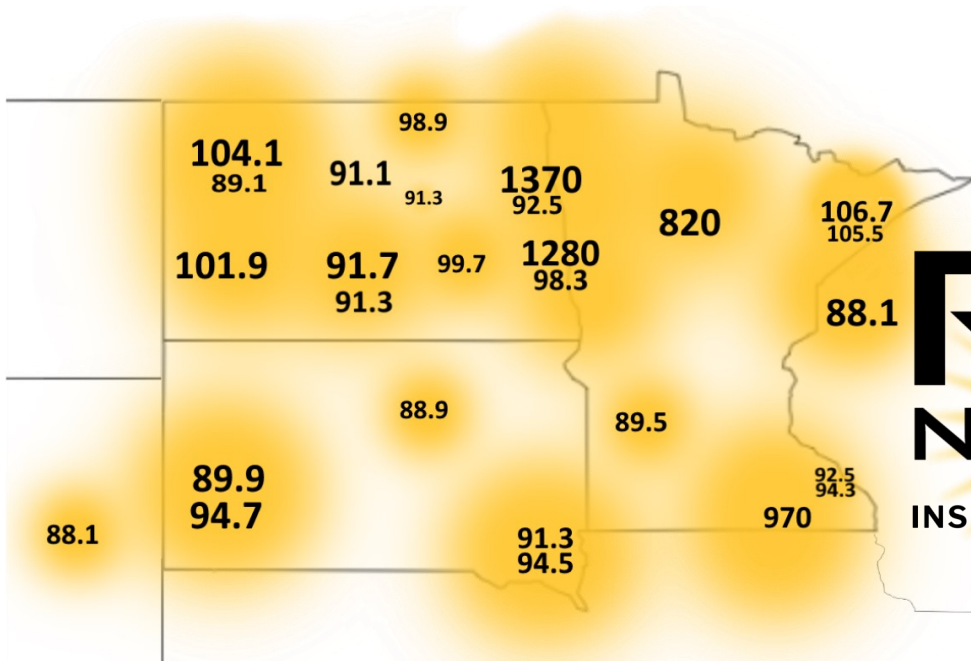


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