

# Real Presence Radio

SPRING 2023

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Real Presence Radio  
*Your Family of Faith and Hope*

# THE BEAUTY OF EASTER & REVIVAL

"HE MAKES US WAIT TO ENLARGE THE CAPACITY OF  
OUR SOUL." -ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO



Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director

Thanks be to God that the gift of Easter is not dependent on us, how we are feeling, or how much we gave up in Lent or added to our spiritual life. However, in our human nature, I believe the joy of the resurrection becomes ever more real by how well we entered into the season of Lent. Lent is such an opportunity of the Catholic Church urging us to go on retreat with Jesus; to remove ourselves from the very busyness of everyday life; to slow down **not** so the Lord can catch up to us, but so we can be caught by the Lord. St. Augustine writes:

“Suppose you are going to fill some holder or container, and you know you will be given a large amount. Then you set about stretching your sack or wineskin or whatever it is. Why? Because you know the quantity you will have to put in it and your eyes tell you there is not enough room. By stretching it, therefore, you increase the capacity of the sack, and this is how God deals with us. Simply by making us wait he increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is to be given to us.”

Lent offers the grace to stretch us, and Easter offers to fill us. And I would offer this; to fill us to overflowing if we let Him. Let Him overflow us so that when people engage us they cannot help but be touched by God's grace overflowing from us to them. We cannot and will not change the other, but Jesus can and will. And not just change us, but be made new. This is Easter, and the beauty of Easter is the Church's confirmation embedded in the newness of what spring brings to the world: authentic renewal and re-creation, not just recreation.

I would dare say that Real Presence Radio is also experiencing a seasonal Lent not bound by the Liturgical year. And it is with faith and grace that our staff and our RPR family is being made new and re-created, but also being stretched. Our capacity is increasing, but it is challenging to receive at times. Thank you so much for your prayerful support and encouragement. I cannot tell you how much it means to me and our staff and to other listeners. I offer the same consolation that we continually pray for you and your needs and offer them to the Lord.

Our Spring Live Drive is coming up May 10-12, and we will be offering a 2-hour segment of live programming near you throughout these three days. Please take a look in the newsletter to find out when we will be near you and come visit us, even if you are not an official guest on air. Please pray about making a gift to continue to enable Real Presence Radio to either stretch our listeners or fill up anew. God knows our needs, and He knows your needs.

Together, let's bring our mutual joys and concerns to Our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. This is home base to the revival of the Church, and to the revival of our souls. Join Real Presence Radio this Spring Live Drive to help bring people back to the home base for renewal and re-creation. Happy Easter! Remember... it's 50 days to celebrate and fill up!

# RPR NETWORK

Real Presence Radio

## Spring Live Drive

# May 10-12

### 7:00 AM-7:00 PM CT

Tune in to support the RPR mission during our upcoming Live Drive! Help us serve 2.5 million people with Catholic programming.

Real Presence Radio is 100% listener supported and a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



# 877-795-0122



## Donate online at [RealPresenceRadio.com](http://RealPresenceRadio.com)

### Support RPR during the drive for your chance to win one of these great prizes!



RPR MUG



#### APOSTLE LEVEL GIFT

Donate \$1,000 or more and you will receive this stainless-steel rosary card, touched to a first class relic of St. John Paul II.

HANDMADE CRUCIFIX



WIRELESS SPEAKER

RPR SHIRT  
New donors of \$100 or more



# THE GIFT FROM SAYING "YES"

A VISIT TO THE CEMETERY BLOSSOMED INTO A LABOR OF LOVE

Lori Kalgard, Director of Marketing

When driving by a cemetery, it's easy to do just that, drive by. You may have a loved one, a friend, or a neighbor laid to rest there, but it is all too easy to give it a fleeting thought as you pass by but don't take the time to stop. That was what Mike Krois did until he was asked to help prepare the burial place for Bishop Paul Sirba. Then Mike and his wife, Maron took on a whole new mission!

Mike and Maron own a school bus company in Duluth, MN and quite often Mike drives one of those buses. For any of you who have ridden or driven a school bus, you know the noise that comes with having 50-60 children of all ages on a bus. The children are laughing, chattering, screaming and unfortunately, sometimes it goes beyond that. It is anything but quiet. In addition, Maron was a special-needs trainer and aide for many years. They lived very busy lives with many moving pieces in their day-to-day work.

In December of 2019, the beloved Bishop Paul Sirba of the Diocese of Duluth suddenly passed away and interment was at the Calvary Cemetery in Duluth. One of Mike's employees was a deacon and asked if Mike could help clear the snow where Bishop Sirba would be buried. On a brisk winter morning, Mike and a large group of people met at the cemetery with their shovels and snowblowers and cleared the plot for Bishop Sirba. Later that day, he went back to check their work. He wanted it to be perfect. After all, it was for Bishop Sirba. The sun was just starting to set, and Mike sat down by the cross. A feeling of serenity and peacefulness came over him. So much so that he didn't even feel how cold it was while he sat by the cross watching the sky as God created a beautiful sunset. A drastic change from what he was used to: a bus full of children. He said, "God blessed me with a beautiful setting sun framed right above the stone cross where Bishop would call his final resting place."



Mike & Maron Krois

The following spring, Mike took a drive into the cemetery to visit Bishop Sirba's grave and to say a prayer. The peacefulness and serenity that he had felt in December overcame him again. He walked around looking at all the priests buried by Bishop Sirba's grave. Some dated back to the late 1800's, and he wondered who they were and the stories their lives would tell. Surely Father Tom Spellman was not anyone like the Tom Spellman Mike knew as a child! He couldn't help noticing that many headstones were covered in lichen and had been neglected for many years.

His wheels started turning and got permission from the cemetery manager to wash the headstones. Mike said, "I think he thought I was crazy. Nobody walks into a cemetery and works for nothing!" It took several nights to complete and every night he went home wet and dirty but with a feeling of deep peace!



Mike knew there was more work to do! He told his wife, Maron, about the peacefulness and serenity he felt when we went to the cemetery. He said, "So far it had been a 'me' thing and not a 'we' thing and so Maron joined me." As they worked at the cemetery, they found a cross on the back of a hill. At one time they could tell it was edged by flowers, but years of neglect sent it to weeds. Maron saw a vision that the cross was to be a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and together they planted dozens of white petunias with red geraniums in the center to represent His Sacred Heart.

While walking around the cemetery one evening and seeing how many different gravestones there were, he recognized that there was no differentiation between those who were wealthy and those who were not. He realized that nobody took anything with them!

He said, "I will live with this thought forever, 'bigger is better' and 'the more you have, the more you need' are not true statements."

They enjoyed being the caretakers of the flowers so much and wanted to share the beauty and tranquility of the cemetery with all the visitors. They made new planter boxes and filled them with colorful flowers that now line the main driveway. It became a nightly task to come and water the flowers and have the opportunity to encounter a wonderful variety of people who have stopped to visit someone they knew.

Several weeks ago, while listening to Real Presence Radio, Mike heard an interview with Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Some of his words resonated with Mike. Bishop said, "It's not what kind of car you drive, it's how you drive it." This was another epiphany for Mike and it is why he supports organizations such as Real Presence Radio. "If you have been gifted with much, give it back if you can; you won't be able to take it with you."

Mike and Maron live their life together giving and helping others. What started as a request to move some snow blossomed into a true labor of love. Now, as people drive by the Calvary Cemetery in Duluth and see the beautiful flowers and well-kept gravestones, they know that someone is caring for their loved ones. Seize that invitation to stop, visit, and pray in a peaceful and serene setting!

## RPR Mailbag

"Hello there! I am a young adult in the Duluth area, and I work with many college-aged students on the campus of UMD (University of Minnesota Duluth) and CSS (College of St. Scholastica). For many months there was a bus that drove through campus wrapped with a RPR advertisement. It became affectionately known as, "the Jesus bus" among the students. I just wanted to pass along a thank you for doing that. I can't imagine it was a cheap endeavor, but it was well worth it! When basically every other bus was a Planned Parenthood bus, "the Jesus bus" started so many good conversations on campus. It was amazing. (& we really miss it!) Just wanted to tip my hat to the marketing department and/or donor that made that happen. It was a joy! God Bless."

# PARTNERING WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

Mark Hollcraft, Executive Director

Alleluia and Happy Easter! I am writing this as I sit at Crux Coffee, the coffee shop at the new NDSU Newman Center in Fargo, ND. The environment at Crux Coffee provides the perfect space to foster holy relationships leading young adults into a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church. It's a gift, today, to be airing Real Presence Live at Crux Coffee, one of our new partners in underwriting.

Underwriting is a way of putting your business in front of a faithful customer base. RPR continues to air 16 stations with 27 signals including Two Hearts Radio (Belcourt, ND) and Hope and Truth Radio (Jamestown) as affiliates to Real Presence Radio.

Real Presence Radio partners with many people and groups to lead all listeners to a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church through media. Real Presence Radio has begun 2023 with some exciting underwriting developments that show a different kind of expansion. As part of that development and always at the core of this apostolate are the relationships and claiming these relationships under the banner of Our Lord.

Our Advancement Team has folded into their work of partnering with donors, partnering with businesses as well. Underwriting for RPR is not new, but passing the underwriting baton throughout the network by having a person in each of

the main markets of Real Presence Radio is new for us, and a chance to put a face to the name. Please see the Listener Relationship Coordinator near you for underwriting or partnership questions. Your local Listener Relationship Coordinators, their locations, and their contact information are listed on the following page.

We strive to be intentional in building relationships and partnerships with local businesses throughout our network. In a nutshell, underwriting is an opportunity for businesses to identify their business in an FCC-approved manner through non-commercial radio.

We often hear we are an Easter people, and of course, this is at the forefront while we are in the Easter season. I believe that one of the hallmarks of an Easter people (our listeners) is, of course, their commitment to their Faith and to RPR, but also their commitment to support the businesses that support the work and effort of evangelization.

As we soon unveil our revamped website, we will be sharing a directory of the businesses that underwrite with Real Presence Radio. I encourage you to take a look at the businesses stepping up to underwrite Real Presence Radio and many of our annual events. I also encourage you or any of the local businesses to consider underwriting on Real Presence Radio or sponsoring one of our annual events. The next annual event that you can sponsor is our Spring Live Drive May 10-12, 2023.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph... Pray for us!



# Real Presence Radio Listener Relationship Coordinators



**Blake Ritteman**  
Eastern ND & Western MN  
701-960-0453



**Cody Klamm**  
Eastern MN & Superior, WI  
701-960-0229



**Ed Lee**  
Western SD & Gillette, WY  
605-390-0470



**Karen Selensky**  
Western ND  
701-318-5467



**Steve Castle**  
Eastern SD  
605-759-0543

## Live Drive Locations

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00-9:00	Fargo Studio	Austin, MN	Bemidji, MN
9:00-11:00	Duluth, MN	Grand Forks, ND	Tioga, ND
11:00-1:00	Bismarck, ND	Minot, ND	Cloquet, MN
1:00-3:00	Gillette, WY	Rapid City, SD	Sioux Falls, SD
3:00-5:00	Rochester, MN	Fargo Studio	New England, ND
5:00-7:00	Sioux Falls, MN	Detroit Lakes, MN	Fargo Studio
All times are CT			



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