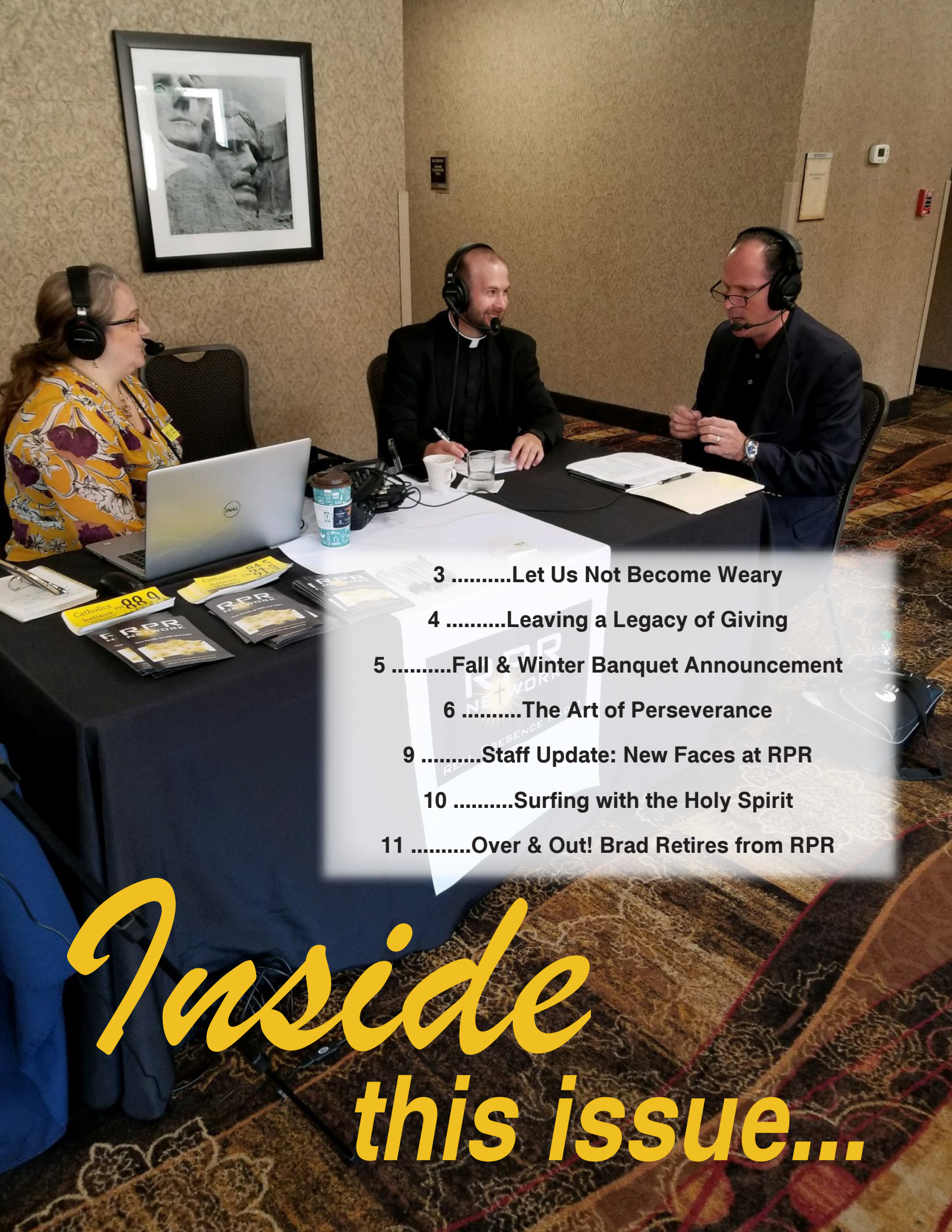


Fall 2023 Newsletter



RPR
NETWORK

Real Presence Radio
Your Family of Faith and Hope



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Let Us Not Become Weary

by Lynne Devitt
executive director

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:30-31.

As I’m writing this, I have been in my role as the Executive Director for Real Presence Radio for 7 weeks. It’s been a whirlwind. I had forgotten how energizing a new role can be, and a change to this work has been especially rewarding.

After 24 years in the corporate world, working myself up a ladder with no truly satisfying end, I stepped away from the worldly ladder for something more. My first steps off that ladder were actually a few years ago. Finding Real Presence Radio 10 years ago as a listener changed me. Going from one or two hours of my faith each week to two to three hours of RPR each day was critical to my growth in the office, at home, and in this world. I shut other media off in my desire to become more Catholic, and as my love for my faith grew, I became more connected to the sacraments, my approach to relationships and people improved, and I became more generous, realizing that none of this was mine anyway.

Of course, continuing to be a part of the corporate world meant that ladder was still in my view. This is why I feel incredibly blessed to join this apostolate. I know that my faith

can and should be shared wherever I am, but I am honored that I was asked to share it in this setting. I also know that there are other gifts that I can bring to this non-profit related to my earlier life: leadership, project management, budgeting, planning, customer service, government regulation, and other really exciting corporate “stuff.”

As much as this is a blessing, I also recognize that there is a lot of responsibility, here. Understanding the 24-hr/day responsibilities of radio, relying solely on donations from our generous donors, and trusting that the Lord has put me in the right place causes an anxiety that is different than the corporate world. The summer is tough in the non-profit world, and the number of monthly donations does not equal our expenses, meaning that all summer, our bank accounts

decrease.

I say this all because we are about to humbly ask you for your financial support once again during the Fall Live Drive, September 13-15. We are 100% listener supported, and we could not continue broadcasting radio, bringing engaging local content, and building a Catholic fellowship without you. We need you. I’m stepping out in faith, trusting in your generosity, and sincerely thanking you in advance for your support in spreading the Catholic message to the 2.5 million people in our listening area. God bless.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10.



A Beacon for Future Generations

including RPR in your estate planning

by Lori Kalgard
director of marketing

Jerome and Sharon Meier were unfamiliar with Real Presence Radio until six years ago when their daughter asked them to sit at her table at the RPR Fargo banquet. After the banquet, they were inspired to check it out further and now it's the only radio station they listen to.

Jerome and Sharon were raised in two small neighboring communities in south central North Dakota.

"In the town that I grew up in, the whole town was Catholic, literally, everyone was Catholic," Sharon said.

Jerome's mother encouraged him to become a priest, but instead, went to business school at NDSU.

While growing up, their families said the rosary every night and reconciliation was part of growing in their faith.

"Every night we'd pray the rosary and every Saturday night, we went to Confession; it was just what we did, going to Mass was not optional," Sharon said.

After they were married, 49 years ago, they took the deeproots they had in their Catholic faith with them and recited a rosary every night with their children. This is something they continue to do even after their children had left the nest.

At the banquet, they were intrigued by the speaker and the excitement of the guests. This inspired them to dig deeper into what RPR was all about and began listening on a regular basis. At first, Jerome started listening on his way



to and from work and liked what he heard so listened more and more frequently.

"When I got to the office, I wanted to hear more so found myself listening in the parking lot and when I got home it was the same thing. Now it's all I have on my dial," Jerome said. "Real Presence Radio explains how we, as Catholics, practice our faith. Now, you have teachings, that go all the way back to the apostles that explain the Catholic faith. It confirms what the Church teaches and provided answers to why the Church teaches what they do."

Jerome and Sharon believe that we are all called to evangelize.

"I can't stand on the street corner and preach, but I can support a tremendous organization that will

do that for me; that is why Sharon and I have included Real Presence Radio in our wills," Jerome said. "This will allow future generations to know and learn more about the truth about their Catholic faith."

Jerome and Sharon are on fire for their Catholic faith and Real Presence Radio. It comes from a strong background in the Catholic faith and bringing those traditions into their family.

"Real Presence Radio is better than any news program that is on," Sharon said. "It keeps you learning about your faith and refreshes your faith."

"Real Presence Radio is the greatest source of evangelization; and one of the few places that preaches truth about the Catholic faith," Jerome said.

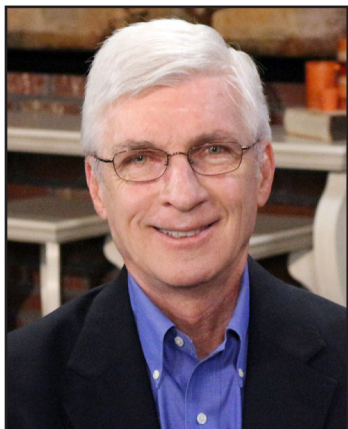
Upcoming RPR Fundraising Banquets

Dates and Keynote Speakers Announced

Rochester, MN | November 7, 2023

Sioux Falls, SD | November 9, 2023
Fargo, ND | February 26, 2024

Dr. Ralph Martin is the President of Renewal



Ministries and Director of Graduate Theology Programs in Evangelization and a professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He currently serves as a Consultor to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization.

Bear Woznick is the founder of Deep Adventure Min-



istries and host of Motorcycle-based Reality TV show “Long Ride Home with Bear Woznick”. Distributed worldwide on EWTN and Armed Forces Network to more than two hundred million homes and Amazon Prime Video.

Dickinson, ND | November 14, 2023

Rapid City, SD | November 28, 2023
Duluth, MN | March 5, 2024

Michael Gormley found his way to God through

studying whether the resurrection of Jesus Christ was real. He has degrees in philosophy and theology, a family, and runs three side businesses including: the Catching Foxes Show and LayEvangelist.com



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is an internationally



renowned speaker, author, and preacher. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Theological Studies Degree from the University of Dallas.

Bismarck, ND | December 5, 2023

Aberdeen, SD | February 20, 2024

Cy Kellett is the host of Catholic Answers Live. He



formerly hosted The Bright Side with Cy Kellett on Immaculate Heart Radio. Before that, Kellett served as editor of San Diego’s diocesan newspaper, The Southern Cross. Kellett and his wife, Missy, have three children.

Joe Heschmeyer is a contributor to Catholic An-



swers Live, Catholic Answers Focus, and Catholic Answers Magazine. Before joining the apostolate, Joe has blogged at his own “Shameless Popery” website and co-hosted a weekly show called “The Catholic Podcast.” He has also authored four books, for Catholic Answers Press.

To register or for more information visit our website. RealPresenceRadio.com/banquets



The Art of Perseverance

by Lori Kalgard
director of marketing

No one can predict the experiences coming with a simple choice made in one's youth. Listening to one's heart when seeking love or even hobby or career interests can paint the picture of one's life, framing those experiences into a beautiful portrait. Little did Toni Rangel know her love of dancing and painting as a young woman

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would be part of her entire life.

Toni grew up in Omaha, Nebraska in the 1950's. Her father was an electrician and mother stayed at home to raise their five children. She remembers her father coming home from work and teaching her to sketch. She said, "Dad was a very talented artist himself and nurtured my love for art." Her mother had her take dance lessons in kindergarten and

her love for art and dance grew with each passing year.

She attended St. Bernard's Catholic Schools in Omaha and after her 8th grade year transferred to public school so her parents could afford to send her younger brothers to Catholic School. Going to college was outside her family's means so taking art classes also seemed out of her reach. Toni said, "When I got my chores done, I would take the city bus to the Joslyn Art Museum and with my sketch book in hand and



How your donations keep Real Presence Radio on the air

Monthly tower rent:
\$21,200

Monthly utilities:
\$11,300

Monthly rent for Fargo Studio:
\$4,700

Upgrade RPR technology:
\$4,170

Monthly Internet expenses:
\$3,400

Monthly maintenance on RPR owned towers:
\$1,100

Monthly website maintenance:
\$500

copy some of the faces and paintings.” With her babysitting money and allowance, she was able to take workshops from traveling artists which kept her artistic fire burning.

After high school, Toni worked at a local bank and the bank’s President recognized her talent. He paid her \$50 to paint his portrait. When it was done, he and his wife invited her to their home so she could see it hanging over their fireplace. She was very proud to see it there and that opportuni-

ty encouraged her to pursue even further training.

When she was 21, she had saved enough money for a flight to Arlington, VA and a small apartment and said goodbye to her parents and Omaha. She had no plans for marriage, only being a dance instructor at the Arthur Murray School of Dance. On Wednesday nights, Toni and one of her close friends would go to the Officer’s Club as drinks were 25 cents. They had a beautiful old wooden dance floor and a juke

box, which from her background in dance, was very familiar to her.

The Officer’s Club was on the Potomac River and in one of those downstairs smoke-filled bars that you would see in an old movie. One night, a group of officers came down the steps in their dress uniforms and among them was Army Lieutenant Richard Rangel. Toni said, “To see all of these young guys come down the steps, looking so handsome, made every head turn.” Richard asked her to dance.

She accepted his invitation to the dance but said, “Richard did the ninth grade shuffle, you know, feet apart and then waddling back and forth; he didn’t have much rhythm.” When he found out Toni was a dance instructor, he stopped in his tracks and said, “Okay, but I’m still going to lead.” A few weeks later he asked her to the Colonel’s picnic and that was the start of their future together. She said, “I have to admit, after I met him, I kept thinking about him, I kind of liked him.”

To pay for their wedding, Toni went to work at Addressograph Multigraph. After they were married, they stayed in Omaha for three years and then transferred to Rapid City, SD. His dream was to become a General Contractor. Af-

ter his honorable discharge, they stayed in Rapid City and Richard started Rangel Construction.

Growing up and through the early years of her life, Toni didn’t have the financial means to take art classes but that didn’t stop her from pursuing her passion. She persevered and found creative ways to fuel her passion. This earned her place at the table to study with professional portrait artists like Charles Phillip Cross, and Award-winning Portrait Artist and Instructor, Margaret Carter Baumgartner. Toni herself is a Master of Portrait Art.

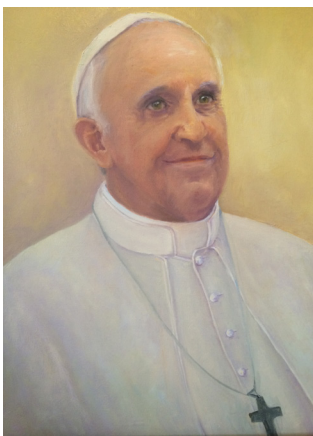
You can see Toni’s beautiful artwork scattered throughout the Real Presence Radio network, in local Catholic churches, in homes and now it hangs in Rome. When Father Brian Christianson was go-

ing to study at the Pontifical College in Rome, asked her to paint a portrait of Pope Francis. She, of course agreed, and is humbled to know that her art is part of that collection. Toni has generously donated six framed prints of that same stunning portrait to Real Presence Radio for the upcoming Live Drive. (See below) We are honored to be one of the recipients of her exquisite work.

Toni recognizes how God has perfectly orchestrated the events in her life from her love of art to teaching dance lessons to meeting Richard. She said, “For me, with all the other things going on in your life, health issues, family issues and other emotional things, painting pulled me away from those things and centered me.”

Donor Daily Drawings for Fall Live Drive September 13-15

- * RPR Fleece Blanket
- * RPR Canvas Tote Bag
- * RPR Gray T-Shirt (New donors of \$20/month & Current donors increasing monthly giving by \$20/ month)
- * Pope Francis framed Print by Toni Rangel Daily Drawing from \$1,000+ donors
- * Fisherman’s Rosary – New Donors of \$150+



Our Lady of Sorrows Chaplet – Apostle Level Gift

As a token of our appreciation, those who donate \$1,000 or more during the Fall Live Drive (on Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. CT) will receive an Our Lady of Sorrows Chaplet. This chaplet has black beads and includes the case and a prayer card on how to pray the chaplet.

The chaplet has been touched to a relic of St. Padre Pio who was very devoted to Our Lady.



Staff Update

...New Faces at Real Presence Radio



Gregory Splonskowski Engineering Assistant

I was born and raised in Hawley, MN, the oldest of seven children. My father was the Executive Director of Real Presence Radio for many years, so I have been working with RPR in various capacities for a long time. After high school, I joined the Air National Guard. When I finished up my training, I came back to Fargo and went to North Dakota State University for a semester.

During this year, however, I discerned a call to seminary. I decided to take a year to discern whether I was called to the priesthood. At SGGs, I experienced a great deal of grace and personal growth, however, I discerned that I was not called to return. I am excited to come back to RPR, to help continue the mission of “sharing the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Church”.

Aaron Bosh Programming Assistant

I am the programming assistant at RPR. My job includes lining up guests to be on Real Presence Live, writing talking points, and running the audio board during live shows. I also occasionally host Real Presence Live when needed and help out with various tasks around the office.

I was born and raised in Grand Forks, ND and graduated from Univerristy of North Dakota with degrees in History, Political Science, and Social Science. I am a lifelong Catholic who has worked in logistics, construction, and public health. I also have my own podcast called “Sidestories.”



Surfing with The Holy Spirit

Finding RPR While Channel Surfing



by Lori Kalgard
director of marketing

Several years ago, when Deacon Ken was traveling, he was channel surfing on the radio. He stumbled across a prayer “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us and on the whole world.” He was immediately drawn to the radio station and locked in the button so he could continue to listen.

A Catholic based news program followed that prayer, and a call-in show followed the news. Before he realized, he had been listening for two hours. He didn’t realize at the time that he had stumbled across Real Presence Radio and part of his life was changed. Ken said, “Being able to listen to a station that reinforced my faith and realizing that I’m not the only person out there trying to know more about my faith

was great!”

Deacon Ken and Connie Wolbaum have lived on their family farm and have been married for 50 years and feel their blessings come from their Catholic faith. Ken said, “We have been through some trying times and God has always been there for us, gently guiding us in the right direction.” Connie said, “We did some farming but could not make a decent living, so Ken and I farmed ourselves out and got off-the-farm jobs.”

After retiring from the railroad, Ken found other ways to do God’s work. He enjoys reading, wood-working and making fisherman rosaries. RPR has been blessed to receive a few of those rosaries that will be given away during the upcoming Live Drive while broadcasting from Linton, ND. (Picture on page 10).

Real Presence Radio has become a very important part of their lives. Ken said, “It turns out that the Holy Spirit had guided my channel surfing on that day, and I caught the end of the Divine Mercy Chaplet which is prayed every day at 3:00 PM. Now I have an alarm set on my phone, so I don’t miss it.”

Ken said, “We don’t listen to Catholic radio 100% of the time. However, 91.7 is the number one button on every radio in all our vehicles. In fact, before my retirement it was also the number one in all the company vehicles that I drove.”

Just as Jesus called his apostles to follow Him and He will make them fishers of man. So is Jesus calling each and every one of us. “We want to thank RPR for the great people who have inspired us for these past years to challenge us to make a better ‘ME.’”

Over & Out!

Brad Wilson Retires

by Lori Kalgard
director of marketing

Brad Wilson, Chief Engineer, has been a man of true service and dedication to Real Presence Radio for the last 10 years. As of June 30th, he officially retired and entered a new phase of his life. However, Brad is only fading out. RPR is incredibly thankful that he has agreed to continue to support RPR (in a part-time capacity) as a contract engineer, mentor, and trainer to our new engineering assistant, and occasional advisor to our new executive director.

Brad has managed and maintained 27 RPR signals throughout 5 states, with the help of a few remote contractors. If there are any problems with our signals, whether they are off air or there's been a loss of internet service, Brad gets an alert. He has been known to come to the office at all hours of the day and night to do those fixes so that listeners can continue to hear their favorite programming. He travels from one end of the network to the other to do updates and maintenance of our equipment because he believes so deeply in the RPR mission.

The staff and board of directors extend our best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Brad as he enjoys some well-deserved time off. He has been a good and faithful servant to RPR for 10 years and we appreciate all that he has done to keep RPR on the air. After 43 years in the broadcasting industry - you're clear, Brad! *Image below: Brad showing Nativity Elementary School students broadcasting equipment.*



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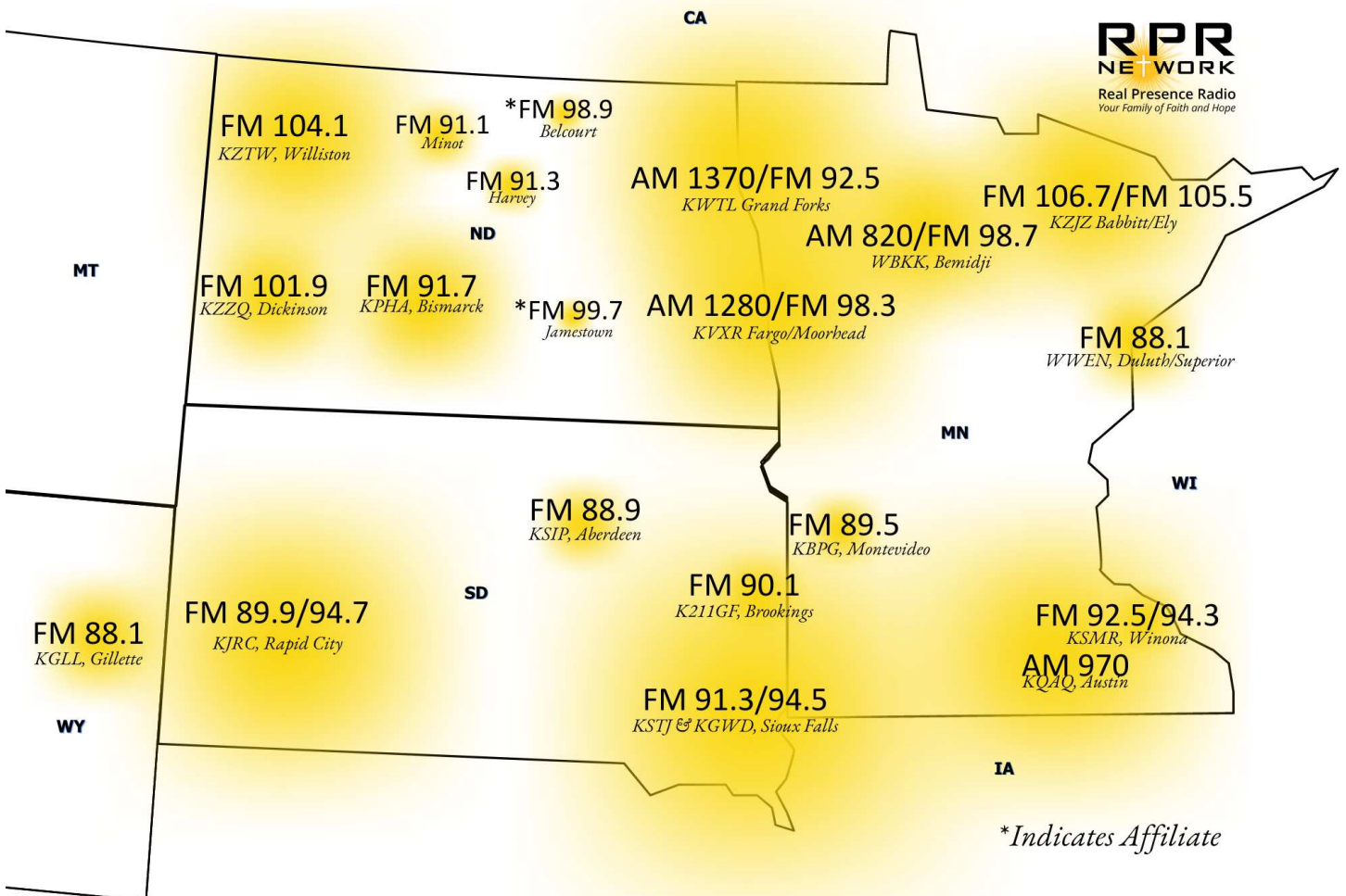


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