

RPR
NETWORK
Real Presence Radio



Spring
NEWSLETTER
2024

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EASTER GREETINGS FROM OUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| Lynne Devitt

I cannot believe it's already Spring and we are preparing for yet another Spring Live Drive! It's an important milestone for me. It's been almost 10 years since I officially chose to be part of the RPR mission. After listening for over a year, I began my monthly donations to Real Presence Radio during the Spring Live Drive 2014, and I've donated every single month since. Coincidentally, at 10 years into the mission as a donor, I'm now 10 months into the mission as the Executive Director. I've been incredibly blessed to talk to so many over our 5 state area who have been impacted by Real Presence Radio. Some had left the faith and have now come back, some accidentally found RPR on the radio dial which led to a complete conversion to our faith, and others never left but were simply under-catechized and going through the motions. Each of these stories lead me to feel like I'm part of an army of Catholics who are on fire to bring this joy to everyone willing to listen and learn more about the faith. Thank you for being part of this movement!

Additionally, thank you to everyone who has shared your story with us. Every single story makes a positive impact on our day. Even when technology fails or an unexpected challenge impacts a very tight budget, your words keep us going and remind us exactly why we are here. It is because of these stories that we continue to ask for everyone's support, so we can keep the lights on and keep the signals going. As supporters of RPR, you are changing lives by



helping to bring the truth of the faith to the midwest. (And, if you don't believe me, listen to the Live Drive!)

Because individual support changes over time (income changes, health changes, and people go on to their eternal rest) it is not enough that we financially support. We must include in our mission an invitation. I ask you, as faithful supporters of RPR, to not just help us to continue the mission financially, but help us spread the word by talking about the impact of RPR in your faith journey. Be willing to share your joy - Your joy comes from Christ, and hopefully Real Presence Radio has played a part in bringing you closer to Him. As we hear in 1 Peter 3:15:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

As the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church states: “The Church does not tire of proclaiming the Gospel that brings salvation and genuine freedom... to temporal realities.” We are honored to be a part of a mission centered on tirelessly proclaiming the truth of the gospel. Join us as we pray for all who are seeking the truth that will lead to salvation.

GAS ON A FIRE

WRITTEN BY
SEBASTIAN O'DONNELL
BUSINESS/OFFICE UNDERWRITING ASSISTANT

Ryan and Beth Noonan had never heard of Real Presence Radio. Although both were practicing and devout Catholics, they still felt that something was missing, and were looking to improve their spiritual life. Their parish priest in Sioux Falls, Fr. Paul Rutten, extended an invitation to them to attend the RPR banquet. “If Fr. Paul thinks we should go, we will definitely go! And she and Ryan did not regret their decision. The keynote speaker was RPR staple, Dr. David Anders, and he encouraged banquet attendees to just get into their cars and turn on their radios.

The following day, Beth took his words to heart. “I turned on the radio in the car on the way to work, and I have never turned it off.” Real Presence Radio provided the positive stimulation that she was looking for. “There are so many difficult, negative things in the world that we can bombard ourselves with, it is a conscious decision of mine to have it be something good, real and truthful.” Whether it be listening to the *Son Rise Morning Show* on the way to work, learning how to defend the how to defend the faith with Catholic Answers on the drive home, or even tuning in over lunch to Dr. David Anders. Real Presence Radio never fails to provide content that is good, true, and beautiful at all hours of the day and night.

“I’m a stay-at-home mom so I have it on all the time,” Beth says, “You learn something every day listening to RPR.” Ryan grew up in a Catholic household in Sioux Falls. Even as a child, long before he was introduced to Real Presence Radio by Fr. Rutten, “Your faith is there, but once you hear the stories on RPR from Dr. Ray Guarendi and Dr. David Anders, it is taken to the next level...Our hearts are on fire, and it’s great to have that routine.”

Ryan and Beth Noonan represent just two of the many lives positively impacted by RPR’s broadcast. Real Presence Radio has become an invaluable routine for many listening on the radio and the mobile app in the Upper Midwest and beyond.



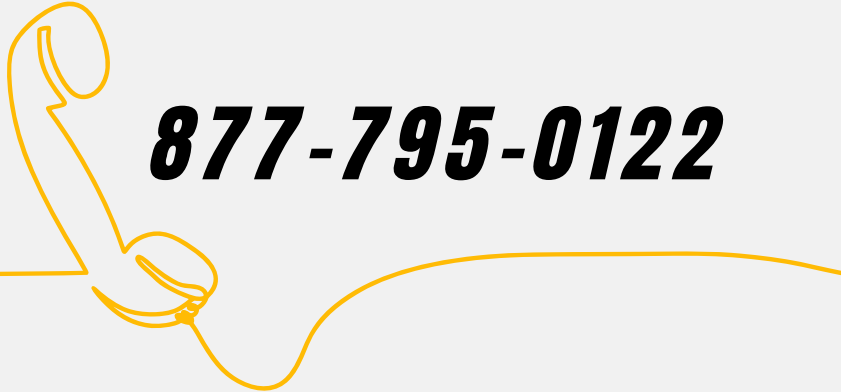
THE NOONAN FAMILY

From cradle Catholics who are interested in knowing more about the intricacies of their faith, to non-Catholics who are simply curious about learning something brand new, RPR has the capacity to touch countless lives and enrich a myriad of souls. “That’s what I like about the radio,” Beth says, “You are not in control of what to play, you just get into your car and let the Holy Spirit decide what comes on. God will let you hear what you need to hear.” Real Presence Radio truly is like “Gasoline on a bonfire,” feeding the sparks of faith within our hearts.

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RPR NET+WORK



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A HOLY HOUR
authored by
Mother Angelica



THE SHOUT OF JERICHO



“Shout; For the Lord has given you the city’... So, the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat” Joshua 6: 16-20

Several years ago, Paul Heiberger felt distant from the Lord. He donated and occasionally listened to Catholic radio, but it wasn’t until he began meeting a few times a month with a small group of men that his spiritual life started to flourish. While perusing the Bible during this time, Paul noticed that the Book of Joshua spoke to him on a more personal level, specifically the story of the Walls of Jericho. “I thought initially that I might want to go into prison ministry” Paul says, “But after reading about Joshua and the Jericho Wall, and attending 40 Days for Life, I realized that I wanted to advocate for the unborn.”

He and a friend decided to pray in front of South Dakota’s lone abortion clinic in Sioux Falls once a week on Tuesdays, and soon other men joined them. Thus began the Jericho Wall campaign. Paul envisioned Planned Parenthood as Jericho, and the men praying the Rosary outside, as the soldiers marched around the walls. “The shout of Jericho is praying the Rosary,” Paul states, “and God hears that.” Paul even met with the programming director for Real Presence Radio, and their group was able to broadcast the Rosary over the air. The Jericho Wall centers itself around the role of men, praying for “Wisdom, Courage, Council, reverence for the Church and Eucharist, and the ability to exude true masculinity while standing up for women and children.” Today, more than ever, the Jericho Wall fights for the rights of the unborn through prayer.

An upcoming vote in November in South Dakota would pass an amendment to the constitution providing much freer access to unregulated abortions. The organization created a website, www.jerichowall.org, as well as a Facebook page to raise awareness for what is at stake. On the website, visitors can pledge to pray a daily Rosary for the unborn, the mothers, and the legislators of South Dakota. Paul knows that preventing the passing of this amendment is important, yet he also wants to take his intentions a step further: “We aren’t just praying for an amendment to not pass, we are praying for people’s hearts to change” he says.

Additionally, the group is sponsoring a series of billboards throughout South Dakota. However, their success depends upon those who donate, which visitors to the site will be able to do. Paul encourages people to visit the website stating: “Prayer is our number one asset. Go to the website and sign up to pray. What we don’t do today, we won’t do tomorrow, so make that commitment.” The Facebook page offers frequent updates to the Jericho Wall’s progress as well as providing informative insights. “Nine months to the day of the vote, we started posting a weekly picture highlighting the growth of the child in the womb,” Paul says. Visitors to the page can see when the Jericho Wall is meeting that week, as well as local updates.

While praying in front of Planned Parenthood, Paul encountered both opposition towards, and support for their cause. He remembers a group

of witches reciting spells directed at those praying. Paul approached one of them and “started praying the Rosary in front of her, and she began writhing in pain on the ground.” He also recounts stories of grieving women who have approached him, regretting their abortions, and a distraught young man begging for prayers, as his girlfriend was intending to abort their child.

Through it all, Paul remains steadfast in faith, and holds on to the reality of the power of prayer. He urges individuals to pray with the Jericho Wall on Tuesdays. “It is a 30 minute drive for me, and it seems like Tuesday comes twice a week with everything else going on,

“BUT I MADE A COMMITMENT AND GOD HONORS COMMITMENTS”

He also encourages those who cannot attend in person to pray the Rosary wherever they are. Paul sees prayer as the shouting and trumpets that will tear down the Walls of Jericho as in Joshua: “The people raised a great shout, and the Wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, and they took the city.” Only by committing to prayer and positive action will the walls of Jericho collapse, and the lives of the unborn be saved.

You can join the Jericho Wall Rosary on Real Presence Radio, every Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 pm CT!



A FAITH WORTH SHARING

one couples support
of RPR's mission

WRITTEN BY
**SEBASTIAN
O'DONNELL**

BUSINESS/OFFICE
UNDERWRITING ASSISTANT

Settled among the buttes on the Little Missouri River, just a few miles north of Killdeer, ND, lies a ranch that Bob and Jane Schettler call home. The couple are strong advocates for Real Presence Radio, although most of the time radio signals are unreliable due to the rolling landscape. Since the development of the RPR app, this is what the couple has relied on. “We can sometimes pick up the signal from the tower in Ray, ND if the radio is near a window, but it is much better using the app,” Jane says. The Schettlers remember when they were first asked to contribute to RPR. “Initially some priest friends talked to us about contributing for a new tower in Richardton. We thought it didn’t affect us as we didn’t listen enough to support, so we went on our way,” says Jane. Only after embarking on pilgrimages with Real Presence Radio, did they have a change of heart. The Schettlers became closely acquainted with the RPR staff on various pilgrimages to shrines throughout the Upper Midwest, southern United States, and even Europe. They were impressed with the faith that shone from those who worked for RPR, and got to know the employees on a personal level. “The three-day bus

trips were amazing,” Jane recalls. “One year we took a week and went all the way down to Birmingham, and the last trip we went on was to Rome in 2014.” These trips led to the couple showing their support for RPR by attending the banquets in Bismarck and Williston. Supporting RPR is worthwhile for Bob and Jane; every time they tune in, they learn something new. “With the Catholic faith you can always learn,” Bob says. “There is over 2,000 years of history, so you can never know it all.” In Jane’s case, a convert to Catholicism herself, she has been able to use the content broadcasted by RPR in everyday encounters. “A Catholic neighbor had a son who was planning on getting married outside the church,” Jane recounts.

“I WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO THEM USING WHAT I LEARNED LISTENING TO DR. ANDERS & HE ENDED UP GETTING MARRIED BY A PRIEST.”

Jane grew up attending a Lutheran church, but at the age of 13, she went to mass with a friend. “It was in Latin and seemed very strange, but the church was so beautiful,” Jane remembers. “In college I would find friends to go to mass with at the Newman Center.” The couple got married in 1974, and Jane converted that same year, which to her just seemed like the natural thing to do. “I know people who have left the church because there are too many rules, but sometimes rules just make you a better person,” asserts Jane. She and Bob have both been active in parish ministry for years, serving as lectors, sacristans,

religious education teachers, and Bob as the president of the financial council. Along with teaching religious education in the parish, Bob and Jane also ensured that their children grew up in a faith centered environment. The couple started raising their children in the truths of Catholicism in the home. “At supper time, Bob would suggest to our four sons that they become priests, but all four of them ended up getting married anyway,” laughs Jane.

The Schettlers taught their children the faith, and their children have found ways to live it. Their son Phil, was one of the first to introduce them to Real Presence Radio. Another son, Matt, crafts handmade crucifixes made of fence posts and donates them to RPR to use as giveaways for live drives. Although none of Bob and Jane’s sons were ordained, their granddaughter is in formation to become a Dominican Sister. As soon as more women are interested in the order, she intends to teach in the Bismarck Diocese.

Bob and Jane each believe that Real Presence Radio has the potential to provide immense benefits to the listener. “It’s been a great resource for us, I think it has been really, really good. We listen to *Called to Communion* over lunch on the app and we always learn something new,” says Jane. “RPR is faith filled, and we want to give it away to others,” Bob adds.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob and Jane Schettler and many others, Real Presence Radio can continue broadcasting the truths of Catholicism to a wide audience over the airwaves, and on the RPR app, if the western North Dakota terrain happens to disrupt the signal.

STAFF UPDATE



SUNSHINE DIEM

Listener Relationship Coordinator, Eastern ND

I was raised in the Bismarck Diocese and attended Trinity Catholic School. In May, I will be graduating from NDSU with a degree in Social Psychology, a field that perfectly marries my passion for understanding human behavior and fostering connections. Since 2021, I've explored the world through the lens of my camera, capturing moments that tell stories of joy and the profound beauty of the Lord's creation. My heart is anchored in spending quality time with family and friends, the outdoors, and finding peace in active pursuits. Christ is the cornerstone of my identity, guiding me in my interactions. I look forward to meeting all of you along the way.

ANNAH ZIKMUND

Marketing Assistant

I grew up in Minto, ND. As the youngest of five in a devout Catholic family, I fell in love with my faith with ease. My role here at RPR is the Marketing Assistant. I am tasked with designing and creating promotional materials, including this newsletter you're looking at right now. I am graduating from NDSU this May with a degree in Advertising and Graphic Design. I've been fostering the passion for art since I was old enough to hold a pencil. When not at work, you can find me getting overly competitive over a game of basketball or Catan and hanging out with my nieces. Safe to say, I am in my element being able to use my natural proclivity for design and art to honor the Lord here at RPR!



SEBASTIAN O'DONNELL

Business Office/Underwriting Assistant

My name is Sebastian, and I have been the Business Office/Underwriting Assistant since August! I have lived in Denver and Seattle, but Fargo has been home for the last 18 years. I graduated from Christendom College in 2019 with a degree in English Literature and began working for Microsoft following graduation. Four years later, I started this position at RPR and thoroughly enjoy working here! In my free time, I enjoy playing sports and working out, spending time with my niece and nephews, perusing the internet for high protein recipes, and attempting to become a contestant on Jeopardy. If you give RPR a call, I would be happy to hear from you!



STAFF UPDATE

DUSTIN MOORE

Chief Engineer

Originally, I chose radio as a profession in order to become a sports broadcaster. I've always loved sports and grew up a Twins fan. A career in sports broadcasting seemed to make sense; however that changed. In March of 2023, I interviewed for the Chief Engineering position with RPR as well as a Fargo marketing agency. Ultimately, I accepted the marketing opportunity. This past January, RPR reached out and asked if I was interested in the position again. After some prayer, reflection, and long talks with my wife, I felt I was being drawn back to radio. I joined the team this past March and I feel blessed for the opportunity. I look forward to being a valuable, member of the RPR family.



DOUG WEINGARDT

Listener Relationship Coordinator, Eastern SD

I was raised Catholic but was not always practicing my faith as I was called to do. I had a profound conversion to Christ in 2015, and my goal now is to help people so they may also experience the joy of a deeper conversion. My wife, Gina and I, have been married for 28 years and have two beautiful daughters. I have been with Real Presence Radio for five months now and I am filled with hope by the amount of love and generosity of those in our listening area. I am encouraged and inspired when folks share their stories with me and I have come to realize that for a lot of people, this is more than a radio station. RPR has become their way of life in a very turbulent time.



Diocese of Crookston | Diocese of Duluth

STAR OF THE NORTH

Eucharistic Congress 2024

Sanford Center
Bemidji, MN

May 17 & 18, 2024

CrookstonEucharist.org

A promotional graphic for the Star of the North Eucharistic Congress 2024. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper right corner. On the left, there is a painting of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. The text is white and yellow, providing details about the event, including the dioceses involved, the location (Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN), the dates (May 17 & 18, 2024), and the website (CrookstonEucharist.org).



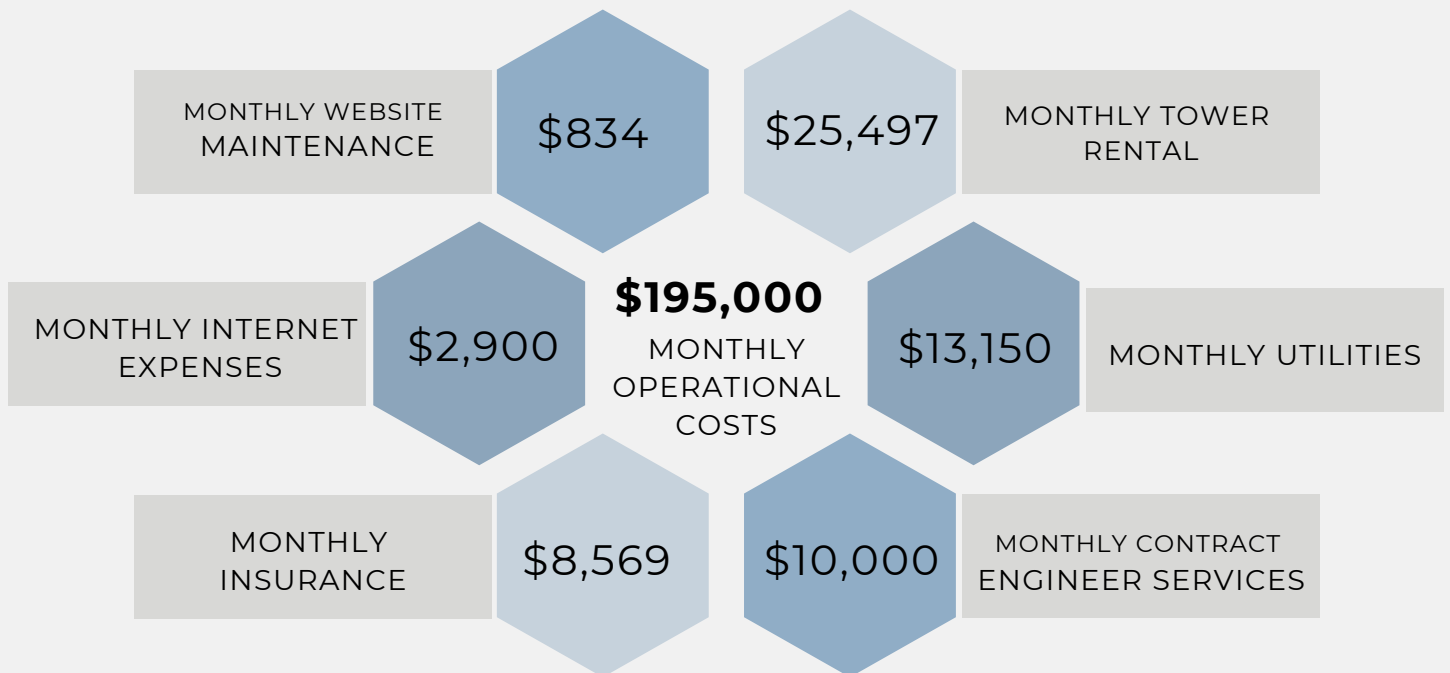
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Our Mission is to assist the Roman Catholic Church in drawing all people to the knowledge and love of Jesus and His Church through radio and other mediums, in full accord with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.