

Real Presence Radio Review

RPR
NETWORK

Your Family of Faith & Hope

North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin

September 2016

A Challenge to Truth and Beauty

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

Jamestown (AF)
FM 99.7

Belcourt (AF)
FM 98.9

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By Jessica Skroch

A few years ago, Nathan and Angelia Sather met Doug Barry of EWTN, a father of five. Parents of seven daughters themselves, they asked him how he kept his kids Catholic. He replied, "I approach everything as a challenge. I tell them, the world is going to tell you that we're idiots, we're bigots, we're repressive, or whatever the case may be, and I challenge you. They say you're going to leave the faith because your dad's in ministry. They say you're going to leave the faith because the Church isn't relevant. Prove them wrong." This philosophy is one Nathan and Angelia, a revert and a convert, employ as they seek to raise their daughters to keep the faith.

This challenge encourages Nathan and Angelia to keep learning more about the Catholic faith every day. One of the things they love about the Church is her logic, which led Nathan back to the Church. When Nathan was discovering his faith, he was listening to the Bible on CD—and being surprised by how Catholic it sounded! Upon this realization, he began listening to EWTN podcasts, which continued to lead him further back into the Church. Meanwhile, Angelia, who was not raised in any faith, was spending time with her grandmother, a Catholic, who was dying of cancer. When Angelia asked her if she was scared, she replied, "Oh, no, I've lived a full life, and if the Lord wants to take me, He can take me—I'm ready to go!" Angelia knew that she wanted to have a faith like that, saying, "I wanted to be reassured that at the end of my life, I would be in the care of the Lord and have a place to go—a good place."

Then the parents of two children under two, the Sathers struggled with the Church's teaching on birth control, but agree that it didn't take very long to see the beauty and genius of the Catholic Church. In Nathan's words, "We decided to live our faith before we really believed it or understood it, and living the

Church's teachings in the area of human sexuality helped us to see the beauty of the teaching. We couldn't really see the beauty of the teaching before we started to live it."

Nathan and Angelia now seek to live their lives in an intentional pursuit of Truth and Beauty as they continue to grow and learn more about the faith. A military family, they've lived in places with and without Catholic radio. "You do see the difference that it has, and I've been



blessed in my faith tremendously," says Nathan. "When we were in Texas last summer, we listened to RPR through the app, and it kept us connected. You wonder who's listening, and then you tune in to the Live Drive, and you hear all of the people who are committed to Catholic radio, and it just reminds you, wow, I'm really part of a much larger, universal Catholic community, spread through four or five states. It's amazing to be a part of! It's helping reshape the future of the Church."

The Sathers will be joining us to share more of their story and their perspective on the importance of Truth and Beauty in the life of the Church during the upcoming Live Drive. Tune in at 4:00 p.m. CST, Friday, September 16th to hear more!

A Perspective on Life Goals

by Steve Splonskowski

My wife and I recently had a series of conversations in which we explored our thoughts and feelings on what kind of life we desire for ourselves and our children, and what the Lord desires for us. The subtopics included family time, activities and vacation, education, finances, time at home and projects we enjoy. In the end we narrowed the whole conversation down to two basic concepts to direct our decision-making: our desire, and we believe the Lord's desire for our family, is to live a simple life and to be good stewards of the resources God has given us.

It was a very productive conversation, but it didn't end there. The next step we took and are taking is to define what these mean to us. One definition of living the simple life could be having few things or surviving on as little niceties as possible. However, in our discussion we unearthed an idea of living the simple life as *relying on God's providence for everything*: prioritizing relationships with God, spouse and family over all other things and valuing possessions based on how well they contribute to/detract from these priorities. We also discussed the importance of actively, faithfully and logically discerning acquisitions, the use of these things, and how the Lord might wish to use them for His good plan.

This discussion gave rise to a conversation we then had with our children. We spoke with them about how every good thing is a gift that God has intentionally given to us, and even the struggles can be gifts if we turn to Him for direction. The Lord's gifts are reminders of His love for us and also call us to share with others. Thus, each time we experience or receive a gift, we told the children, we should first

thank the Lord for His love for us and then ask: "how would you like to use this gift to bless others?" This way we allow the Lord to create in each of us a *well of generosity* that He can fill to overflowing *to reach a thirsting world*. (Pope Benedict XVI)

The next question we pondered was, for us, what is the measure of stewardship and good use of resources? Some obvious subtopics here were reducing debt, living within our means, etc. In this discussion, we agreed that *having*

gratitude and being generous no matter how little or how much we have was a good safeguard against ever losing sight of our first priority: living a simple life. Some ways we discussed putting this

into practice are: making sure that we are actively aware of the needs of others around us and contributing to those needs in an intentional and generous way with time, talents and treasure in an equal way—not reserving one for ourselves, but giving of them all equally. We often find ourselves, at different times, attached to our time, talent, treasure or belongings, and need to be reminded to share, give and borrow them all to others without counting the cost.

These discussions were challenging and are, no doubt, ongoing: continuing to shape and be shaped by our discernment. I invite and challenge you to consider the question: what kind of life do you desire and what does the Lord desire for you? So often we allow life to happen to us and we barely have enough time to react to it. What if we made life react to us, and fit within our priorities directed by the Lord?

"The Lord's gifts are reminders of His love for us."

"We've been very blessed by Catholic radio. When it came to town, I thought, 'It's a good thing; we're going to help support that, but I don't really see myself listening.' But it's at the point that it's pretty much the only thing we listen to. My faith has deepened, and my attachment to and love of the Church has come a long way, and a lot of that is because of Catholic radio."

-Deacon Ray Long, Dickinson

What's Your Call?

by Fr. Josh Waltz



Have you ever thought about air? Air is all around you. It's within you, it's touching you, it's in this church, it's outside. It's affecting you at all moments, but you can't see it. But you know it's there! When we see air is when it affects other things. It's the same with the

Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is all around us—He's everywhere. Within us, outside of us, in this church, in this world. We don't see Him. But when He affects things, then we see His work.

There was once this nun over in Rome, and she said, "I don't know what happens when I pray. I can't see Jesus; I don't see the Spirit. But I do know what happens when I don't pray. Life gets pretty dismal and pretty ugly." Many times, we can see the effects of the Spirit after the Spirit has been there, just as we can see the effects of a tornado after it passes through. Wind can be this gentle breeze as you're sitting on a boat, but that same breeze can speed up to about 180 miles per hour, become a tornado, and can literally lift your boat out of the water and throw it a good mile. Just air.

Have you ever played golf in high wind? It's next to impossible! I went to this little course once in Omaha, and there was a plaque in the club, "Guinness Book of World Records: Longest Hole-in-One: 475 yards." That's impossible! I can hit it 300 if I'm lucky!

One of the guys said, "How did this happen? Nobody can hit 475 yards on the drive!"

The man at the club replied, "That's true, unless you have a 60 mile-per-hour wind behind you."

When you have wind behind you, working with you, life is a lot easier. It's the same in the life of the Spirit. When you get in line with the Spirit's wind, with the life of the Spirit, life flows easier. When

you try to buck the system, when you try to push against the Spirit, against Truth, that's when things get difficult. That's when life gets messy. When that wind enters into you, and when you get in line with that wind, you get fire! Fire comes!

What's the first thing the Apostles do after they receive the Holy Spirit? They start talking! They talk so fast and so much and in so many languages that people think they're drunk. And they do it in public!

I think one of the greatest travesties of our faith in the modern world is that we are told as Christians, "You do what you do, but do it in the privacy of your own homes. Don't bring it out into the public square." That's ridiculous! It's not Biblical! From the very foundations of the Church, we did it publicly. We got up on the main stage, in front of everybody, and we said, "Jesus Christ is Lord—He is the Truth!"

One of the most famous speeches of St. John Paul II was in Poland. They were under the Communist regime, and he stood up, and he said, "Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of this land." Do you know what happened? The Holy Spirit came. That wind toppled one of the greatest evil regimes the world has ever seen. There is nothing that the Spirit can't do if we call upon Him as a united force!

What were the Apostles doing at the beginning? They were sitting in the Upper Room, praying. The foundations of the Church, of the spiritual life, start with prayer. The wind, the life breath of God, comes into the Church and into our lives, and we are sent on mission. Do you feel sent on mission? Do you feel a call to go out and evangelize the people in your workplace? Because that's your call.

We're entering into an incredible time right now. I think we are entering into the rise of the laity. It's time that we start stepping up. We are going to go with the wind of the Spirit, which is the wind of Truth. The Spirit can renew all things if we call upon Him. Today, we pray with the entire Church, "Come Holy Spirit, renew our hearts, that we might once again follow the teachings of the son of God, Jesus Christ."

Fr. Josh Waltz is Vocation Director for the Diocese of Bismarck. This content is from a homily, available in full on the Diocese of Bismarck website, and is reprinted here with permission.



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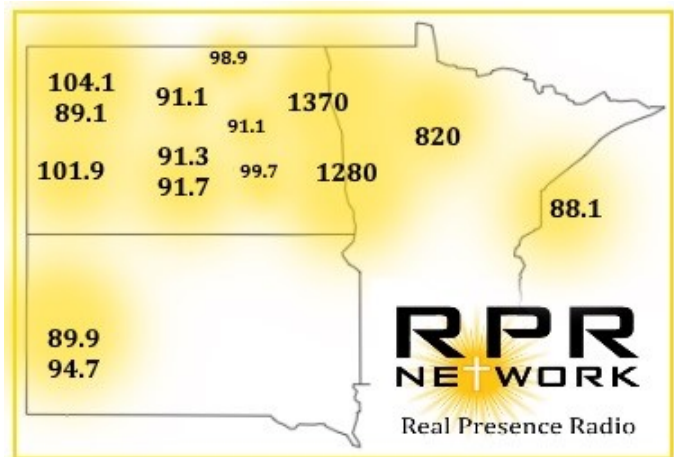
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Fall Live Drive September 14, 15, & 16

In our last newsletter, we shared that we would be travelling for our Spring Live Drive, visiting Duluth, Bemidji, and Grand Forks. We enjoyed our travels so much that we're doing it again! September 14th-16th, we'll broadcast our Fall Live Drive from Rapid City, Dickinson, Bismarck, and Moorhead. We're so excited for this opportunity to bring you live stories from the cities across our Real Presence Radio family network! Our guests include Bishop Gruss, Bishop Folda, Bishop Kagan, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and many more. To see the full schedule of guests, go to <https://yourcatholicradiostation.com/live-drive>.

As we continue to grow, expanding to 15 signals across the Midwest, we are continuously blessed in hearing new testimonies of faith and hope from people whose relationship with Christ has grown because of Catholic radio. As our listening family expands, however, so do our expenses. The operating expenses for our network of stations are now more than \$100,000 per month. To cover these costs, our goal for the Fall Live Drive is to

raise \$325,000 and have 1,000 participants. Will you tune in and prayerfully consider making a donation to help us bring the Gospel and change hearts across the Midwest?



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