

*Alive in  
the Spirit*

**SPIRIT**



**RADIO**



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**Winter 2021**

**Welcome** to the 15<sup>th</sup> quarterly issue of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio's* newsletter **Alive in the Spirit** (Winter 2021, Vol. 4, No. 3). Current and past issues of this newsletter are available through our Facebook page, our website, and via email. You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending your request to us at [office@catholicspiritradio.com](mailto:office@catholicspiritradio.com). Future issues will arrive in your email on a seasonal basis – autumn, winter, spring, and summer. Email us today so you'll never miss future issues.



## CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO TO CELEBRATE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

WSPI-FM, *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*, an ETWN affiliate, began broadcasting to McLean County on March 9, 2011. It began with a 3,000-watt signal transmitted by second-hand equipment from an old AT&T telephone relay tower near Saybrook, Illinois. The radio station had no sponsors, no listeners, and no budget. At first, *Catholic Spirit Radio* was supported entirely with personal money from a few generous individuals and trust in the beneficence of a good God. Jon Hall, WSPI's founder and today's president and chief operating officer, was inspired by Mother Angelica's words, *"Unless you are willing to do the ridiculous, God will not do the miraculous. When you have God, you don't have to know everything about it; you just do it."*

Ten years later, we have seen the miraculous. Today, we have a radio network that has grown to include new transmitters in Saybrook, Bloomington, Pontiac, and Lincoln. We now broadcast to three counties, have a potential listening audience of some 250,000, and are backed by nearly two dozen business sponsors presently. Our current annual operating budget – provided by our listeners – exceeded \$100,000 last year. We have a centralized

office in Normal where we are building a new studio and have a dozen active volunteers. The Lord indeed has been good.

Join us during 2021 as we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this radio station. Listen for special on-air announcements from the EWTN Global Radio Network home office in Birmingham, Alabama, as they recognize our achievement on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Join us for a year-long celebration of this event on air and via Facebook. Listen in as we tell our story about those who built it and who make it work...

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

At the end of each calendar year, *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* prepares and releases its annual report. This year's report will detail events around the station and transmission sites. It will be released by the end of February through our Facebook page, our website, and via email. You may receive our 2020 Annual Report by sending your request March 1<sup>st</sup> or later to [office@catholicspiritradio.com](mailto:office@catholicspiritradio.com).

## RECOGNIZING OUR SPONSORS

Thanks to each and every one of our business sponsors who currently sustain our station: OSF Healthcare, Tevoert Automotive, Central Catholic High School, Ron Smith Printing, Nybakke Vacuum Shop, Annie's Eats Carry Out and Catering, Picture This Outdoor Advertising, Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home, Thrivent Financial, S & S Paint and Body, Danny B's Gourmet Popcorn and Gifts, The Village at Mercy Creek (all in Bloomington), College Hills Meat Shop, Sherman's, Fulton Remodeling, Community Healthcare Clinic (all in Normal), Fogarty's Garage, Lyons-Sullivan Realty, Gem's Carpet Cleaning Plus, Pontiac Knights of Columbus #854 (all in Pontiac), and Atlanta Locker (Atlanta). We hope our listeners in turn will support these businesses. When you visit, please let them know that you heard about them on *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*.

## ORA ET LABORA

Prayer and work (ora et labora) continue to be the lifeblood of this network. Events continued to unfold at *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* during the last quarter of 2020, including some significant losses and blessings.

### Events



*Msgr. Soseman (1963-2020)*

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of [Monsignor Richard Soseman](#) who listeners will know from his radio show *JMJ Moment* heard on this network. Monsignor Soseman, Pastor of three parishes in Peru, Illinois, passed away from complications of COVID-19 on the morning of December 9<sup>th</sup>. He was 57 years old.

It is worth noting that after working so diligently on the Cause of the Beatification of the Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Monsignor Soseman died on the anniversary of Venerable Sheen’s death. Msgr. Soseman had been hospitalized for several days. We request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

Several new approaches were implemented during the autumn to help the station raise necessary operating funds. We first connected with *Giving Tuesday* on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Then, we held our first ever autumn Care-A-Thon from December 8-10<sup>th</sup> when we played seven different testimonials explaining why listeners support *Catholic Spirit Radio*. Lastly, we conducted our now annual Christmas “postcard” campaign during which we mailed 671 post cards and emailed a somewhat larger number of prior donors. We also appealed using postcard images through Facebook. These special events have helped to sustain us in our work, but so have the many prayers that listeners have offered on the network’s behalf. Thanks so much for being part of our efforts.

“That’s part of what the outreach through the *JMJ Moment* is all about, trying to remind everyone that Jesus loves them, that he wants a relationship with them through his Church, no matter who they are. . . .”  
 — Msgr. Richard Soseman

Plans continue to develop for an open house event at our new office and studio at 108 Boeykens Place in Normal. Visitors will soon be able to see our new office, control room, production studio, conference room, and prayer room with a display of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen memorabilia. Work continues on finishing installation of several displays and workstations in time for open house events likely to be scheduled after *SPIRIT Radio’s* 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic subsides. Stay tuned for details and be sure to like us and follow us on Facebook.

### Transmitters and Studio

Last July, CSR suffered a serious blow when its aging transmitter near Saybrook, IL, failed. We were, with the grace of God, able to limp along at low power. Then, much to our surprise, an anonymous couple stepped forward and paid for a new transmitter! The new transmitter was installed on November 4<sup>th</sup> and we now have an effective radiating power of some 7,000 watts! There have been some minor problems with the new transmitter, but these are being quickly remedied.

Our transmitter at Pontiac continues to operate at about 2/3 peak power due to an amplifier failure. Nonetheless, our signal is strong enough to reach nearly all of Livingston County. Operations continue apace in Bloomington and Lincoln with no problems reported.

Efforts to install a new production unit and computer control software continues at our new studio in Normal.

Construction began in November when we subdivided a large room to serve as a production studio and office space. As of early January, the installation of the production studio was about 2/3 way complete. Wiring of a “mixing board” and the associated recording and processing units is a very time-consuming procedure and is slowing down our efforts.

Have you noticed the giant rosary now adorning the north side of our building at 108 Boeykens Place in Normal? This huge display was installed during December and reminds southbound passing motorists of the need to pray without ceasing.

## CATHOLIC-IN-ACTION



*Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.  
(Hebrews 12:28)*

The Real Presence. *The! Real! Presence!* Jesus is truly there when we receive holy Communion! The bread is no longer bread – transubstantiation – but it is Jesus. This truth is a glorious gift to us. However, as humans, this concept is barely fathomable. The How? What? Why? are humbly replaced by our Catholic faith.

Even as we believe this truth, it is easy to fall prey to routine. Each time that we attend Mass and each time that we approach the altar to receive Communion, do our hearts soar at the thought of receiving Jesus? Blessed are those who are pure in their Communion actions! Their hearts leap and their adoration reflect this awesome time with The Real Presence. These are the people who today's Catholic-In-Action recognize. Although unnamed in this article, there are many.

Have you witnessed such Catholics-In-Action? Their reverence may be private, subtle, or obvious. Are you one of them? We hope so! But if not, now is the time for you to rethink and recalculate what you are lacking in action as a recipient of the Body and Blood of Christ. Pursue that change. The Real Presence!

Whether already an exemplary Communicant or you desire to be one, the following story poignantly written by Patrick Madrid is offered to you. May it provide you (and those to whom you pass it along) a spiritual awakening and another step closer to our Lord. Please read on...

### The Mormon

One evening, at the conclusion of a parish lecture I gave on the history of the Catholic Faith, a Mormon gentleman in attendance asked if we could discuss further a few issues I had raised, "Sure thing," I said. As

we walked over to the church hall where refreshments were being served, he asked me, "What was that curtsy thing you did up at the front of the church when your talk was over?"

I understood what he meant. "Oh, you mean when I dropped down for a moment on one knee? We call that a 'genuflection' in the Catholic Church, and we do that to show reverence for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." He nodded thoughtfully, his right hand holding his chin, as I explained the Real Presence and how the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the metal tabernacle in the center of the sanctuary. I was pleased by his interest and the opportunity to teach him something central about the Catholic Church. My satisfaction subsided quickly, though when a look of doubt passed over his face like a shadow obscuring the sun. He clearly wasn't buying what I had just told him.

"That's interesting," he said thoughtfully. "I guess I *have* heard before that Catholics believe all that, but I never really knew why. We Mormons don't regard the communion bread we use at our sacrament meeting as anything more than a symbol. An important symbol, of course, but just a symbol. It's just bread." He paused for a few moments and, just as I was about to continue my mini-lesson on the Real Presence, he interjected: "But I really don't get the impression that most Catholics believe what you just said about 'the Eucharist.'"

"Oh?" I asked, eyebrows arched. "You don't think so? And why is that?" His comment took me aback. I mean, as a Catholic I figured that I'd know a whole heck of a lot better than what he, a Mormon, could possibly know about what Catholics believe, especially on something as central and foundational to

Catholicism as the Eucharist.

“Well,” he said, “not to be disrespectful to you or anything, but I've been to several Catholic weddings where Mass was performed,” (I decided not to interrupt and explain that the Mass isn't *performed*, it's *celebrated*) “and I've also been to Mass for other Catholic events, and the Catholics I've seen there sure didn't seem as though they believed what you just said about Jesus being in the Eucharist.”

“What do you mean?” I queried.

“For example,” he said, “I've seen Catholics going forward to get Communion chewing gum” (I decided not to interrupt to explain that we don't *get* Communion, we *receive* Communion). “Some Catholics look pretty bored. I've seen some waving to others as they go forward. In fact, I've watched to see if there's any 'before and after' difference in the attitudes or appearance of the Catholics I've seen take communion. And there isn't, at least not that I've ever seen. They look disinterested and indifferent.”

At this, I started feeling a bit uncomfortable because I knew what he was saying is true of some, maybe many, Catholics who *don't* show much if any reverence when receiving Holy Communion. I winced interiorly at a memory that flashed through my mind just then of an elderly woman organist at a Mass I attended years earlier who *didn't even stop playing* when the priest walked over to give her Communion. She kept playing with her right hand and, without looking away from the keyboard, she jerked out her arm and the priest palmed a host into her left hand. She popped it into her mouth as casually as if it had been a potato chip or a handful of popcorn.

That's when I realize, to my horror, that what this Mormon was describing – the generalized lack of respect for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that stems directly from the generalized lack of *faith* that he is truly present – was actually true.

“As I say,” he added. “I'm not trying to be disrespectful or anything, but I just don't think Catholics believe what you believe on this issue.”

I stood there silently, letting the awful truth of his words sink in. How very tragic, I thought to myself, that Catholics could be so cavalier and careless that they literally *couldn't care less* about the single greatest gift Jesus gave to his Church in the Holy Eucharist. What

the Mormon guy said next was the worst part.

“You see, if I believed what you believe about the 'communion bread,' I mean, if I truly believed that this is really *God himself* and not just a symbol, I would fall flat on my face and be prostrate before it – him. I would be so overcome with awe and worship. And I've never seen any Catholic show that kind of respect. So...I guess they just don't believe it.”

I don't remember anything else of the conversation that evening. This Mormon had spoken a terrible truth so clearly and with such devastating accuracy that it's all I could think about for the rest of our discussion. I've thought about it many times since.

And this is the lesson I learned from him: yes, we Catholics can edify and educate and evangelize non-Catholics when we try to, but we can also *dis*-edify, *dis*combobulate, and *de*-evangelize them without even trying, without saying a word, simply by dint of our sheer laziness and complacency and our lack of reverence for sacred things.



*How do you approach the Real Presence?*

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Chapter 46 from *Life Lessons: Fifty Things I Learned in My First Fifty Years*. Re-printed with permission of the author, Patrick Madrid, host of the daily “Patrick Madrid Show” on Relevant Radio, [www.relevantradio.com/patrick](http://www.relevantradio.com/patrick).

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If you know someone to nominate for C-I-A recognition, please send their name and a brief explanation to [office@catholicspiritradio.com](mailto:office@catholicspiritradio.com).

## PROGRAM UPDATES



Fr. Gary Blake

Following the loss of Msgr. Soseman, the *JMJ Moment* now features Fr. Gary Blake as principle homilist. Fr. Blake has been delivering the *JMJ Moment* since his first recording on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He was recently appointed pastor of St. Valentine's, St. Mary's, and St. Joseph's parishes in Peru.

Deacon Al Lundy, serving both Holy Trinity and Historic St. Patrick in Bloomington started a new program aimed at high school youth. His program, *Good News!*, began on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It runs Saturday and Sunday evenings from 8:00-8:30 PM.

Both programs also can be heard as podcasts on the *Catholic Spirit Radio* website. Welcome to our new hosts!



Deacon Al Lundy

## PLEASE HELP US BY USING AMAZON SMILE

As an Amazon Smile shopper, you can donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase costs to *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*, also known legally as 2820 Communications. Before making your next purchase, you will need to log into smile.amazon.com and then search and select 2820 Communications or choose this charity under your account settings.

## CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO ON FACEBOOK

Are you aware that *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* has a very active Facebook page? This page includes **Mother Angelica** daily quotes, announcements, podcasts. Be sure to check us out, like us, follow us, and share with others. Our Facebook page can be found at the following URL: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicspiritradio/>.

## LISTENING APPS

Don't forget that *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* has free listening apps for use with smartphones and tablets. Versions are available for both Android and iOS. They are also available in English and Spanish. Search "Spirit Radio 89.5" or "Radio Espiritu 89.5" (for the Spanish version) in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Currently, EWTN Radio Classics is being replaced by EWTN Radio Essentials, providing special prayer programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## WHAT'S ONLINE?

*Catholic SPIRIT Radio* team members have researched articles and local and national podcasts for information and uplifting views about the recent quarantine. An index of helpful resources can be found at <http://catholicspiritradio.com/faith-in-quarantine/>. These resources will serve to keep our faith alive and growing during quarantine. There's also information about how to receive a quarantine-related plenary indulgence as well as blessings during talk radio programs. We provide special prayers for an end to pandemic and creative *quarantine poetry*.

Our community calendar of Catholic events includes streamed events. Our website's local Mass schedule includes information about local churches that stream Mass. You will find also prayer requests, movie reviews, daily Mass readings, Mass and Confession times, and opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration in Central Illinois parishes. You can find podcasts of our local radio shows... and more! Our website can be found at [www.catholicspiritradio.com](http://www.catholicspiritradio.com).