

*Alive in
the Spirit*

SPIRIT



RADIO



Inside this issue:

CATHOLIC-IN-ACTION: Patricia Pence and her work of caregiving.

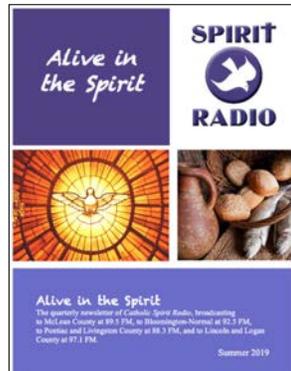
ORA ET LABORA: Significant challenges and blessings come to SPIRIT Radio.

SERVING THE LORD: How you can be part of the Catholic SPIRIT Radio ministry?

Autumn 2020

Welcome to the 14th issue of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio's* quarterly newsletter *Alive in the Spirit* (Autumn 2020, Vol. 4, No. 2).

The newsletter is available through our Facebook page and our website. You may subscribe to this newsletter by sending a request to us by email at 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 an issue.



- We broadcast programs that originate with EWTN and several other Catholic radio networks. We even produce our own weekly programs dealing with topics of local interest.
- We transmit with four stations along a 100-mile stretch of Interstate 55 – from Pontiac, through Bloomington-Normal, to Lincoln, Illinois.
- We are heard in Livingston, McLean, and Logan counties, and beyond with a potential listening audience of 250,000.

As Pope Benedict XVI told us, *“The words that you transmit reach countless people, some of whom are alone and for whom your words come as a consoling gift, some of whom are curious and are intrigued by what they hear, some of who never attend church because they belong to different religions or to no religion at all, and others still who have never heard the name of Jesus Christ, yet through your service first come to hear the words of salvation.”* (Message to Catholic Radio Broadcasters, 2008)

WHAT WE DO AT SPIRIT RADIO

We take seriously the Great Commission given to us by Jesus:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a).

- We go out to where the people are; we won't wait for them to come into our churches.
- We reach out to saints and sinners, indeed all who need the loving mercy of the Lord.
- We use radio, internet, and social media to reach out to the lonely, the brokenhearted, the lukewarm, indeed, all who need Christ's love and mercy.

Catholic SPIRIT Radio's mission is to deepen the knowledge of Catholics (*catechesis*) and share the goodness, truth, and beauty of the entire deposit of faith to bring others to Christ Jesus through the Catholic Church (*evangelization*). These consist of explaining not only what we believe, but why we believe it (*apologetics*).

RECOGNIZING OUR SPONSORS

Thanks to each and every one of our business sponsors who help sustain our station: OSF Healthcare, Tevoert Automotive, Hermes Service and Sales, Central Catholic High School, Ron Smith Printing, Nybakke Vacuum Shop, Phillip Hermes, Annie's Eats Carry Out and Catering, Picture This Outdoor Advertising, Carmody-Flynn Funeral Home (all in Bloomington), College Hills Meat Shop, Sherman's, (all in Normal), Fogarty's Garage, Lyons-Sullivan Realty, Gem's Carpet Cleaning Plus, Pontiac Knights of Columbus #854, Duffy-Baier-Snedecor Funeral Home, (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*.

CATHOLIC-IN-ACTION

The Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusted and found help. (Psalm 28:7)

Caregiving. This role is not always chosen but arrives suddenly for some while gradually for others. Many people provide loving care for family, friends, and sometimes strangers. It is a role with physical demands, emotional ties, and organizational tasks. Some caregivers work in tandem with a facility while other caregivers are 100% at home with their loved one. The latter was the case for Patricia Pence when she cared for her husband.

Pat and Bill Pence were married for twenty-three years this past August. While the majority of those years were spent in typical fashion, the last eight years included Bill's declining health. Thus, Pat assumed the role of caregiver, lovingly ministering to her husband "until death do us part." Whether it was going to doctor appointments, assisting with personal needs, seeking entertainment, pushing a wheelchair, or attending Mass, Pat was at Bill's side. Many people witnessed her quiet, loving, faith-filled actions time and time again.

Pat recognizes how the Catholic faith and her relationship with God were prominent in her ability to perform the caregiver role which at different times was scary, exhausting, humbling, or overwhelmingly joyful. She mentioned the following things which strengthened her during that time: sharing prayers with her spouse, being firmly dedicated to her marriage vows, recognizing blessings, and finding heavenly comfort revealed through nature. One striking decision additionally resonating her faith was Pat's decision to execute certain tasks as if she were caring for Jesus Himself. It was not always easy or pleasant to be a caregiver, but her faith allowed Pat to gracefully and lovingly meet each challenge and ultimately to allow Bill to pass into the arms of Jesus this last September.

"Life has changed, not ended" was Pat's personal reminder as she and Bill redefined normal throughout



the years. She and Bill continued to make decisions together and she fostered his involvement in daily activities as well. In reflection, she offers the following advice for others in the caregiver role: 1) Find time for outings so that you can bring news back to the one at home. 2) Allow family and friends to assist you in the caregiver role. 3) Take care of your own health. 4) Be an active advocate for your loved one. 5) Remember that your caregiving tasks also can be your prayers. And finally, remind yourself that God is in charge.

Pat humbly acknowledges that there are many, many others who also have a caregiving role. Those who face this role with their Catholic faith firmly set in head, heart, and hand (just as Pat did) surely carry out a special mission for God. And that is why Patricia Pence is recognized as today's Catholic-In-Action.

Have you called upon and recognized God in your role as giver?

If you know someone that you'd like to nominate for C-I-A recognition, send their name and brief explanation to office@catholicspiritradio.com.

ORA ET LABORA

Events continued to unfold at *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* during the third quarter of the year, including some significant challenges and blessings. As if the COVID-19 pandemic and other problems associated with 2020 hadn't been enough already, we experienced substantial, expensive problems with equipment but also received some great help from donors.

Facilities

- Transmitters near Saybrook (WSPI) and in Pontiac (WPJC) encountered significant and costly electrical problems late June through mid-July. While it seems that *Old Scratch* has been working overtime to keep us off the air, there were several major donors whose better angels have come to our aid; thanks be to God!
- The effective radiating power of our WPJC transmitter (88.3 FM) in Pontiac dropped from 1,500 watts to 450 watts on July 4th (30% of our licensed maximum) due to electrical problems that occurred a day earlier. Then, when a powerful thunderstorm passed through Pontiac on July 19th, our antenna evidently was stuck by lightning destroying both antenna and transmitter components. The radiating power was again dropped, but this time to 150 watts, only 10% of our licensed power. The repairs required the replacement of a universal power supply and a fuse in our studio-to-transmitter microwave link, parts and repairs for transmitter, combiner, and antenna, new cabling, and a tower climb to diagnose antenna problems and then remove part of our antenna for repair. By August 29th, limited repairs were made allowing us to increase output to 67% of our maximum operating power. On October 7th, the repaired antenna was returned to the transmission tower. Still, the problem of not operating at full power was unsolved. This is likely due to some sort of "cascade failure" in other transmitter elements. We continue to search for the final solution. The cost of this work and equipment thus far is \$7,000. Additional repair work and one more tower climb must take place before we can return the transmitter to full power. Fortunately, *SPIRIT Radio* had sufficient financial reserves to play to these costly repairs.
- Our WSPI (89.5 FM) transmitter near Saybrook failed without warning on July 7th and we were off the air for parts of July 7-8. Following efforts to correct the failure likely caused by overheating, we were able to begin

transmitting the next day at 20% of our 6,000-watt licensed power. Due to intractable problems with the failed transmitter (purchased used in 2011) and two components called exciters, the transmitter had to be completely replaced. It will soon be situated in a newly constructed housing with supplemental air conditioning. The combined cost of replacement, repairs, and new components will be about \$17,000 (to say nothing of the value of the volunteer labor) by the time the work is done.

Thankfully, a dedicated listening couple came forward with a gift to cover the entire cost of the new transmitter, its housing, and a new AC unit. The new transmitter has a maximum radiating power from of only 3,850 watts (allowing us to broadcast at about 60% of our 6,000-watt licensed maximum) but purchasing a more powerful transmitter was out of the question due to our limited financial means. Only the fringes of our listening area will be affected by this lower power.

- The broadcast from our Lincoln translator (97.1 FM) seems to intermittently fail due to faulty internet service. We still need to mount a receiver antenna high up on a tower in Lincoln to pick up our radio signal from Saybrook – another costly endeavor that is being delayed for the time being. This might necessitate the move of our antenna to a new tower in the Lincoln area.
- Our translator in Bloomington (92.5 FM) continues to hum along without significant problem. It appears as though recently someone has been "playing games" with our power shut-off switch which has knocked us off the air several times. That problem has been resolved, but "when it rains, it pours" as the old saying goes.
- The final phase of work associated with our move to new offices within the Great Plains Media building at 108 Boeykens Place in Normal is drawing to a close. Our new office is up and running, most of our electronics have been moved from their prior location, and we are now installing a new production studio and office space dedicated solely to the use of *SPIRIT Radio*. Fortunately, a dedicated donor couple has given the station \$3,500 to help cover the costs of the move. We are looking forward to an open house after the start of the new year so we can showcase

these important and necessary additions to *SPiRiT Radio* and celebrate the station's 10th anniversary next March. Stay tuned for details.

- To assist with financial matters, *SPiRiT Radio* has appointed one of its Advisory Board members to serve as a part-time financial officer. Such a move was mandated by the fact that the financial complexities of managing a four-station radio network are growing. The same can be said about our financial needs. The new financial officer will work without remuneration.

Plans continue to develop for a series of open house events at our new location at 108 Boeykens Place in Normal. Visitors will soon be able to see our new main office, control room, production studio, chapel, conference room, Ven. Fulton J. Sheen display materials, and more. Work continues apace to finish installation of a number of displays and workstations in time for open house events likely to be scheduled around *SPiRiT Radio's* 10th anniversary on March 9, 2021.

Events



Catholic SPiRiT Radio was one of several business sponsors for the Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham Memorial Golf Outing on September 14th. The event, held by the Knights of Columbus' Fr. Joseph Boylan, Jr. Council 15175 at St.

Patrick's of Merna, took place at Crestwicke Country Club in Bloomington. The event was held to raise money for Central Catholic High School scholarships, the Corpus Christi Middle School athletic fund, and possibly other charitable causes. Our support consisted of producing and airing promotional spots for the event.



With the assistance of Picture This Outdoor Advertising, *SPiRiT Radio* now has another digital display along Veterans Parkway in Bloomington. Joining our digital display at OFS St. Joseph's Hospital, the new display ad (shown above) is located on the east side of Veterans Parkway not far from Dairy Queen. This display ad will run for the next year.

2019-2020 FINANCIAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Catholic SPiRiT Radio's financial report for FY20 (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020) is now available. The report will become part of our *2020 Annual Report* after the end of the year. The financial report will soon be available on our website. If you would like to receive the *FY20 Financial Report* now, please email your request to office@catholicspiritradio.com.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR MINISTRY

- **Listen** daily at home, online, through our listening app, and any time you are in the car. Truth is not only for Sundays!
- **Pray** for the work of *Catholic SPiRiT Radio* and for all to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit that their hearts might be open to the goodness, truth, and beauty of the Catholic faith.
- **Share** the good news of Christ by letting others know about the *Catholic SPiRiT Radio* network and its saving ministry.
- **Volunteer** your time and talent to help us reach the faithful, those who have fallen away from the faith, and those who have never heard the *Good News* of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE HELP TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO

Catholic SPIRIT Radio is the work of lay volunteers. Our staff includes no paid employees. *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* a listener-supported 501(c)(3) corporation that receives no direct financial support from EWTN, the Diocese of Peoria, or the government. By contributing financially to the work of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*, you can have a significant positive impact on lives and souls in our community.

- **Donating** financially will allow you to play a larger role in our apostolate. We now have annual operating expenses of over \$60,000 per year. Donations can be made in any form. We gladly accept checks, credit card payments, electronic fund transfers, bequests (by naming *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* as a beneficiary in wills or insurance policies) and using many other instruments.
- **Sponsoring** business promotions or local weather forecasts also can help us cover our annual operating expenses.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP

Heed the **Great Commission** of Christ by helping this ministry. For answers to your questions, please email us at office@catholicspiritradio.com, phone us at (309) 807-2427, or write us at *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*, 108 Boeykens Pl, Normal, IL 61761.

HELP 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 Espíritu 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.