

*Alive in
the Spirit*

SPIRIT



RADIO



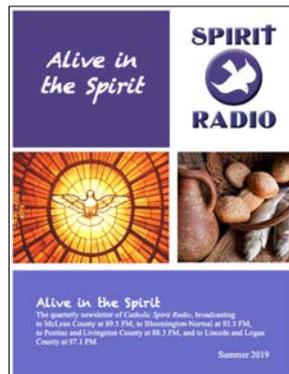
Alive in the Spirit

The quarterly newsletter of *Catholic Spirit Radio*, broadcasting to McLean County at 89.5 FM, to Bloomington-Normal at 92.5 FM, to Pontiac and Livingston County at 88.3 FM, and to Lincoln and Logan County at 97.1 FM.

Spring 2020

Welcome to the twelfth issue of *SPIRIT Radio's* quarterly newsletter *Alive in the Spirit* (Spring 2020, Vol. 3, No. 4).

The newsletter is also available through our Facebook page and our website. You may subscribe to this newsletter by emailing us at office@catholicspiritradio.com. Issues will then arrive in your email on a seasonal basis – winter, spring, summer, and autumn. Write us today so you never miss an issue.



CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO & COVID-19

Since early March when COVID-19 really started making its presence felt, most *Catholic Spirit Radio* volunteers have stayed at home with the exceptions of Jon Hall, our Chief Operating Officer, and Advisory Board members Ann Weber and Kathy Fulton. These are essential personnel without whom the station cannot operate. We thank them for their selfless and dedicated efforts. Clearly, they are taking personal risks for the sake of our listeners.

Until the Coronavirus pandemic subsides, the members of the Advisory Board will be holding their monthly meetings online in order to practice “social distancing” so necessary at this time.

You might have heard that *Catholic Spirit Radio Classics* available on our listening app has had a change of format due to COVID-19. On March 25th, Classics became *EWTN Radio Essentials*, broadcasting only the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, prayers and devotionals. The Mass is airing every other hour between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 PM each day with Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplets and other devotional

content mixed in. We hope to storm heaven on behalf of the entire Mystical Body of Christ and the larger Human Family. These changes will remain in effect until such time as the crisis ends.

SPIRIT RADIO BIBLE STUDY DELAYED

While *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* had planned to make a test run for Catholic Bible study this spring, the situation with COVID-19 has prevented it. Stay tuned to the station’s various outlets (radio, internet, Facebook) to learn more about this opportunity when it can be scheduled.

WHAT’S NEW?

During February, we recorded students at Epiphany School as they recited the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary. The recording soon will be heard on selected evenings starting at 8:30 PM.

Beginning Monday, March 30th, Mother Miriam has replaced Dr. Greg & Lisa Popcak during the 9:00 AM hour. This provides a bit more variety in the type of morning programming. Let us know what you think about this change by emailing us at office@catholicspiritradio.com.

We have lots of new events scheduled for late summer and autumn – planning an August pilgrimage to Wisconsin, helping to sponsor a September golf outing, and hosting an October banquet with special ETWN speaker Dr. Ray Guarendi. See page 4 for details.

WHAT’S ONLINE?

Have you checked us out online recently? You will find a listing of Catholic events on the Community Calendar, 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.

CATHOLIC-IN-ACTION



*I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you.
(Philippians 1:3)*

When a spouse dies, one's world often becomes void of companionship and purpose. It is tempting to remain in solitude and be inactive. This was *not* the case with Evelyn Ribordy of Pontiac! She wholeheartedly immersed herself in the same organization that her now deceased husband helped to establish.

Back in 1983 because of the compassion, tenacity, and foresight of Board Members at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pontiac, the doors were opened for a community food and clothing pantry. Bill Ribordy, a devoted Catholic, was one of those board members. Bill eventually met and married Evelyn who lovingly states, "The best gift he gave to me was [leading me to] Catholicism!" Both were devoted to their faith, regularly visiting the Adoration Chapel.

It wasn't until after Bill's death that Evelyn threw herself into the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry ministry. That was 25 years ago! Blossoming from an initial location in a small house near the church, the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry's location moved three times and is now newly located in a renovated, spacious building that services 110-150 families per week. It has become a place where clients are welcomed, respected, and cared for.

Evelyn started her volunteer role by sorting clothes at the pantry. Over the years she increased and assumed various other tasks including coordinating tasks for volunteers, purchasing and organizing food donations, and being the liaison to the Parish Council. It's not unusual for Evelyn to be called to the Pantry, even on days that it is closed, to assist with an unforeseen situation. Never knowing what her day might bring, each morning Evelyn recites this prayer written by Fr. Mychal Judge, O.F.M.:

*Lord, take me where You want me to go;
Let me meet who You want me to meet;
Tell me what You want me to say;
And keep me out of Your way.*

Although Evelyn has three children, eight grandkids, and sixteen great-grand kids, she devotes a large amount of time each week to the pantry's mission. She describes the pantry volunteers and clients as "like family," so she gladly shares her hours and energy. Evelyn notes that the success and warmth associated with the pantry are the result of many volunteers of which she is merely one.

Spurred by the memory of her late husband Bill, Evelyn's grief was transformed into helping hands, an enthusiastic spirit, and a generous commitment to those in need at the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry in Pontiac. It is because of these actions that Evelyn Ribordy is recognized as today's Catholic-In-Action.

How can a memory of yours be transformed into a fruitful future?

ORA ET LABORA

Since the publication of the Winter 2020 issue of *Alive in the Spirit*, many things have happened at *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*. Below is a bullet list of activities that prayer and work (*ora et labora*) have accomplished over the past three months with support from God and our many listeners.

Facilities

- With the arrival of 2020, *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* moved into new quarters at 108 Boeykens Place in Normal. Previously relegated to two tiny offices on the upper level of the Great Plains Media office building, we now occupy the “garden level” with our own parking lot and entrance on the *north* side of the building (lower level).

The first phase of the update resulted in new office space, a conference room, and work stations for our volunteers near the entrance of the building. We also have a new office space for our president and chief operating officer. With the passage of time, we will be setting up additional rooms for transmitter control equipment, storage, and maintenance.

The final phase of the work will see the installation of a production studio which has heretofore been shared with three other radio stations housed at Great Plains Media. At *Catholic SPIRIT Radio’s* Advisory Board meeting on January 6th, the new space was blessed by Fr. John Horton following a prayer of dedication. These changes have come courtesy of one major donor and volunteer movers!

- We are happy to report that all four of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* transmitters/translators (Ellsworth, 89.5 FM – 6,000 watts; Bloomington, 92.5 FM – 55 watts; Pontiac, 88.3 FM – 1,500 watts, and Lincoln 97.1 FM – 55 watts) are now operating reliably at peak performance. We currently have the potential of reaching some 250,000 listeners in McLean, Livingston, and Logan Counties in Central Illinois.

Events

More recently our Advisory Board has completed parish appeals in our northern (Pontiac area) and central (Bloomington-Normal) regions. Our Board members went out in Biblical teams of two to talk about the mission of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*, promote listening, and encourage both prayerful and financial support. During November we spoke at five parishes (in Pontiac, Lexington, Chatsworth, Flanagan, and Chenoa); during February we spoke at seven parishes (in Bloomington-Normal, Wapella, and Downs).

Catholic SPIRIT Radio’s leadership and Advisory Board wish to thank all the priests, parish staff, volunteers, and donors who made this appeal both possible *and* successful! Due to the generosity of donors over the past few years, our EWTN-based signal now stretches for 100 miles along the Interstate-55 corridor. We are doing our best to reach out to and prepare listeners for the “harvest” of which St. Paul speaks (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

Catholic SPIRIT Radio’s Advisory Board is working hard to provide special events for our listeners. Among the events on the schedule are:

- a two-day pilgrimage to the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians (Holy Hill) and the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Hope (the only Marian apparition site in the United States) both in Wisconsin from August 13-14,
- assisting with a September 14 golf outing to be held at a course in Bloomington and sponsored by a local charitable Catholic fraternity,
- a presentation with banquet in Bloomington by radio host Dr. Ray Guarendi (heard weekdays from 12:00-1:00 PM on *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*) October 1, and
- a late-in-the-year open house at the new offices of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio*.

A CATHOLIC SPIRIT RADIO “DREAM LIST”

The leadership of *Catholic SPIRIT Radio* network has adopted a “dream list.” This dream list contains six categories of mission supporters first proposed by Catholic fundraiser Brice Sokolowski:

Spiritual Leaders – Though *SPIRIT Radio* already has a prayer group for personal intentions, it would be terrific if we had a prayer group that would support the *SPIRIT Radio* network through regular supplication and thanksgiving to the Lord specifically. This would serve as a spiritual “driver” for everything that the network says and does. While the Holy Spirit is our inspiration, we need prayer to support our efforts because we can do nothing without the Lord. Would you be willing to establish and manage a regular prayer group?

Specialists – We are always on the lookout for people with special skills who can help out around the station or at home to assist with complex tasks necessary for running our radio network. We can always use parish liaisons, ministry missionaries, events coordinators, activity planners, webmasters, graphic designers, speakers, project managers, and volunteer coordinators for instance – all people who can lead us in the right direction and put us in contact with new ideas and new tools. Do you have skills that you can put at the service of *SPIRIT Radio*?

Connectors – We need people who can connect our Advisory Board members with individuals and groups who we’d like to get to know (such as with members of the other categories in this dream list). Connectors themselves are already well connected and have established relationships with individuals or groups who have resources to share, but who need only to be made aware of the good we are doing and of the support that we need to sustain our mission. Might you be able to connect *SPIRIT Radio* leadership with such important and influential resources?

Volunteers – We already have a core group of volunteers in our Advisory Board (a group of eight lay members and one priest) who conduct most of the station’s efforts. Nonetheless, we certainly could use a cadre of additional volunteers who would be willing and able to assist on an as-needed basis. We can use

help with parish displays, distributing brochures to parishes, assisting with appeals, and other such efforts as *SPIRIT Radio* chooses to engage itself. As an example, this summer we need ten volunteers who can help with a golf outing – to check in registered players, drive golf carts to transport participants, and staff a *SPIRIT Radio* display table. Are you willing and able to help us?

Major Donors – *SPIRIT Radio* is a listener-supported EWTN-affiliated radio network that operates with the permission of Bishop Daniel Jenky. However, we receive no financial support from either EWTN or the Diocese of Peoria. While our bread and butter are provided by small donors in the \$20 to \$100 range, we also need big donors who are willing and able to give in the \$1,000 and up range to help expand network operations. Fortunately, we already have a few of major donors who have helped set up stations in Pontiac and Lincoln but we could use many more as we continue to advance the work of the Lord to an even wider area within Central Illinois. Do you have the disposition and financial resources to be a major donor?

Faithful Supporters – As a ministry of the laity, *SPIRIT Radio* is constantly looking for those who would support us prayerfully and financially. Still, we need people who will let others know that *SPIRIT Radio* exists and has many programs worth listening to. We have a great looking table display with colorful brochures and other freebies that we’d like to have set out for weekend Masses in parishes all over Central Illinois. The success of our mission will grow only if we can get people to tune in. Won’t you help to increase awareness of *SPIRIT Radio*?

If you are willing and able to help *SPIRIT Radio* by serving in any of these six capacities, then please contact us via email at the following address:

office@catholicspiritradiocom

We will then get back with you to let you know we can fit you into our efforts. We look forward to hearing from you.

CARE-A-THON 2020 IS COMING!

Care-A-Thon 2020 is coming to the air waves of **Catholic SPIRIT Radio** on April 28, 29, and 30. This is our only formal annual on-air appeal for listener support. While many of our listeners are from the vicinity and contribute through our parish appeals, a surprising number of our listeners are from locations around the world courtesy of our free listening apps and the use of internet! *Care-A-Thon* gives them a chance to donate and you a second chance! If you have been relatively untouched – at least financially – by recent events, won't you consider giving us an additional helping hand? You can go online at www.catholicspiritradio.com, phone (309) 807-2427 from 10AM to 2PM during *Care-A-Thon 2020*, text "give" to (309) 233-0086, or mail your donation to **Catholic SPIRIT Radio**, 108 Boeykens Place, Normal, IL 61761. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

LISTENING APPS & FACEBOOK

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.



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

TUNE-IN CARDS

Tune In
SPIRIT RADIO
www.catholicspiritradio.com

McLean County 89.5 FM	Pontiac 88.3 FM
Bloomington-Normal 92.5 FM	Lincoln 97.1 FM

Five other ways to listen to Spirit Radio:

- "Spirit Radio 89.5" listening app for phones & tablets
- Audio streaming at www.catholicspiritradio.com
- TuneIn Radio - Roku Channel Store
- "Alexa, play Catholic Spirit Radio 89.5"
- *AudioNow* at (605) 472-9380

Volunteers are now distributing Tune-In cards to increase the public's awareness of the multiple ways to listen to **Catholic SPIRIT Radio**. If you would like to have some Tune-In cards to share with others or leave anonymously wherever you go (churches, restaurants, stores, and so forth), please send us a self-addressed, stamped (55¢) envelope and we will send you 20 via US Mail.

RECOGNIZING OUR SPONSORS

Thanks to each and every one of our business sponsors who help sustain our station: OSF Healthcare, College Hills Meat Shop, Bussy's Automotive, Tevoert Automotive, Central Catholic High School, Ron Smith Printing, Mike Talkington from Coldwell Banker, East Lawn Funeral Home, Nybakke Vacuum Shop (all Bloomington), Sherman's, Dennis Kagel Financial Services (all Normal), Baby Bull's Restaurant, Fogarty's Garage, Lyons-Sullivan Realty, Edinger's Filling Station Restaurant, Gem's Carpet Cleaning Plus, Pontiac Knights of Columbus #854, Duffy-Baier-Snedecor Funeral Home, Lambert AG Services (all Pontiac), Joan Bullard Realty (Odell), Atlanta Locker (Atlanta), and Imo's Café (Lincoln). 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**.