

ST. GABRIEL

CATHOLIC RADIO  
AM 820



# MESSENGER



## Conversion of heart

*Fall 2017*

### **GOD DELIVERS BIG RESULTS THROUGH A LITTLE BUMPER MAGNET AND AM 820 "BACKGROUND MUSIC"**

Jeremy McKinney, who entered the Church this past Easter, moved to Columbus from his hometown of Lima, Ohio, a few years ago. Right away, he noticed a St. Gabriel Catholic Radio bumper magnet. He remembers thinking, “UGHH! Catholic! And these bumper magnets are everywhere!”

Who would have guessed that a person with such an aversion to the Catholic Faith would, at the same time, hold a very strong belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist? Yet Jeremy was that man.

“In my childhood, I had always understood the sacrament/ordinance of holy communion/The Lord’s Supper to be a literal partaking of the body and blood of Jesus Christ,” Jeremy wrote in his blog when Catholicism was still anathema to him and conversion was far from his mind. “To be taught as a Baptist that this was merely symbolism actually came as a disappointment to me.”

Years ago, out of utter curiosity and insomnia, Jeremy decided to attend a Roman Catholic Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Imagine his amazement at a church bold enough to claim that Jesus Himself is truly present in The Eucharist!

#### ***God goes to work***

Little did Jeremy know that God had already started His work to give Jeremy a very personal relationship with the Source and Summit of Faith as a Catholic convert. “This whole ‘conversion’ thing seemed asinine to me in the beginning. I was happy being a Protestant, even though I didn’t know what I was protesting, but God in His goodness nudges us along - and I’m grateful for the ‘search’ that He’s put in my heart,” says Jeremy.

At this point in Jeremy’s odyssey, he decided that he needed to learn more – a lot more – about Catholicism. He wanted to find “that radio station” and started watching for the AM 820 bumper magnet in traffic.

God does not dillydally so it didn’t take long for Jeremy to tune-in to St. Gabriel Radio.

#### ***My questions were laid to rest by the Catholic Answers radio show***

“*Catholic Answers* was a great help because the people who called asked the same questions that I had. I was excited to hear real Catholics who were on fire with Faith and who gave answers that made sense,” Jeremy explains.

“The realization that God has preserved His Church for over 2,000 years — the thought of it really being possible — first scared me to death because it had the name ‘Catholic’ attached to it. But then, that same realization gave me great comfort and joy. I’ve found the fullness of the

**- CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**

## THANK YOU!

*May the Lord*  
BLESS and PROTECT you

*May the Lord*  
SMILE on you and  
BE GRACIOUS to you

*May the Lord*  
SHOW you his FAVOR and  
GIVE you his PEACE

## LISTENER TESTIMONY

"Listening to AM 820 helps keep me focused  
on my faith in this unpredictable world."  
— Amy in Laurelville, OH

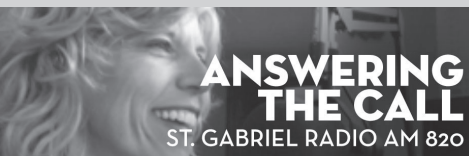
## NEW LISTENER OUTREACH



Contact us for posters for your parish and school.  
Send an email to ColleenL@StGabrielRadio.com  
or call (614) 459-4820.

## ARCHIVES OF LOCAL PROGRAMS

Available at [www.St.GabrielRadio.com](http://www.St.GabrielRadio.com).



# GOD DELIVERS BIG RESULTS

- CONTINUED

Faith. All of the 'bests' that I enjoyed in my Protestant denominations seem complete in the Catholic Church. The sacraments now make more sense.

"I've found the pearl of great price. I've found faith I can finally sink my teeth into. I've found The Faith that is the embodiment of 'I am with you always,' and is more than mere symbolism. I've found the Church that Jesus was talking about," Jeremy says.

*Catholic Answers*, Msgr. Frank Lane, Teresa Tomeo, and especially Tim Staples and *The Journey Home* program became – and continue to be – the "background music" for this life-changing journey.

## *We ALL need to make the journey into the Heart of Jesus*

"I've learned that the Church isn't an organization, a denomination, a fraternity, a club, or a social gathering. The Church is that Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the people who place their hope of salvation in Him alone, and truly take Him at His Word. The Church is ONE — the Church is HOLY — the Church is CATHOLIC — and the Church is APOSTOLIC. I could spend a lot of time explaining each of those four attributes. . . but why ruin the surprises for those who may find themselves on the journey someday?" This is Jeremy's invitation to non-Catholics, and to ALL Catholics because we all need to make this journey into the Heart of Jesus which is Heaven itself.

## *Beginning RCIA, the emotional roller coaster*

Jeremy began posting his Catholic experiences to his blog. He has shared these blog posts with us, starting with his first RCIA gathering. "I was blown away at how 'real' these folks were. I was shocked that these people were *Bible* readers! A stereotype had been engrained into my mind by comedienne Kathleen Madigan: 'Catholics don't read the *Bible*, we read the bulletin.'

"There are times where I know undeniably that God is leading me exactly where He wants me. Other times I feel that I am apostate and am in diabolical opposition to the heart of God. I want to run away from this whole thing, but I know too much. He's spoken to me too intimately and shown me too many things, to deny that this is true.

"And so, by His grace, I press on," Jeremy reflects.

## *Second night of RCIA*

"I think this is going to be an awesome journey. Tonight I was given a Catholic study Bible by the church. A little unsettling because of the 'extra' books in it but such a sweet gift nonetheless.

"What's even cooler happened after class. I was invited by my RCIA sponsor to be his guest at a 'party.' To which I reluctantly said 'Uh...OK.'

"Little did I know that I would be meeting with some of the coolest people in the basement of this little building on the church grounds. All of my preconceived notions of what Catholics are were completely blown away tonight. I was surrounded by people who just wanted to hear my story. They all listened intently as I told them of my journey, and seemed blown away at what I had been learning.

"I'm so blessed to be walking this road with Jesus. I'm getting out of my box. Slowly, and in His time. How awesome."

## Heart pounding, thoughts whirling, Jeremy stood in line for Confession

Jeremy started looking forward to receiving the Sacrament of Confession. "I had years' worth of burdens and regrets to unpack before the Lord. Yes, I had already confessed these things in private prayer, but I knew that there would be something special about experiencing the grace of God in the tangible form of the Sacrament.

"The dread of sharing that 'list' of dark things that I had held in my heart for YEARS. Sharing that list was hard. I had to stop for air a few times and choke back some tears. I was ashamed of the things I had done that I knew offended Almighty God.

"But I experienced the love and grace of God in that dark little room. I prayed the Act of Contrition. And that was when I lost my marbles. It was no longer a priest sitting across from me in that chair. It was Jesus Himself. And to hear the words 'I absolve you of your sin...in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' was something I had never experienced before.

"My penance wasn't a litany of 'Hail Marys' or 'Our Fathers,' but to commit myself to prayer, to help those in need, and to befriend someone who others may find 'unlovable.' Confession really is good for the soul. Amen."

The Sacrament of Confession fits right in with Jeremy's belief that conversion of heart is not a one-time event, "I'm still being converted every day."

## Matthew 4:20, "Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

"Shortly before my confirmation, I was driving in the car when I heard this scripture quoted by a priest on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio.

"It's the story of Jesus calling His first disciples, where He tells them that He will make them 'fishers of men.' Their response is shocking to me. To leave their nets... IMMEDIATELY? No time to think about it? No probationary period? You mean they just dropped their nets and followed Him? That's that? "Yeah. That's that. Wow.

"I fear that if I were one of the guys fishing that day I may not have been so quick to follow. I have a lot of nets.

"And you know something? These nets get heavy — especially when you've become so used to them and have been so comfortable. All the while, I've heard Jesus telling me for the past ten years: 'Hey, you should really just drop those and follow Me.'"

Jeremy admits, "I WAS following Jesus...I was just doing it MY way."

This past Fall Spirit Drive, Jeremy won the drawing for the contest to "Name that Dachshund" on the AM 820 billboards that have been posted around town. "The name that I entered was 'Auggie' for St. Augustine of Hippo, my Patron Saint," shares Jeremy. St. Augustine wrote words that resound in the depths of Jeremy's being, "You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness."

"I, too, was the guy with the restless heart," says Jeremy.



Detail from a painting of St. Augustine by Joos Van Wassenhove (c. 1410 – c. 1480).

## EWTN IN SPANISH ON AM 820 WEBSITE

## ESCUCHE EN VIVO ESPAÑOL

Latinos in Central Ohio can now connect to faith-filled radio broadcasts in Spanish on smart phones and computers. Look for the button, "ESCUCHE EN VIVO" at [www.StGabrielRadio.com](http://www.StGabrielRadio.com) or download the app at <http://ewtnapps.com>.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Mary Ann and Pat Kent help bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to members of their home parish, St. Vincent de Paul in Mt. Vernon and St. Luke parish in Danville by getting the word out about St. Gabriel Radio. The Kents are avid AM 820 Ambassadors and give generously of their time by delivering AM 820 posters and yard signs throughout the region. Thank you!!

## NEW ON AM 820

## ABIDING IN HOPE

ST. GABRIEL RADIO AM 820



Mary Ann Jepsen and Fr. John Sims Baker take questions on spiritual life, family, relationships, and life's difficulties. Submit questions online at [www.AbidingInHope.com](http://www.AbidingInHope.com). Shows are also available in the AM 820 Archives at [www.StGabrielRadio.com](http://www.StGabrielRadio.com).

## PRAY FOR THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.



**EWTN**

Global  
Catholic  
Network



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Columbus, Ohio 43220

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## MISSION

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio's mission is to provide quality programming that is faithful to the teachings of the Church and presented in a way that inspires conversion of heart and a deepening faith while building up the local Body of Christ.



**"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE."  
— POPE FRANCIS**

Painting: *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs*, detail from the Fiesole altarpiece by Fra Angelico.