



MESSENGER

CONVERSION OF THE HEART



Franciscan heart hits the streets

"Mine is the typical story of a Catholic youth who fell away from the Faith and later had a conversion of heart," explains Bryan O'Donnell. In this conversion, St. Gabriel Radio programs fed Bryan's soul as he moved closer and closer to God.

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Bryan grew up in an Irish-Catholic family in Fremont, Ohio. "Just in case anyone would wonder about my heritage, my parents wanted to make sure that everyone knows that I am Irish so they gave me Patrick as a middle name!" Growing up, Bryan and

his mother attended Mass every Sunday and he went to Catholic schools from first grade up through a local university.

In college, Bryan dove head first into the party scene. "I became a full-fledged party guy. I fell deep into sins of addiction and began failing my classes. There was a lot of sin in my life for 13 years. That's a long time without God's grace. Now that I know what grace is, I can see how much I was missing out."

THE PROFOUND EFFECT OF A GRANDMOTHER

The grace of God was always waiting in the wings and Bryan's family never abandoned him. The death of his grandmother in 2005 profoundly affected him. "I looked up into the sky and asked, 'What would Grandma think of my sinful life?' I stopped in my tracks at that moment."

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Bryan believes that an extraordinary shower of God's graces saved him from the tragic, downward spiral of his lifestyle. At his parents' home, he found his grandmother's prayer book, *Precious Blood*, published in 1954. He began saying these prayers daily and realized that his grandmother's prayers had been for him. "She lived in California and we often talked on the phone when I was growing up. She always talked about the love of Jesus and Mary. I knew God was in her by the way she talked and carried herself. Because of her life, I learned what it means to lay down your life. Her prayers brought graces into my soul."

"Jesus is a real person and 'The Someone' who I need to pay attention to."

"Just before I found St. Gabriel Radio, someone gave me a copy of *The Case for Christ*, by Lee Strobel. That book prompted me to start seeing that Jesus is a real person and 'The Someone' who I need to pay attention to. I started reading the Bible and going to Mass and Confession."

ST. GABRIEL - PERMANENTLY ON IN THE CAR AND IN MY HOUSE!

St. Gabriel Radio also had a huge impact on Bryan's conversion and Faith walk. "In 2008, I was driving a lot for work and liked to channel surf on the radio. I stumbled onto St. Gabriel Radio when it was still 1580 AM. When the radio dial hit 1580 and I heard The Message, I kept the radio right there! I was open to the Word of God. I had an insatiable desire to hear the Word of God everywhere and all the time. St. Gabriel became permanently ON in the car and in my house! Marcus Grodi is great. I look forward to Fr. Riccardo every morning. His teachings are like opening up a treasure box of Catechism!"

[CONTINUED]

2019 COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CONFERENCES



WOMEN'S
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16



MEN'S
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.STGABRIELRADIO.COM

2 NEW WEEKDAY PROGRAMS



with Greg & Lisa Popcak, live at 10 AM



with Jerry & Debbie, live at 12 Noon

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



When Louis E. Borth stepped forward as a volunteer for St. Gabriel Radio, he said, "Whatever I can do, give me

more!" Louis spent many volunteer hours delivering posters around town, manning the Spirit Drive phones, serving as Ambassador at St. Paul the Apostle Church, and so much more. Thank you, Louis!

LOCAL PROGRAM ARCHIVES

DOMINICAN DIMENSIONS

Weekends at Noon and online in the Archives: www.StGabrielRadio.com



EWTN

Global
Catholic
Network

CONVERSION OF THE HEART [CONTINUED]

"Listening to St. Gabriel Radio is how I was really catechized."

Bryan felt a special excitement because he was learning what the Church really teaches. "Listening to St. Gabriel Radio is how I was really catechized. I was flooded with Truth. Everybody is searching for Truth. When you find It, you are changed forever. Truth does something to your soul and mind. My mind was being renewed. Peace came into my life. When I would return home at the end of the day, I would ask why I had peace when I got out of the car. God was working in me. I was able to overcome sin because of what I was learning on Catholic radio. Praying the Rosary became an important part my life. The floodgates of grace opened."

BRYAN DISCOVERS HIS VOCATION

As time went by, Bryan heard a call. "I want you to give Me everything," rang in his ears every day and he began giving everything away. "I felt called to the priesthood and entered the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate near Syracuse, New York. There, as I discerned my vocation, I was drawn up into a deep prayer life and contemplation of the life of Christ. My spiritual director taught me the importance of knowing myself, of discipline, of saying 'Yes!' to God. I learned that being faithful in little things brings grace in big things."

Bryan made temporary vows but then learned that God had other plans. God called Bryan out of the monastery and into missionary work in Columbus, Ohio. A group of Columbus friends encouraged him as he considered helping the homeless. These days, Bryan's main vocation is in Columbus, carrying out this mission. St. Catherine is now Bryan's home parish. He says, "Father Dury, we love you! We need a shout for Deacon Reis, too." Bryan is also a member of the prayer team at St. Catherine parish.

*"Father Dury,
we love you! We
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Deacon Reis, too."*

A CARPENTER HELPS BUILD THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Bryan has founded an organization called Urban Encounter, an apostolate devoted to street evangelization. "God has started laying out the plans: rebuilding abandoned houses on the west side of Columbus. The Lord is calling me to carry the light of Christ and live there on the west side to bring the love of God and drive out the darkness," says Bryan. He envisions a lay community living in multiple homes, working, worshipping, and bringing life to parishes. He envisions a ministry where he does simple things like praise and worship in a coffee shop and inviting people to come. He wants the people he meets to learn of the beauty of bringing people to Jesus. He wants to be there for them, to teach them how to work and take pride in what they do.



The J.C.M. Construction team including Bryan (pictured above on the right) installed the new etched glass windows in the St. Gabriel Radio office.

CONVERSION OF THE HEART

The St. Gabriel Radio office space has benefitted from Bryan's skill as a carpenter. Over the summer, he was part of a J.C.M. Construction team that installed windows with religious symbols on the doors of the staff offices at the radio station. The etched window glass was donated by the Jubilee Museum.

THE LORD LEADS THE WAY

"In a time and place overrun by darkness, we carry light in our hearts to drive out the darkness."

"One of my favorite things is to walk the streets, responding to the amazing encounters that God brings," says Bryan. "In a time and place overrun by darkness, we carry light in our hearts to drive out the darkness. The Lord goes before us. He paves the way to open up hearts. He brings the resources."

"Passing out spiritual books is another of my favorite things these days. Some people like to read. You never know."

Bryan also uses St. Gabriel Radio to catechize the people in his life. "I pick up a man and take him to work in the mornings. We always listen to St. Gabriel Radio as we drive to work. I let the seed fall on fertile ground and water it. Watch it grow. I always invite the people I meet in my ministry to listen to St. Gabriel Radio. They might not be willing to read something, but they will listen."

"I didn't have much money back then, in the early days of St. Gabriel Radio, so I gave my prayers because I couldn't imagine my life without Catholic radio. I encourage everyone to keep St. Gabriel Radio in your prayers. Be extravagant in this generosity! Faith comes through hearing, so imagine the good that is done through the programs on St. Gabriel Radio."

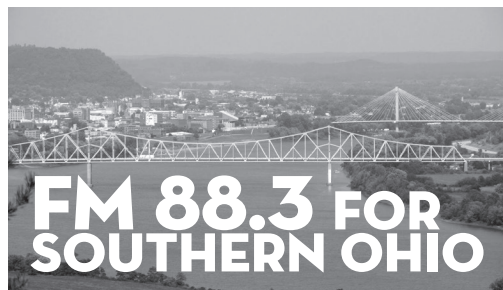
In closing, Bryan challenges us to dream with God. "God wants you to come to Him with your dreams."

"Keep St. Gabriel Radio in your prayers. Be extravagant in this generosity!"



Stained glass window adorning St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Portsmouth, Ohio

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC RADIO ADDS NEW STATION



St. Gabriel Radio's newly acquired station, FM 88.3, serves southern Ohio including Chillicothe, Portsmouth, Ironton, and all points in between.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

SPRING SPIRIT DRIVE

March 20, 21, 22, & 23



"St. Gabriel Radio has played a significant role in my conversion from Protestantism. Catholic radio has taught me so much about the Faith and provided resources that God has used to draw me closer to Him!"

- David in Fairborn, Ohio

"Even the devil believes that God exists. Believing has to change the way we live."

Mother Angelica



LISTEN THIS LENT

Invite a loved one to listen to **AM 820** during Lent.



ST. GABRIEL RADIO, INC.
4673 WINTERSET DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43220

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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gabriel Catholic Radio's mission is to reach more souls with 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.

(614) 459-4820 | WWW.STGABRIELRADIO.COM



ST. GABRIEL RADIO FM 88.3 NOW REACHES SOUTHERN OHIO!

Painting in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Portsmouth, Ohio