



# MESSENGER

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART

### Teen sweethearts fall in love with the Faith

Julianne and Seth Burkholder grew up in the same small town in Bluffton, Ohio with two Christian families who knew each other. Julianne was raised in the Presbyterian faith while Seth was raised in the Catholic Church. Their courtship started in their teens and lasted eleven years before they tied the knot in 2012.

Little did they know just how much their marriage would one day come to resemble a trinity: husband, wife, and God. The Holy Spirit catapulted this family into a deep Faith life in the Catholic Church, and St. Gabriel Radio has become a constant companion on their journey. They found AM 820 through a stack of bumper stickers in the atrium of St. Matthew the Apostle parish while they were searching for answers.

#### THANK YOU, MOM AND DAD!

Church attendance was part of each of their family's Sunday routine while growing up. "I owe my parents so much gratitude for what they taught me and the deep convictions that I have about loving God," she avows. Both Julianne and Seth realize that their parents laid a foundation for them to grow in love, respect, and worship of God.

#### IT'S NOT ALL THE SAME.

Sunday worship seemed natural for Seth and Julianne during their courtship and early married years, sometimes Catholic Mass and sometimes Presbyterian services. "We saw the importance of each other's faith. Looking back on it though, we realize that we thought all Christian practices and services were basically the same. Oh, how little we knew!" says Seth.

*They found AM 820 through a stack of bumper stickers at St. Matthew the Apostle parish.*

Julianne continues, "I would go to Mass with Seth but didn't participate. When people knelt, stood, or responded, I mostly remained seated because we thought I was not allowed to do anything." Over time they began to go to Presbyterian services more often and Catholic Mass less. Eventually, it was a Presbyterian service every Sunday.

Seth reflects, "I will never forget when we were planning our wedding, how my mother wanted us to have a Catholic ceremony, yet she could not explain to me why. Ultimately, we decided to get married in a Presbyterian service. At the time I didn't understand the significance of a sacramental marriage, the Mass, or the Eucharist."

#### WE WERE CULTURAL CHRISTIANS.

Faith fell further into the background, not the forefront, of Seth and Julianne's married life, social circles, and professional affiliations. According to Seth, "We were cultural Christians. We were not part of any church community or faith-based group of friends. In our lives, there were no real spiritual leaders."

*"In our lives, there were no real spiritual leaders," concur both spouses.*

and I had no intention of converting to Catholicism." God had other plans.

Julianne admits, "We really never stopped to think about how our faith would be involved in our future. Pretty much, Seth had no intentions of not being Catholic

The faith journey of Julianne and Seth changed radically three years into married life. Julianne recalls, "The turning point was when the Presbyterian denomination changed its teaching on ordination and



[CONTINUED]



## LISTENER TESTIMONY

“St. Gabriel Radio is like a multivitamin for my faith life!” *Corinne - Faithful Listener*

### FIVE NEW LOCAL PROGRAMS!



## CATECHESIS FROM THE CATHEDRAL

with Fr. Adam Streitenberger



## TRIUMPH

with Tim and Jo Welsh

An inspiring program about forgiveness, mercy, and abortion healing



## FRIDAY MORNING SHOW

with Katy and Fr. Adam

An upbeat, local Catholic morning show that shares the joy of the Gospel and the splendor of Truth



## LIFE PERSPECTIVES

with Larry Anderson

Informative discussions with local pro-life leaders



## FRIENDS ON THE JOURNEY

with Dave Garrick

How special people have influenced our local priests' lives

### FROM OUR SHEPHERD



## BISHOP BRENNAN RADIO ARCHIVES

Online at [StGabrielRadio.com](http://StGabrielRadio.com) or  
on the St. Gabriel smart phone app

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART (CONTINUED)

marriage in 2015. I asked myself: what does all this mean? What is the Truth? What is God's design for marriage? In my heart of hearts, I felt that the changes to Presbyterian teaching on marriage and ordination were wrong. This led us on our search for the Truth, which ultimately led us to the Catholic Church."

### IS THERE A GOD?

So, Julianne revoked her Presbyterian membership. "We asked each other, 'Where to from here?' And for the first time in our lives we felt lost," explains Seth. "I took a deep interior look at myself and came to the realization that I knew very little, so I decided that I wanted to start over with the basics: Is there a God? Then I studied all the different religions, the history and what they taught. Two years of complete immersion and many, many long nights finally led me to the Truth."

Julianne reached out to a priest at a local parish about what degree of involvement she could have in Mass if she wasn't Catholic. Kneeling, genuflecting, singing, reciting prayers and responses, what did they mean? "What can I do as a non-Catholic?" she asked the priest.

"Everything except receive Communion," was his answer. Although she was hesitant to do everything at first, for the first time ever she was excited to go to Mass.

*"I set all my radio channels to AM 820," says Seth.*

They were carpooling together to and from work. Seth recalls, "Sports was my god and sports radio was on 24/7. The minute I started to listen to AM 820 is the minute I became a follower of Catholic radio. I set all my radio channels to AM 820. It was the only thing I listened to in my car. I started to get all the catechesis that I missed out on growing up."

### AM 820, 24/7

Julianne affirms, "On our commutes, we began to listen to Fr. Riccardo's *Christ Is the Answer* (8 A.M. weekdays on St. Gabriel Radio) and *Catholic Answers* (6-8 P.M. weekdays). Eventually we both concluded that the fullness of faith lies within the Catholic Church."

In 2017 Julianne entered Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Parish in Gahanna. When she joined RCIA, Seth already knew that he was coming home, back to the Church. Julianne decided, "OK, I'm going to keep learning about all of this – Mary, the Saints, the Eucharist." Three weeks later, on their fifth wedding anniversary, Julianne took a leap of faith and gave Seth a rosary. Muses Seth, "I had one as a kid, but didn't know how to pray it. So, I had to learn how to pray the Rosary." "I didn't know what I was getting into!" chimes Julianne.

"We journeyed through the RCIA together," tells Seth. "I went to every class with Julianne so that I could meet more Catholics and learn how to live a more Catholic life." For Julianne, the last hurdle was the Eucharist. She has more of a scientific approach as a trained dietitian.

On Thanksgiving Day that year, Seth gave Julianne a book on the Eucharistic miracles that helped her overcome her final hurdle. Five months later Julianne came into the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2018. The next day, Easter Sunday, they told their parents they were expecting, and on Thanksgiving Day they brought home another one of God's miracles, a beautiful baby boy.

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART

They have both embraced the Catholic Faith wholeheartedly and St. Gabriel Radio is an integral part of that Faith life.

*“The confessional has made me a better husband,” Seth avows.*

### CONFESSION BRINGS GRACE.

“I was away from the confessional for over 15 years and now I go all the time. Humbling myself before our Lord in the confessional has allowed me to humble myself more before my wife. The confessional has made me a better husband. This sacrament is just an incredible grace from God! Our lives are night and day different since our

faith conversion. We are actively involved at our parish through RCIA, Bible studies, lectoring, and Eucharistic Adoration, to name a few. Now we go to Mass during the week and are involved with marriage preparation programs in the diocese. We always thought we wanted children someday, but we were too focused on chasing careers to stop and think about God’s plan for marriage and family. As soon as we learned the Church’s teaching on sacramental marriage, contraception, and Natural Family Planning we were all in.”

Julianne is now devoting herself full time to making a home for their family. At home, she switched the radio from a non-denominational Christian station to *Morning Glory* (7 A.M. weekdays). “They’re refreshing, they’re talking about real things, they’re making sense, things that I have struggled with in popular culture. *Morning Glory* and other shows have brought Truth and God into these commentaries. Why don’t we hear more of this?” wonders Julianne.

Julianne tells how, “Fr. Ricardo’s teaching has changed how we go to confession and now we go every month.” While one spouse is in the confessional, the other is praying for the spouse who is confessing.

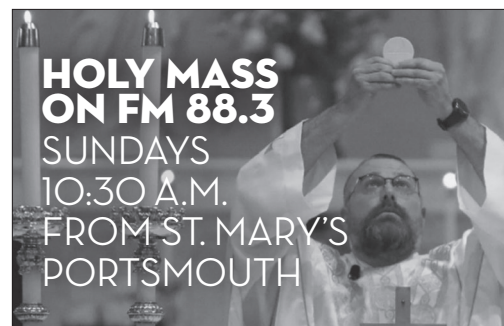
### FR. RICCARDO, AN EYE OPENER

She continues, “We listen together to Fr. Ricardo talking about sacramental marriage, the grace of Confession, the Ten Commandments. He brings light to how often we break these Commandments. He opened my eyes and brought me to a whole new way of thinking about the Commandments and sin.” Seth agrees, “He invites you in. You feel like he’s sitting beside you, talking to you like you are the only one in the room.”

“Now, St. Gabriel affects us even more as we get involved at the station. We toured the station and learned how we can make an impact through the radio. Recently we volunteered with the Fall Spirit Drive and the AM 820 booth at the local Columbus Italian Festival,” says Julianne.

“Ever present in my mind now are the words of Jesus, ‘To whom much is given, much will be expected,’ (Luke 12:48). We as Catholics have been given so much with our Catholic Faith and we need to share that with the world. Is there an easier way to share the Catholic Faith than placing an AM 820 bumper sticker on your car? Who knows, a young married couple might see that bumper sticker and have their lives changed forever!”

*“Fr. Ricardo opened my eyes and brought me to a whole new way of thinking,” exclaims Julianne.*



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



This past Fall Spirit Drive, Andrew Rumsberger helped everywhere at once, praying in the chapel, answering phones, greeting guests, cheering

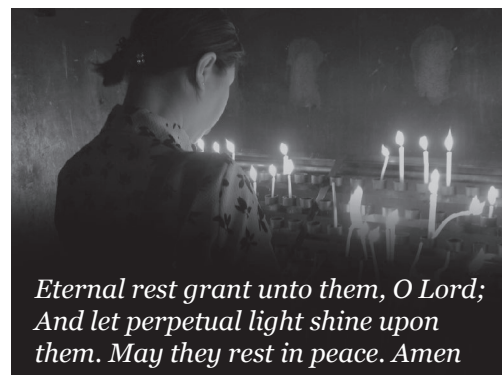
folks in the studio – and even washing dishes! He worked all day for three days at the station to make the Spirit Drive a very special event. Thank you, Andrew. God is good!

## SACRED HEART HOUR



**FIRST  
FRIDAYS  
AT 8:00 A.M.**  
MONTHLY ON  
ST. GABRIEL  
RADIO

## PRAY FOR THE 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





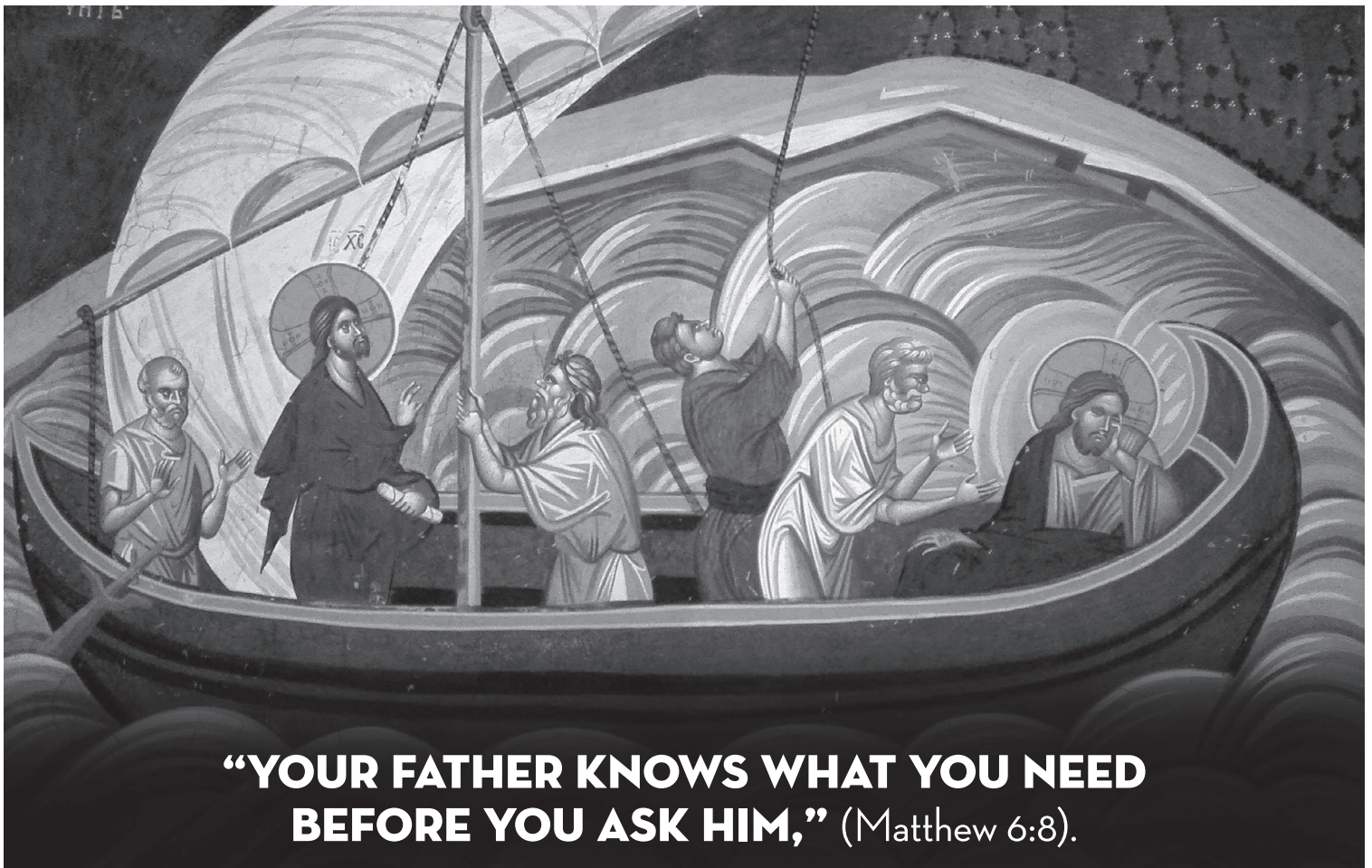
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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](http://WWW.STGABRIELRADIO.COM)



**“YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED  
BEFORE YOU ASK HIM,”** (Matthew 6:8).