



# MESSENGER

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART

### Queen of Heaven reigns in the heart of this marriage

Our Blessed Mother, once a foreigner far from home, opens her heart to immigrants who take refuge under her mantle. This is just where Josephine and Eric Yang, immigrants from the Philippines, make a spiritual home as they build the domestic church of marriage, home, and parish with help from St. Gabriel Radio programs.

“St. Gabriel Radio gives us a sense of community. It connects us to our parish and fellow Catholics in other parishes. On the radio, we learn from Bishop Brennan and Bishop Campbell and tune in to what’s happening in the diocese,” Eric and Josephine agree.

*“St. Gabriel Radio gives us a sense of community.”*

Regarding Our Lady, Eric explains, “I discovered early in life that she is a mother who I can always go to.” Eric lost his mother when he was only eight years old. As for Josephine, she planned a life of service in the religious order of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, in the Philippines. Both Eric and Josephine learned that God’s plan is always better than human plans.

#### GOD’S PLAN

Eric arrived in New Jersey as a teenager. Josephine, educated as a physical therapist in Manila, landed in West Virginia as a young adult. Neither planned to stay. As they discerned in their hearts the vocation of Matrimony, Eric and Josephine each knew what was important: to build the domestic church through marriage. They met online in 2013, were married two years later, and made Columbus their home.

A heartfelt practice of the Faith was not always at the forefront of Eric’s life. “In the Philippines, my aunt taught me to pray the Holy Rosary while my mother was dying of cancer. But in the U.S., I spent my teens and early adulthood surrounded by non-practicing

people and Protestants. Mass became a ‘check the box’ obligation for me. I didn’t pray the Rosary for a long time.” Listening to Fr. John Riccardo in the mornings, *Catholic Answers*, and Bishop Campbell’s program were instrumental in his reversion.

Josephine reflects, “My Faith, especially my relationship with Jesus, is very special. My life’s vocation is to respond in love to what God is asking of me at home and work, in my parish and friendships, and even driving my car on the road in Columbus – which is a big challenge to me!” Josephine says, half laughing about snarling traffic. “I drive a lot in my work in home health care so the Holy Mass, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3 P.M. on AM 820 are my companions on the road. At first, listening to AM 820 was a Lenten offering but I soon became a regular listener.”

*“My life’s vocation is to respond in love to what God is asking of me.”*

#### RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS THE FOUNDATION

Josephine and Eric both agree that deepening their relationship with Our Lord is the foundation for authentic relationships with the people around them. Josephine elaborates, “Authentic relationship is a process of getting to know one another in each other’s life journey. The process needs time and trust to grow. Authentic for me entails a true concern for another person’s wellbeing.”

Josephine first learned about authentic relationship from her parents who inspired her to trust. “In time as I grew in my Catholic Faith, I came to know our Blessed Mother’s love and concern for me. Through Mary I was led to Jesus, eventually knowing more about my Heavenly Father. This is the source of my striving to have an authentic relationship with others. I give

**[CONTINUED]**



## LISTENER TESTIMONY

"I was silently evangelized by the car in front of me. It had an AM 820 bumper magnet on it!" – John, Faithful Listener in Columbus

## PRAY FOR THE FAITHFULLY DEPARTED



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

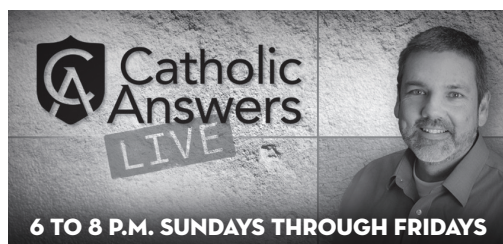


We give a special shout out to Jennifer Mulligan for helping us answer phones during the 15th Anniversary Spirit Drive this fall. We appreciate that even during a global pandemic, our volunteers are helping us keep the mission of St. Gabriel Radio alive.

## AM 820 ARCHIVES



## PROGRAM SHOWCASE



## CONVERSION OF THE HEART [CONTINUED]

priority to an authentic relationship with my husband as we build our domestic church – our home." As Josephine strives to develop authentic relationships, she acknowledges that it is not easy. "Being an immigrant is difficult and sometimes I have experienced hurtful things. I lift these pains up in prayer and always feel blessed. The programs on AM 820, such as talks by Edward Sri and Open Line with Fr. Larry Richards, lift my spirits and seem to give me just the right touch at the right time."

*"The programs on AM 820 lift my spirits and seem to give me just the right touch at the right time."*

### I WAS ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME

Josephine practices this authenticity daily as a physical therapist. She earned a degree as Doctor of Physical Therapy as a young woman in Manila. Today she works in assisted-living facilities with the frail elderly and patients with dementia. "I take extra time with families to help them deal with the illness of their loved ones, which is at times emotionally and physically tiring." She believes that reaching out to patients with dementia requires God's grace to make authentic connections.

Josephine relates, "Recently, I was on duty in a memory-care unit that has restricted access due to the pandemic. A family dropped their grandmother off. She was a new patient but the pandemic protocol prevented the family from helping their grandmother settle in. The grandmother, anxious and agitated, wanted out. She wouldn't even take off her coat! Eventually, she was referred to my care and each encounter then focused in easing her psyche along with improving mobility.

*"Faith is at the core of our long-term memory and dementia cannot rob us of our core."*

"Working in the specialized memory-care unit requires patience and prayer," admits Josephine. "I lift this service up to God. Every time I work with a person who has dementia, I remember that I just need to connect with the person. Faith is at the core of our long-term memory and dementia cannot rob us of our core, our relationship with Christ. In one memory-care unit, the lady I was caring for had fits of anger as

a result of her illness. She would resist me and even kick me as I tried to help her with physical therapy. But when a deacon would come to give her Holy Communion, she was transformed into peace." To Josephine, this witnessed encounter was a precious manifestation of the person's identity as a child of God.

Likewise, reaching out with authenticity to her colleagues is important to Josephine. "What did you do this weekend?" colleagues would ask. Then I would share about our Faith-related activities." Praying the Rosary recharges her batteries and enables Josephine to relate to the people around her with patience and understanding. "Work is my prayer, prayer is my work," she concludes.

### WE SEEK HOLINESS TOGETHER

Eric summarizes the importance of authentic relationship in the domestic church, "It is the unconditional love of a man and woman in marriage just as Jesus loves his Church. It is trying to be the best husband and wife we can be to help each other seek holiness together."

Living in authentic relationship requires discerning God's will, looking out for other people, acknowledging who we are, and thanking God, in season and out of season.

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART



Eric and Josephine Yang seek holiness together by building the domestic church.

Eric is especially grateful for the opportunities that he has received. "I was born with a mild form of cerebral palsy that affects my mobility. Fortunately, my parents enrolled me in a Jesuit Chinese school in Manila, instead of a school for children with disabilities. In the U.S., I earned a degree in Biology from Seton Hall University and a Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from The Ohio State University. I've never allowed my disability to stop me. These days, I get around using a power chair outside and use crutches at home. I am thankful that God has always been a part of my life, even when I was not really paying attention to Him."

Eric teaches biology in a secular college as well as at the Pontifical College Josephinum. "In the secular classroom, I don't proselytize but I am open about my Faith. *Catholic Answers* has helped me know my Faith and gives me ideas about ways to answer common questions."

Eric does not hide his Catholicism. "On my power chair, I have a Rosary and I wear Rosary bracelets. Both open up conversations about Faith." Eric feels that the programs *Dominican Dimensions*, *Open Line* with Fr. Larry Richards, and *Catholic Answers* help him evangelize. Of course, Eric cannot pray in secular classrooms and as a result, he says that opening and closing classes at the Josephinum with prayer is so special for him.

### STAYING ROOTED IN THE FAITH

The Sacraments, Catholic tradition, and the Gospel help the Yangs live their witness to Jesus. Eric recounts, "Although I never really left the Church, I didn't fully understand the Faith when I was young. St. Gabriel Radio has helped me deepen my Faith and learn more about her treasures. I've come to understand what Mass is really about. I am inspired by the Faith of our shepherds," continues Eric. "*Answering the Call* vocation stories is one of my favorite programs." Eric and Josephine are ambassadors for their parish, St. Peter in Columbus. When a new pastor was assigned to their parish, Eric wanted to be ready to welcome him so he looked up the priest's vocation story in the St. Gabriel Radio archives.

Eric continues to reach out to other Catholics and to find ways to serve in the diocese. He has taken on responsibilities in the Catholic Men's Ministry. A Fourth Degree Knight, he is a Past Grand Knight and serves as District Deputy and District Pilot. Promoting and fostering vocations is very important to the life of the Church, so Eric recently joined the Serra Club. "I have learned that Faith is much more than going to Mass and checking the box," he affirms.

Together, Josephine and Eric radiate the joy of the Gospel and say with one voice, "We pray for the people in our care."

## LOCAL HOLY MASS ON AM 820

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*"On my power chair,  
I have a Rosary  
and I wear Rosary  
bracelets. Both open  
up conversations  
about the Faith."*

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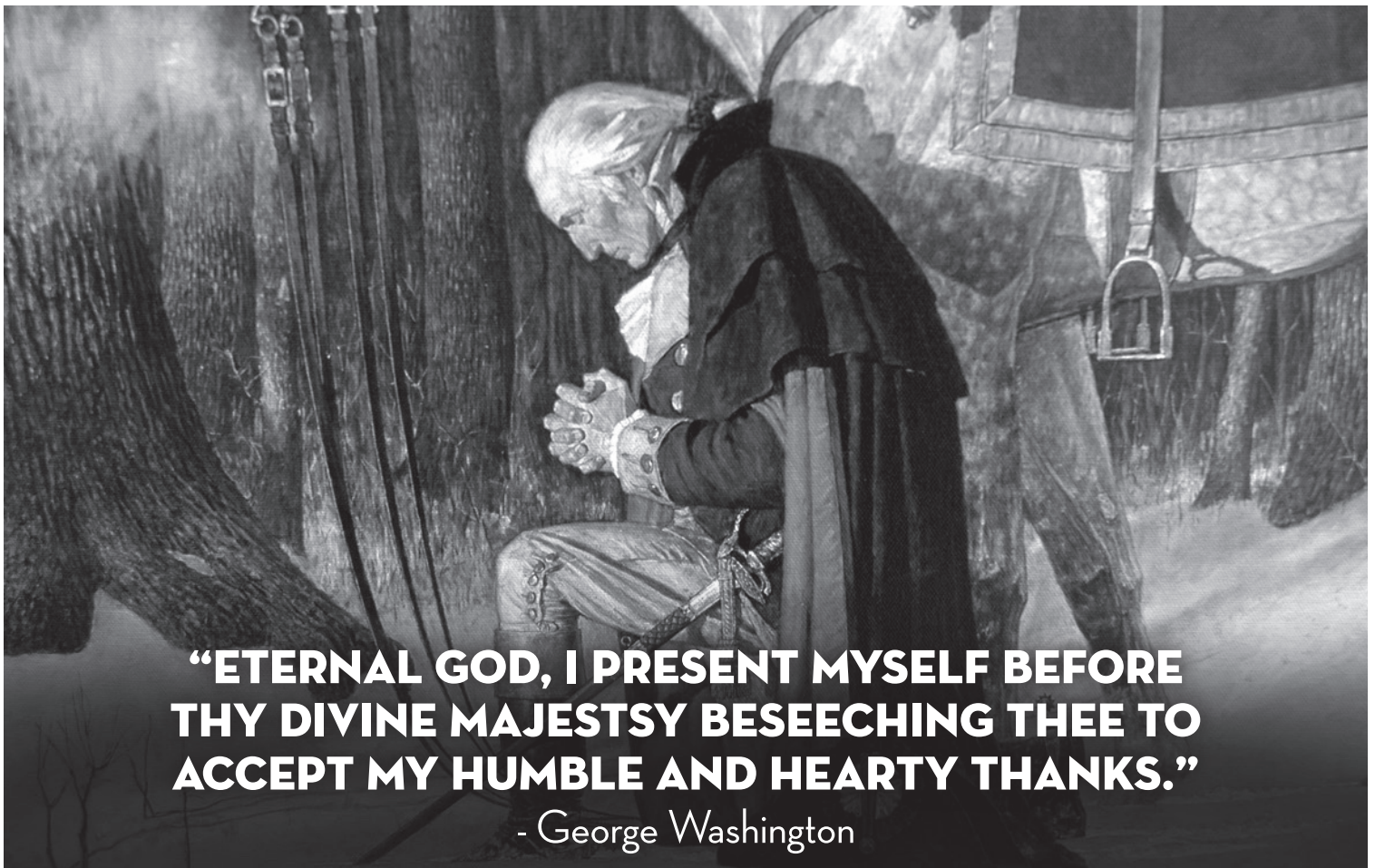
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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**“ETERNAL GOD, I PRESENT MYSELF BEFORE  
THY DIVINE MAJESTY BESEECHING THEE TO  
ACCEPT MY HUMBLE AND HEARTY THANKS.”**

- George Washington