



# MESSENGER

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART



### Surprised by a book club

A friend launched Katrina Williams' journey into the Church by way of a book club. In 2018, her friend Erica was hospitalized with complications from a bone marrow transplant. From that hospital bed, the Holy Spirit led Erica to start the book club.

Katrina joined this book club because she liked to read, not because she was looking to boost her faith. Little did she know that this was God's Own book club, a club that would lead her to the Catholic Church and St. Gabriel Radio. In fact, when Katrina joined the book club, she would describe herself as a spiritual person, but not very religious.

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The first book on the reading list was *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. The unexpected subtitle became evident once she had the book in hand: *Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*. The second book they read was *Satisfy my Thirsty Soul: For I am desperate for Your Presence* by Linda Dillow. "So, the book club members delved deeper and deeper into the question of how you start a relationship with God. Next, we moved into Bible study on the *Gospel of Mark* and are currently reading *Acts*" says Katrina.

#### ST. GABRIEL RADIO, A CATECHESIS TOOL

Katrina's faith journey became more focused on Catholicism last year. "I began RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) last year at Ss. Simon and Jude parish with Deacon Joe Knapke and Fr. William Metzger. At our first RCIA meeting, Deacon Joe invited me to listen to St. Gabriel Radio as part of the Faith formation process. I tuned in the next day and caught Fr. Riccardo

just as the *Christ is the Answer* radio program was starting a series on the Ten Commandments. As I was going through RCIA, *Christ is the Answer* was a great catechesis. I heard so much to build up my faith and encourage me on my path through RCIA. I listened during my 20-minute morning commute. I didn't want to miss anything, so I had to download the app to hear the rest of the day's program!

"St. Gabriel Radio programs always had something that I needed at the time. I learned more about how to make faith an important part of my life, how to take the Faith from Church to daily life. I learned about the Rosary with Fr. Groeschel on the radio. *Catholic Answers* dealt with many of my questions and helped me to become more at ease in talking about Catholic teachings," Katrina explains.

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#### KATRINA HASN'T TRAVELLED THIS ROAD ALONE.

Katrina was raised in a Methodist family, but her parents didn't attend church and they didn't have her baptized. They wanted Katrina to decide for herself someday what faith she wanted to practice. However, her grandmother, her husband, and Catholic friends have been with her along the way. Growing up, it was her grandmother who took Katrina to church and encouraged her in vacation Bible school.

"In college, first at Ohio Northern and continuing to graduate school at OSU, faith was not at the forefront, but I did read the Bible more often. I used a reading guide to work my way through the Bible but didn't feel comfortable going to church. When I

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"I'm a cradle Catholic but when I listen to St. Gabriel Radio, I learn something new every day." - Frances, Faithful Listener

# SPRING SPIRIT DRIVE

March 18, 19 & 20

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Mary Stucko's smile lights up the St. Gabriel Radio station on Monday mornings. She has volunteered to answer the phones and help out every week for several years! The next time you drop by the radio station on a Monday, be sure to say, "Hi" to her. Thank you, Mary.

## NEW MORNING LINEUP

Start the day right!

## LISTEN THIS LENT

Invite a friend to listen to **AM 820** during Lent.



**EWTN**

Global Catholic Network

## CONVERSION OF THE HEART (CONTINUED)

met my friend Jen at Ohio Northern, she would take me to the Catholic church. Jen's faith was strong, and she answered the questions that started popping into my mind. But I fell away again and lost the habit of thinking about God. That's when my friend Erica started the book club. It was just the three of us – Erica, a Protestant, Jen, a Catholic, and me, confused."

*"It was just the three of us – Erica, a Protestant, Jen, a Catholic, and me, confused."*

In 2014, Katrina married Jason. He was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools but distanced himself from the Church as a college student. "When we got married, we committed to raising our children Catholic. We would go to Mass sometimes on Christmas and Easter, and occasionally when Jen would invite me." Then, Jason joined her on the journey into the Church. Katrina continues, "When I began RCIA, he started going to Mass with me. He became my sponsor for RCIA. Faith became more of a conversation topic in our relationship. We already had a tradition of sharing a Sunday meal, and playing pinochle, every Sunday with Jen and her husband. Now we pray together before we eat, and we joke that whoever goes to Mass will have better luck in the pinochle game."

### KATRINA BECAME A FULL-FLEDGED CATHOLIC.

This past Easter, Katrina entered the Catholic Church. Her parents attended the ceremony and support her decision.

*"I want people my age to see what it means to be a joy-filled person."*

As Katrina's faith grows deeper roots, it is also producing new fruit. "I have a goal of encouraging a young-adult group at Ss. Simon and Jude parish. My generation needs to learn about the Faith and the importance of being strong in the teachings and practice of the Catholic Church. I want to excite young

adults about the Faith. I want them to see the value of coming into communion with the teachings of the Church and providing support for one another's faith. I want people my age to see what it means to be a joy-filled person. I want to challenge them to examine what we allow into our minds through what we hear and what we watch because this impacts our behavior. So, if we are taking in things about God, it helps us put that priority first in our life!" she exclaims.

"Sharing the Faith with other young adults is so important," continues Katrina. "With Jen we are slowly starting a core young-adult group. We need to meet other young adults in our parish of Ss. Simon and Jude. We may branch out and join with other young people in our deanery. I'm inspired after attending a Millennial Church Conference in the Diocese of Columbus about how to start young-adult groups."

### FR. STASH DAILEY'S GUIDANCE MADE A BIG IMPRESSION.

The words of Fr. Stash Dailey on how to incite people around us to the Faith made a big impression on Katrina. His advice for a new convert who wants to grow in faith and bring new people to the Faith is: "Don't over complicate it! It's easy to turn on the radio. Find a program on St. Gabriel Radio that speaks to your heart. Listen, absorb, then take what you've heard to the Lord, to the tabernacle, and see where God guides you!" Following this advice, Katrina recognizes many ways

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## CONVERSION OF THE HEART



The original book club members: Katrina, Erica, and Jen (L-R)

Katrina decided that she needed to be prepared to have a convincing argument for why someone should join her Faith group. So, she is developing an “elevator speech,” a 30-second pitch for someone who says, “I’m spiritual, but not religious.” Here is what she came up with: “There are so many competing voices in today’s world, how do you know what is the truth? We need friendships with other people who share similar values, who will encourage us to live better lives. I believe we can define that life by following Jesus Christ, and only then will we reach our goal of eternal salvation in Heaven.

*“I’m thankful our parish offers a Tuesday evening adoration and Mass that I can attend after work.”*

“As for the book club started by Erica and Jen, we have added one other person, and are continually inviting others hoping to be able to share the Gospel and grow deeper in faith together. Before I entered the Church, I had some beliefs but didn’t know how to defend those beliefs. It’s hard to talk about faith because we’re afraid of offending people. That’s where St. Gabriel Radio comes in. I listen every day. I pull up old programs by Fr. Riccardo. St. Gabriel Radio

programs teach me what the Church teaches and how to express what Catholics actually believe.”

### PARISH LIFE BOLSTERS LIVING THE FAITH.

Katrina has jumped into parish life with both feet. “I started helping with teaching RCIA. We have a team approach, and I was part of the team on the topics of the Journey of Faith and the Pascal Mystery. The Eucharist is coming up, and I’m also hoping to be a part of teaching about Evangelization. I have a particular interest in the Eucharist though, after studying the lives of a few Saints and seeing the common thread of a devotion to the Eucharist. It’s funny to see how my beliefs have come full circle, from day one of RCIA thinking I would have to pretend to believe in the Real Presence, to actually forming a personal devotion myself. I’m thankful our parish offers a Tuesday evening adoration and Mass that I can attend after work.”

In closing, Katrina offers some words of wisdom for other people of her age. “You don’t know what you’re missing when you don’t have God in your life. You need people to show you the way, people who will challenge you in asking and answering questions that even you may not know that you need to ask. How do you know something that you don’t even know that you need to know? You have to trust that you can’t do this alone. We all need a guide to help along the way.

“Ask yourself what the purpose is of your life. It is to know God, love God, and get to Heaven. You can never start too soon,” is Katrina’s call to action.

that St. Gabriel Radio programs can be used in her new group. “It could be a prompt for a group discussion, for catechesis, and for apologetics study. I’m thinking of how Fr. Riccardo says that we need to bring a kind of RCIA to existing Catholics. I know St. Gabriel Radio programming is a reliable resource to support whatever we do.”

# NEW MORNING LINEUP

7 AM



**FR. JOHN RICCARDO**  
*Christ is the Answer*



**MATTHEW KELLY**  
Dynamic Catholic

8 AM



**FR. ADAM STREITENBERGER**  
*Conversations on Discipleship*



**SR. MIRIAM JAMES HEIDLAND,  
MICHELLE BENZINGER,  
HEATHER KHYM**  
*Abiding Together*



**FR. NATHAN CROMLY**  
*Dare Great Things*



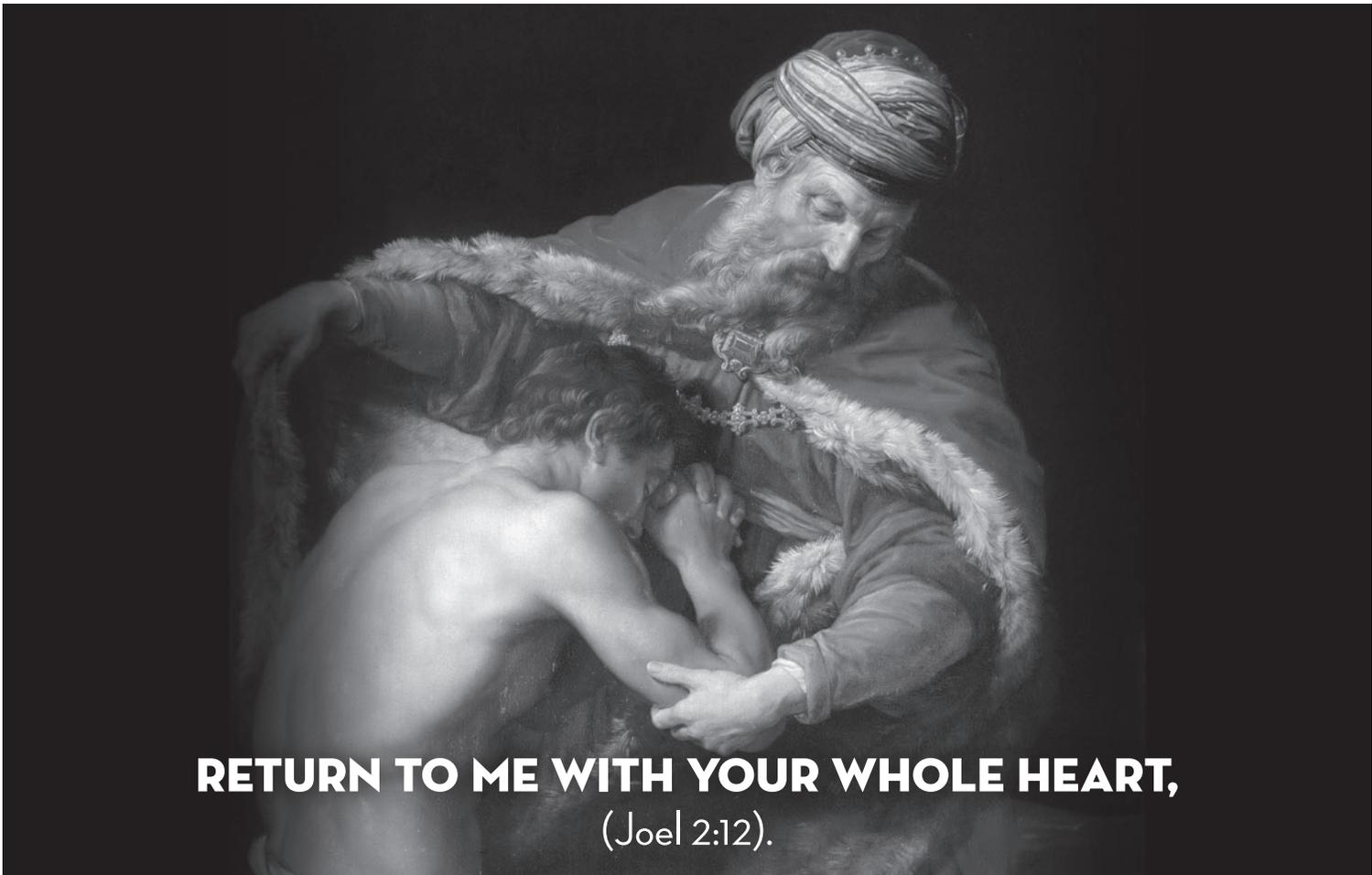
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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)



**RETURN TO ME WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART,**  
(Joel 2:12).