

ST. GABRIEL

CATHOLIC RADIO
AM 820



MESSENGER



Conversion of heart

Advent 2014

SUCCESS BROUGHT JOHN SWISHER A GREAT LONGING.

“At the age of 40, I had it all and ending up asking myself, ‘Is that all there is?’” explains John Swisher. “I had kids, success, a great family, great job, great life – and a great longing in my heart. I thought maybe the next promotion, the next salary raise, or a bigger house might do it, but as you can guess it did not.”

Then John saw it – the AM 820 bumper magnet!

“From that first day, I was an avid listener to St. Gabriel Radio.”

“On my trek to work one morning, a magnet on a car in front of me piqued my curiosity. I was bored with the sports talk radio I listened to while driving. I had nothing to lose by trying AM 820, so I switched my radio over to St. Gabriel and the first voice I heard was Mother Angelica. I listened intently and was hooked. She made such sense and she spoke to my heart, to things that really mattered. I found myself sitting in my car at my office parking lot to hear another five minutes of the show before walking into work. From that first day, I was an avid listener to St. Gabriel Radio. For the first time in my life, I looked forward to my morning work commute.”

John is an attorney who manages insurance defense litigation, so he travels frequently all over Ohio, from Cleveland, to Toledo, to Cincinnati. “As I drove to my offices around Ohio, I listened to AM 820 during my lengthy commutes. In the first couple of years, the station’s signal did not reach far outside of Columbus, and that disappointed me. I was very excited several years ago when I learned that St. Gabriel had bought another station with a stronger radio signal that covers most of Ohio.”

John was born into a Catholic family, served as an altar boy, and attended Mass and CCD classes weekly. At age 18, he joined the Army and moved away from home. After graduating from college and then law school, he drifted further and further from his faith and the Church. He then became a father with a growing family, but he was no longer attending Mass, or leading his family in their Faith formation.

“I was a ‘secular zombie.’”

“By the time I was a father in my mid-30s, I was ‘Catholic’ in name only. I had no dislike for any religion. I believed that the Catholic Church was just like any other religion,” John asserts. He didn’t “leave” the Church and his faith, “I replaced Jesus and the Church with career and money. I was

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LISTENER TESTIMONY

I LOVE EVERYTHING! Once I saw the bumper sticker three or four years ago, I tuned in and have been a St. Gabriel addict! I listen in the car, on Tune-In radio over the Internet, and on my phone! I share what I learn with friends throughout the day, as I go on training runs with friends and family -- even my non-Catholic Mom (I'm a convert)!

- Faithful listener Vicky

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JENNIFER MATSON



An ardent AM 820 listener, Jennifer has been a fan since the very beginning when St. Gabriel Radio was still in Marysville!

She is majoring in Business Office Applications at Columbus State Community College and volunteering her

administrative skills at AM 820.

She tells us, "St. Gabriel Radio's programming helps me grow in my faith. Stories of conversion and vocation, especially The Journey Home, are great. AM 820 is the only station that I listen to!"

TWENTY-SOMETHING SHOW NEW! LOCAL! INSPIRING!

ALIVE FOR MORE ON AM 820

Thursdays at noon and Sundays at 3 P.M.

A dialogue with young Catholic adults, produced by AM 820, to encourage and inspire the universal call to holiness. Also available in the Archives at www.StGabrielRadio.com.

PARISH AMBASSADORS NEEDED



Did you know that 9 out of 10 Catholic Radio listeners said that they are more engaged in their faith?

Help spark the faith in your parish with an AM 820 Awareness Weekend.

Contact Colleen Lewis at (614) 459-4820 or ColleenL@StGabrielRadio.com.

SUCCESS BROUGHT JOHN SWISHER A GREAT LONGING.

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pursuing the 'American Dream.' I thought I knew the Catholic Church and what it offered -- and it was not important to me. In fact, I didn't know my Faith. I believed that the Church was old fashioned, out of touch. "

John reluctantly admits, "From age 18 to 40, I was brain dead, a 'secular zombie' buying into the popular culture of wealth, status, power and material possessions. I was uneducated and simple-minded when it came to the Faith, my soul, and my responsibilities as a husband and father. I believed, as many people do, that I was a 'good person' and I would get to heaven, as would all of my family. I was a decent person. Why wouldn't I get into heaven? I had everything handled. I didn't need the Catholic Church or any other organized religion."

"I believed, as many people do, that I was a 'good person' and I would get to heaven, as would all of my family. Heck, I paid my taxes, mowed my grass, and remembered peoples' birthdays."

"AM 820's programs really taught me about my Faith."

John realized that he was not truly happy and was not really fulfilled. "As I said, I was a 'zombie' plodding through life doing and pursuing what the world told me would make me happy. Then, somebody quietly and randomly evangelized me via a car bumper magnet! That was the catalyst that prompted me to listen to AM 820, which in turn got me back on the road to the Church and my Faith. St. Gabriel Radio was instrumental in getting me back on the road to the Holy Trinity and my salvation. Now I see that I walked away from an incredible treasure -- the Catholic Church."

As John listened more and more to St. Gabriel Radio, he discovered one gem after another via programs like Father John Riccardo, Mother Angelica, EWTN Open Line, Catholic Answers Live and Patrick Madrid. "The programs on AM 820 really taught me about my Faith. They exposed me to the Church, its history, its teachings, the Catechism, and how it is truly the Body of Christ. I realized that through my birth, through the grace of God, I was blessed to be born Catholic, and that for decades, I had completely lost sight of this treasure."

"God placed me in a magnificent playground."

He likens his malaise to a kid who was placed in the most magnificent playground in the universe, yet who sat in a corner playing in the mud with a stick until he completely abandoned the playground. "I abandoned God's playground without ever looking around or knowing that I was so blessed and fortunate. I, again through the grace of God, have walked back into that wonderful playground and am taking full advantage of it."

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Not long after John discovered St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, he introduced the treasure to his wife, Jeanne, and they haven't moved the radio dial from AM 820 since. Their cars now proudly display the AM 820



bumper magnets. "We hope others see the magnets, tune in, and discover or re-discover the Church."

"The Lord lit a fire in our hearts!" John exclaims. "St. Gabriel turned me on to so many great Catholics. I started buying books and CDs discussed on the radio. This opened up a whole new world about how the Church teachings and Catechism all fit together, make sense, and answer all the questions of life. It is the prescription for how to live in true happiness. We are pilgrims on a journey, following the map that lays out the path to salvation, and the destination is heaven."

"EWTN TV goes hand-in-hand with all the programs we listen to on AM 820."

"We joined our local parish, St. Pius X, and became active. I joined the Knights of Columbus. I work downtown, close by St. Patrick's church and the St. Joseph Cathedral, and am fortunate to be able to attend Mass most days. I often stay after Mass and pray the Rosary for my family members who have fallen away from the faith into the cultural wasteland where I once was. My wife and I also upgraded our cable television package just to get the EWTN shows. EWTN TV goes hand-in-hand with all the great programs we listen to daily on AM 820."

"I subscribe to Lighthouse Catholic Media's monthly CD program; I get five new Catholic CDs each month. My wife and I listen to one and mail the other four CDs to friends and family as a small form of evangelization. I read, view, and listen to as much Catholic material as I can, and have become a budding apologist. My wife Jeanne has joined a women's faith sharing group at our parish, and we teach at St. Pius X's Sunday PSR (parish school of religion). We live for the Lord now!" John also works with others in his parish to recruit men for the annual Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

John and Jeanne are enjoying catechizing their four children (two daughters, two sons) and two grandsons. They evangelize everyone who will listen, and those who would rather not listen, with love and charity. John has developed a special devotion to St. Joseph as a means to keep his two sons in the Church and growing in their faith. As John states "The two daughters have taken our evangelization to heart. The two sons are proving to be harder nuts to crack. I pray to St. Joseph daily for his intercession for my sons; St. Joseph won't let me down."

"I have learned that my greatest mission in life is to get my wife, kids, and grandkids to heaven. I don't intend to fail in that mission," concludes John.

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ADVENT NOVENA

Novena starting on the feast of St Andrew, November 30th

HAIL, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem.

In the piercing cold at that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers and grant my desires (mention request here). Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.

Amen

The tradition is to recite this prayer 15 times each day through Christmas Day.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ON AM 820



The AM 820 Scoreboard Show is presented by ThisWeekSports.com and The Bob Boyd Auto Family with hosts Lee Cochran and Ryan Baker. Scores and highlights from the Ohio Capital Conference, City League, Columbus Catholic League, Licking County League, and the Mid-State League. (approximately 9:45 – 11:00 P.M.)

CCL

**HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL
COVERAGE ON
AM 820**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**MOUNT CARMEL
Foundation**

**BOB-BOYD
AUTO FAMILY**

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES



Starting November 1, you can add your loved ones' names to the St. Gabriel Catholic Radio prayer list online.

Go to
<http://tinyurl.com/am820-2014>

PROGRAM ARCHIVES

Find replays of your favorite local programs including Bishop Campbell, Monsignor Eugene Morris, *Family Sanctuary*, and *Raising Saints*.

Online at www.StGabrielRadio.com

ENJOY A SPIRIT DRIVE SLIDESHOW



Online at <http://tinyurl.com/FSD14-AM820>

AM 820 is listener-supported radio. There's still time to become a Sustaining Member.

Donate today at
www.StGabrielRadio.com.

Sarah Jackson, AM 820 Spirit Drive Angel Updater

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Phone (614) 459-4820
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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.

YOU HAVE MADE OUR THANKSGIVING SPECIAL.

Echoing the words of St. Paul, we at St. Gabriel Radio give thanks to God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in our prayers for you, because of your partnership for the Gospel.

We are confident of this: that the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right that we should think this way about all of you, because we hold you in our hearts, you who are all partners with us in grace.

SALUTING THE CATHOLIC RADIO FAMILY IN OHIO



L - R: EWTN CEO Michael Warsaw, AM 820 Executive Director Bill Messerly, Show Host Teresa Tomeo, and AM 820 Program Manager Dave Orsborn.

Sincere gratitude to all who prayed for and supported St. Gabriel Radio during the Spirit Drive. There's still time to become a member. Donate at www.StGabrielRadio.com.