

RadioActive Messenger

News and Information That Matters to the Apostolate of Catholic Radio

Volume 2, Issue 1

January/February 2003

Association Happenings

Stephen Gajdosik, Executive Director

Catholic Radio Association

Praised be Jesus Christ!

While there are (and will always be) shortcomings, problems, disappointments, etc. within the Church until the end of time, there is also much cause for hope: several new stations have begun broadcasting and are already having an impact; several new lay groups and dioceses have asked for aid in establishing Catholic stations; a zealous lay apostolate in California has said yes to God and, if the contract gets signed in the next couple weeks, will bring Spanish Catholic radio to a major metro area; and there are contracts signed on the purchase of new stations in the Southeast that will be made known shortly.

Fr. George Foley, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Breckenridge, TX, reported KYRE-LP 92.7 FM went on the air on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and people began listening immediately, even though it had not been released locally that the station was on. When Father stopped at a local restaurant the owner told him there were three helpers in the kitchen praying the Rosary! Thank you, Jesus! (The CRA made FCC application for Fr. Foley and provided him with manufacturer discounts.)

A gasp of shock and sadness filled the Catholic radio community in February. Two of the pioneers in the field, Paul Danese of Mediatrix Radio and Al Kresta of Ave Maria, were both hospitalized with serious illnesses, Paul with cancer and Al with blood poisoning. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

January 8 brought the culmination of several months of effort when Ron and Bernadette Belter of KBLE in Seattle, Ray Carasco of Radio Guadalupe in Fresno, John Pepe from EWTN and I spent the hour with Fr. Pacwa on EWTN Live discussing the simplicity and necessity of Catholic radio and the many ways in which the CRA can help. We received well over 200 requests for information and assistance due to the show. This year's Catholic radio conference should be full☺.

Cont'd on page 2

The Daughters of St. Paul

An Mei Lam

Daughters of St. Paul

A communications expert, a musician, a light burning in a dark world, an apostle of Christ, this is the vocation of a Daughter of St. Paul. Who are the Daughters of St. Paul? They are an international organization of women religious dedicated to spreading the message of God's love and truth with the communications media. Founded in Italy in 1915 by Venerable James Alberione, the Daughters are today present in 50 countries throughout the world. The sisters use every form of media to spread the Word of God. They staff 20 book and media centers in US & Canada. The Provincial house, novitiate and publishing house are located in Boston.

The publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, known as Pauline Books & Media, produce books, CD's, and software that promote a message of hope. They established a choir in 1988 and since then have touched the hearts of millions with their music. They have distributed over 500,000 of their 19 albums both sung and instrumental.

The choir has been awarded three Silver Angel Awards from Excellence in Media. Their music has appeared in two motion picture sound tracks: *Lorenzo's Oil* and *A Bronx Tale*.

As a music engineer, Sr. Jane Livingston said, "Music is a universal language capable of speaking directly to people's hearts."

Communicating hope, goodness and truth are common goals of the Catholic radio stations and the Daughters of St. Paul. Looking forward to collaborating with the Catholic radio stations, the Daughters of St. Paul are happy to send free music samples to play for radio stations.

Contact Sr. Bernadette Reis for information on airing music produced by Pauline Records at 617-522-8911 or e-mail: bsoffice@pauline.org. For free review copies of adult spirituality and kids books contact Sr. Roberta Hummel at publicrelations@pauline.org. Check out the Pauline website at www.pauline.org. Ω

Association Happenings cont'd

Speaking of the conference, check the box below right for more details. Also check out the box below regarding the new window that the FCC recently opened for new translator applications. A translator is a relatively low watt (up to 250 watts) and inexpensive (\$5k-\$9k) rebroadcast facility of another station. It has been several years since a window and may be several years before the next. Take action while you may.

In January about 150 attendees of the NEA conference in Dallas were treated to a special viewing of the movie *Thérèse* (www.theresemovie.com), the true story of St. Therese of Lisieux. *Thérèse* is a production of Leonardo Defilippis, renowned for his one-man productions of St. John of the Cross and St. Maximilian Kolbe. It is a masterful movie that draws you into the movie and allows you to share the great joys and sorrows of the "Martins". I don't believe there was a dry eye in the entire theater, including the fifty or so priests and bishops.

With the movie distribution channels being controlled as they are by a minority of secular businessmen whose motives, are at best, only profit and growth, it will be difficult to get *Thérèse* distributed widely. Please contact Leonardo at leonardo@stlukeproductions.com to ask him in what way you may help bring *Thérèse* to your city. You and your listeners will be very glad you did.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam!

Best Practices

As noted in our last newsletter, one of the greatest fears and hurdles that groups need to overcome is fundraising. Sooner or later, in order to get a station on the air someone has to raise the money. That someone may well be you.

In order to aid you in that process, we've completed a "how to" manual to help guide you through the various steps and pitfalls. The manual contains the combined experiences of several radio apostolates and was compiled by a professional development firm familiar with Catholic radio operations and fund raising. It is available to all members for the cost of shipping. E-mail info@CatholicRadioAssociation.org or call 920-532-0147 to request your copy.

FM Translator Window

Well, many of us have been waiting for this. The FCC issued a Public Notice last week announcing the opening of a filing window for new FM translator applications the week of March 10-14, 2003. Once the filing window closes on March 14th, the FCC will review the filings and determine which applications are mutually exclusive. Those that are not will be listed on a subsequent Public Notice and scheduled for auction with the FCC application fee of \$600, if applicable, due at that time. If you would like the CRA to aid you, there is an engineering/application fee of only \$300.

As stated in the above column, a translator is a relatively low watt (up to 250 watts) and inexpensive rebroadcast facility of another station. As this window is only open for the commercial FM band (92.1 – 107.9 MHz), translators, according to current regulations, must be fed on air and not via satellite. For example, a translator could not be placed into Overton, NE at this point as there is no Catholic FM service there to feed it. However, the rule prohibiting satellite feeding of noncommercial translators in the commercial band may become a thing of the past. There is currently a Petition for Rulemaking before the FCC to allow just that. But as that petition will not be decided upon prior to the close of the translator application window, there is a bit of faith needed to apply for a translator at this time.

Given the possibility that the current rule will be changed, the next translator window may be several years away and many of the frequencies will be taken, it may well be worth the risk to make application now. Call us to discuss the options available to you.

EWTN/CRA Annual Conference

Plan now to attend the annual radio conference scheduled for June 5-7, 2003 at the Hilton Perimeter Park South in Birmingham, AL. This year's conference will contain not only some of the same features as previous years, but all new presentations on FCC Law given by the FCC, an LPFM track and a complete LPFM studio, including working automation system and transmitter, as well as vendors with specially-negotiated pricing for CRA members a short retreat and more! For those who have attended previous conferences, this one will be a must attend. Of course, you will also have the opportunity to attend *EWTN Live* and *Life on the Rock* live and meet Fr. Pacwa and Fr. Francis Mary. For those looking to supercharge their work, time has been planned at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Look for registration materials in your inbox soon.