

RadioActive Messenger

News and Information That Matters to the Apostolate of Catholic Radio

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First Quarter 2003

Association Happenings

Stephen Gajdosik, Executive Director

Catholic Radio Association

Well it's been a good couple months for Catholic radio: Catholic groups applied to the FCC in March for several hundred new translator stations (we hope to hear from the FCC in the next month about the status of the applications), Eternal Truth Broadcasting in Houston placed KGBC on the air on April 1, the 2003 Catholic Radio Conference is taking shape very nicely and both Paul Danese and Al Kresta are on the way to recovery after their recent life-threatening illnesses.

I believe most of you have received the mailing this past month regarding the **2003 Annual Catholic Radio Conference**. We plan to announce one or two major initiatives and begin building the foundation for them during the conference. Both initiatives are aimed at aiding our members in the area that always requires the most attention: fundraising. See the feature box on the following page for more details and submit your registration early as attendance is limited this year.

As noted in the last issue the FCC opened a five-day window during which it accepted applications for new translators. A number of dioceses, lay apostolates and individuals applied for translators through the CRA which have the potential of reaching millions of people. We are currently awaiting a Public Notice from the FCC to determine their status. Please pray that these broadcast facilities may soon be broadcasting the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It has been a long road for Leo Garza and Eternal Truth Broadcasting in Houston (not unlike most groups in Catholic radio), but through perseverance and faith they went on the air April 1st with Houston's first full-time Catholic radio station. Despite a slow economy, outrageous station prices and very few opportunities, Leo has been faithful in prayer and action to realize a Catholic station in Houston. It is a good model for us to follow: pray as if everything depends upon God and work as if it all

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TU COMPAÑERO CATÓLICO

Rev. Gary Ziuraitis, C.Ss.R

Tu Compañero Católico, an evangelization project of the Redemptorists, is a pre-recorded, half-hour, Gabriel Award winning, weekly Catholic radio program in the Spanish language in its fourth year of production. It is done in a magazine style format that is similar in format to the CCC's English language Catholic Radio Weekly. Through its various segments it provides spiritual and religious content, practical "how-to" advice about jobs, housing, and health concerns, legal commentary and the challenges of living in a multi-cultural society. It also provides entertainment in the form of Latino music selections of religious, folklorico and popular origin. It is produced and hosted by professional Latino talent.

The majority of Latinos are Catholic. **Tu Compañero Católico** extends a hand of welcome and concern by the Catholic Church for our Catholic brothers and sisters struggling in a foreign land and in a non-Hispanic culture and language.

The program currently airs on 59 stations in 43 dioceses. It is distributed free on request on compact discs and audiocassettes to the subscribing dioceses and stations. Many dioceses from the Latino- resource-poor areas of the country have placed **Tu Compañero Católico** on their programming schedules as part of their evangelization effort to Latinos. Otherwise they would have not been able to afford to produce and/or to air a Spanishj. The participation of the CCC in this on-going project will strengthen its reach and enhance the objectives of the USCCB and the Bishops' Strategic Plan for Conference Communications.

For more information, or to subscribe to the program call Rev. Gary Ziuraitis, Project Director, at 314-436-4449. E-mail: GaryZ@worldnet.att.net
Or visit the webpage at <http://rozi.com/tu/companero.html>. Ω

EWTN/CRA Annual Conference

Plan now to attend the annual radio conference scheduled for June 5-7, 2003 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, 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 and more! Michael Wagner, Assistant Chief of the Audio Division of the FCC will be speaking. 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, a mini-retreat has been planned at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. A registration form is attached to this e-mail.

FCC ISSUES DECISION ON COMMERCIAL/NON-COMMERCIAL PROCESS

Excerpted from Graham Brock April 2003 Newsletter

The FCC had to delay the FM auction process for the over 450 vacant FM channels when U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that non-commercial stations were exempt from the auction process. On April 10, 2003, the Commission released an Order outlining how it will address the issues of non-commercial stations vying for commercial (non-reserved) channels. First, a non-commercial entity must demonstrate that it will use the channel to advance an educational program and, second, that the station will be used by a municipality to transmit only non-commercial programs for educational purposes. If the non-commercial entity cannot comply with these two points, it may still apply for the non-reserved channel, but must participate in the auction. Those complying with these two points may file for the new facility in the commercial band and not be subject to the auction rules. However, applications may be dismissed should there be commercial applicants for the same channel. The Commission is considering allowing settlements between competing applications where a non-commercial applicant is involved. The settlement options will be similar to those used following the last AM major change window. Additionally, the Commission will open a window soon that will allow non-commercial entities to reserve some previously allotted FM channels (those allotted after August 7, 2000, for which there are no pending applications). The FCC's reservation process for the channels will require a preclusionary study that shows that no non-commercial channels are available in the community proposed. Following this allocation reservation window, the FCC should restate the FM auction process for the numerous vacant channels.

Association Happenings cont'd

depends upon you (St. Augustine, I believe). The CRA is proud to have been able to aid Eternal Truth in its quest to bring Truth himself to the airwaves of Houston. Kudos, Leo!

Doug Sherman from Immaculate Heart Radio recently said they are building two new stations right now – AM 1450 KCIK (Christ is King) in Eureka, CA – and FM 89.3 KPJP (Pope John Paul) in Quincy, CA. The Quincy station will be IHR's first FM and an NCE one, to boot. That will allow them to feed NCE band translators (88.1 - 91.9 FM) across the country with the EWTN satellite feed.

In the Fourth Quarter newsletter last year we highlighted a new pithy and humorous 60 second spot aimed at some of the curious and enlightening features of the Catholic Tradition. Mark Shea, the witty talent behind the microphone, said they are now up to 10 subscribing stations, with more coming on line soon.

If you would like to listen to the past programs and get on the mailing list for future programs for airing on your station, send Mark an e-mail at chez.ami@verizon.net. He'll be happy to get them right out to you.

May Jesus Christ, risen for us this Easter, be the source, the nourishment and the end of everything you do in your life and in your apostolate in Catholic Radio!

Ad majorem Dei gloriam!

The EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network has reaffirmed its commitment to news with the addition of 2 minute Newlinks. These are heard at the top of many hours throughout the day. Listeners hear news of the Church, the faith and the world.

Another welcome addition to the EWTN Radio lineup is "The Doctor Is In." This call-in show, produced by Catholic Answers, features popular hosts Dr. Colleen Mast and Dr. Ray Guarendi. It's heard every Saturday at 6pm Eastern.

And an EWTN favorite is back on Radio! Fr. Leo Clifford returns with "More Reflections" at 6am Monday through Friday, and 4:15pm every day. For more information about all of these programs, go to www.ewtn.com/radio.

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