

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop

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Phone: (312) 534-8230
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October 18, 2011
Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The *New Evangelization* as proclaimed by Blessed John Paul II calls for a reawakening of the missionary spirit of the Church. Pope John Paul II challenged us to teach and live our Catholic faith with the enthusiasm and energy of the first disciples of Christ. While the message of the Gospel is the same as when Jesus lived among us, the tools of evangelization have changed with the times. Catholic radio is one of those tools that can magnify our efforts to invite others to live as disciples of the Lord.

I am pleased to offer my support to those who will soon launch a new radio station, WSFI 88.5 FM. This radio station, based in Antioch, Illinois, will reach more than a half-million people in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. It is licensed to broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and its presence will fill a gap in religious broadcasting in the northern region of the Archdiocese of Chicago, where Catholic radio programming is very limited at present.

The owners of WSFI 88.5 FM promise a radio schedule that will bring the best in Catholic programming to the area, programming that is in full compliance with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. I am pleased that Father John Jamnicky, Pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish in Antioch, has agreed to serve on the station's advisory board.

I ask that you kindly lend your support to this new Catholic radio voice in Northern Lake County by becoming a regular listener once the station begins broadcasting in 2012. I thank God that we have these tools to proclaim the Gospel, and I pray that WSFI 88.5 FM will succeed in its mission to evangelize and inspire its listeners to lead more vibrant lives of faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

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Dear Father:

I am writing to make you aware of a new Catholic radio station in Northern Lake County and to encourage your support in making this evangelization initiative a success. The FCC recently granted a license to a group of local Catholics to launch a new radio station, WSFI 88.5 FM. Based in Antioch, Illinois, it will broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Its signal will reach more than a half-million people in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, filling a gap in Catholic programming that currently exists in that area.

The owners of WSFI 88.5 FM promise a radio schedule that will bring the best in Catholic programming to the area, programming that is consistent with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Father John Jamnicky, Pastor of Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish in Antioch, has agreed to serve on the station's advisory board. Thanks to efforts by the Catholic Radio Association, WSFI FM will become one of more than 100 Catholic stations across the nation recently licensed by the FCC to operate as Non-Commercial Educational FM stations.

Research on the impact of Catholic radio is very positive. One recent survey found that listeners of Catholic radio are more spiritually engaged and inspired by their faith, better educated in it, and more adequately prepared to teach their children about Catholicism. As we strive to implement Blessed John Paul II's call for a New Evangelization, Catholic radio helps us to spread the message of the Gospel and enables us to reach thousands who might never come to a parish to attend a Bible study session or Catechism class.

If all goes as planned, WSFI 88.5 FM will begin broadcasting in May of 2012. Much work needs to be accomplished between now and the targeted launch date, from acquisition of programming to the technical build-out. I would be grateful to you if you would encourage your parishioners to listen to the station. I endorse their efforts and pray that WSFI FM will become another effective tool of evangelization.

Thank you for your service as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. You are remembered in my prayers each day, and I count on the support of yours.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago