



Sept. 9, Hays and Sept. 10, Salina

## Thirteenth Annual Appreciation Banquet features Jack & Johnnette Williams

Jack and Johnnette Williams will be the guest speakers for Divine Mercy Radio's Thirteenth Annual Appreciation Banquet. Jack and Johnnette are well-known personalities from the Eternal Word Television and Radio Network, commonly referred to as EWTN.

Jack is the general manager of EWTN Radio as well as the host of *Open Line*, which airs at 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Johnnette is the executive producer of the *Women of Grace* television program and host for the radio program, *Women of Grace*, which airs at 10 a.m. Monday through Thursday on Divine Mercy Radio.

Interestingly, both had a conversion in 1981 that brought them to embrace the Catholic faith with a desire to serve God wherever He led them. Both were called to Catholic radio in different states and with different purposes. However, they both ended up working at EWTN.

Both lost their first spouses to cancer – Johnnette's first husband, Anthony Benkovic, died of brain cancer in 2007 after 33 years of marriage, and Jack's wife, Susie, died in 2016 of pancreatic cancer after 20 years of marriage.

Jack and Johnnette's friendship at EWTN turned into courtship. They were united in the sacrament of marriage on May 25, 2018 with Father Wade Menezes officiating.

The first Monday of every month, the Williams' are on the *Women of Grace* radio show with what they call, "Marriage Mondays." They take phone calls, and

give suggestions to callers based on their personal experiences and their strong relationship with Jesus and Mary.

The title of their banquet talk will be, "Speaking

Truth to Darkness: The Call of Radio for Such a Time as This."

The banquet will be held beginning at 6 p.m. at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall on Saturday, Sept. 9 in Hays.

The following day, the banquet will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 in the Hall of Bishops of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Early bird tickets are \$55 if ordered before Aug. 20. After that date, banquet tickets are \$60.

You can order by going to [dvmercy.com](http://dvmercy.com) and click on the banquet icon in the middle of the front page or scan the QR code below.



Jack & Johnnette Williams on their wedding day in 2018.

All tickets will be at the door. If you wish to sit by certain other guests, please let the staff at Divine Mercy Radio know by Sept. 1.



## Donetta's Ramblings

# Struggling with public speaking

Public speaking has never been my forte. Thus, giving a report on the happenings of Divine Mercy Radio at our annual appreciation banquets, has really been a struggle. I sit there and do deep breathing exercises before I get up. And then, it never fails, emotion about where God has led us overwhelms me and those dang tears start falling.

Writing speeches are no problem, but I'm not good at giving them, so thanks to all of you who put up with me!

Once, after giving a pro-life talk at a banquet, I came home and went before the picture we have in our living room of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I asked her to take public speaking away from me as I always feel like a failure because I cannot seem to keep my emotions in tack. She said to me, "Your tears are my tears, and I want the world to see."

This will be my last year of giving a station report at our annual banquet. There will likely be emotion, so just expect it. I might even not try to fight it. Or, maybe I can tell a silly joke like the master of ceremonies does.

It's amazing how God has increased the stations of Divine Mercy Radio to what it is today, a network of stations. People have asked me where we are going to build next. Before we can even think about another radio station, we would need a larger studio. Our computers line the entire wall of the current studio.

A big thanks to all of you who have made building these five stations possible. I pray you can come to one of our banquets and celebrate with us.

January 1, 2024, I will officially be retired. The assistant director, Nathan Lang, will assume the director position. He will need an assistant, so if you know of some-

one, on fire for their Catholic faith, a little tech savvy and a hard worker as not all of our tasks are glorious, then send them Nathan's way.

On another note, we've enjoyed having Matthew Hogan as our summer intern. He's done a great job with his Morning Musings segments. We will miss this local flair when he returns to Ave Maria University in the fall.

May God bless all of you and may your guardian angels surround you with good health and protection.



Divine Mercy Radio's studio in Hays.

### Hays Banquet

Saturday, September 9

Rose Garden Banquet Hall  
2350 E. 8th St.

#### Appetizers

Meatballs  
Veggies & Dip  
Cheese & Crackers

#### Salad

Smothered Steak  
Honey Pecan Chicken  
Loaded Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans or Corn  
Dinner Rolls

Apple or Cherry Crisp

### Salina Banquet

Sunday, September 10

Hall of Bishops in Sacred Heart Cathedral  
118 N. 9th St.

#### Appetizers

BBQ Meatballs  
Spring Rolls w/ Sweet & Sour Sauce  
Buffalo Popcorn Chicken w/ Ranch Sauce  
Vegetable Platter

#### Mixed Tossed Greens

Grilled Chicken Breast w/ Lemon Butter Cream Sauce  
OR  
Grilled 6-oz Steak topped w/ a Red Wine Demi Glaze  
and Mushrooms  
Oven Roasted Balsamic Mixed Vegetables

New York Cheesecake topped w/ Berry Sauce

# Local interviews on Morning Musings

Hello! This is Matthew Hogan, summer intern at Divine Mercy Radio. As part of my internship, I was given the task of hosting Morning Musings — a nine-minute local show which airs from 7:21 to 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. The Son Rise Morning Show, which usually plays at that time, has given this segment to local stations to air the activities and feature personalities in their particular areas.

After I learned the ropes of how to actually record and produce a show, I was fortunate to be immediately blessed with a number of great candidates for an interview. I visited with Father Leo Blasi and Father Rich Daise about a number of topics. From there, the scope of the show has only grown.

I have been working to cover a wide variety of topics so that all listeners might be able to find something interesting that they may not have heard about. There are personal stories, topics which affect Catholics as a whole, as well as coverage of local events and community activities. I also hope to encourage people to become more involved in their community and engage with each other through Catholic discipleship.

The interviews I have conducted so far have been incredibly enriching for myself. For example, I interviewed Rick Binder, the campus minister at Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior and Senior High School in Hays. Afterwards, we began talking about names. Names are personal, and they can be a great way to connect with people quickly and efficiently. Rick challenged me to start calling people by their names, when interacting with them either on a professional or personal level. For example, if at a business, he encouraged me to read a person's name tag and use their name while visiting with them. Rick said people actually care about someone using their name and that small gesture might actually make their day.

At first I was a bit skeptical, however, I decided to go ahead, take the chance and try this approach for myself.

To my amazement, it worked! People began engaging with me more. They actually seemed to care about the fact that I had simply used their name.

Meeting with people personally and getting to know their stories is really at the core of Morning Musings. The best and most powerful stories are the personal ones that connect with people.

If you know of someone who would make a good interview, please give me a call at 785.621.4110 or email me at [matthew@dvmercy.com](mailto:matthew@dvmercy.com).

Also, please note that if you missed the early time slot of Morning Musings, you can listen to them at

[dvmercy.com](http://dvmercy.com). Just scroll to the middle of the page and click on the Morning Musings icon.

Another way to catch up is on Divine Mercy Radio's phone app. Just bring up the app, click on a station to listen to, then click on the three bars in the top left corner of the app, and then click on podcasts. The newest produced show is always on the top.

This internship is an experiment by the Board of Directors and staff of this fine radio station.

If you have a comment about Morn-

ing Musings, please email [admin@dvmercy.com](mailto:admin@dvmercy.com). This will give them an idea if this local segment is something to pursue permanently in the future.

In August, I will be returning for my final year at Ave Maria University. Please pray for me that the Holy Spirit guides me to whatever He has planned for my future. Thank you!

- Matthew Hogan, Summer Intern



Matthew holds the prayer book for Father Fred Gatschet at the blessing of the KGOH, 89.1 tower in Colby.





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## Future Listener



Ada Rose Woydziak, daughter of Wade & Emily Woydziak, Hays.

## Ribbon Cutting



Lester Robben, President of the Board of Directors, cuts the ribbon at the official ribbon cutting celebrating the broadcasting of Divine Mercy Radio's fifth station, 89.1, KGOH, Colby. The Chamber Chat and ribbon cutting was held June 30 at the Fox Theatre in downtown Hays. About 45 people attended from the Hays Chamber of Commerce and the Hays Community. KGOH, 89.1, Colby officially began broadcasting May 9.