

One 'Layman's' Analysis

Transmission and Reception Problems

By Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione

During the years that The Family Rosary Hour has been on the air, from time to time I have received complaints from listeners about the poor reception of our program or of not being able to get it at all. Being far from an expert in these matters, I used to call the radio station that carried our program and relay the problem to them. From the information they have given me and the suggestions they have made, I have acquired a non-professional, but adequate knowledge of the causes of poor radio reception, and this I will now share with the readers of this article.

Very often the problem can be traced to the radio itself. If it is battery-powered, a weak battery is usually the source of the trouble. If the power source is normal, then reception of a signal from an AM station can be improved by turning the set one way or the other. Most modern AM radios have a built-in antenna. The objective then is to turn the antenna in the direction of the station's transmitters. This is done by simply turning the portable radio till the signal gets stronger.

There are other problems, however, that originate not with the listener's radio but at the other end, the station's transmitters, although through no fault of the station.

What most people don't realize is that all, except a few clear channel AM stations, either have to suppress their power in certain directions at sunset or, if they are daytime stations, go off the air entirely at sunset. Since sunset changes from month to month, so the time for this to take place changes monthly. Nor is this left to the discretion of the station. It is all regulated by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) in Washington which decides at what time during a given month the station must "go directional" or go off the air, as the case may be.

The underlying reason for this regulation is the fact that AM radio signals travel farther at night than in the daytime -- and the fact that two or more stations at a certain distance from each other are often assigned the same wave length. For the reason I have just mentioned, two stations on the same wave length may not interfere with each other during the day but they would at night. To prevent this happening, the FCC, before granting a license, requires, among other things, that a station conform to a nighttime pattern of transmitting its signal.

What this means is that the station, at a certain time each month, based on the average time of sunset, must suppress or cut down its power in a certain direction. The suppressed signal will be in the direction of another station on the same wave length. This is how the FCC keeps stations on the same wave length from interfering with each other at night.



Fr. Louis J. Hohman

The Open Window

Is God's Love Truly with No Condition?

Dear Father Hohman, Recently I in was attendance at a parish retreat and the one who was giving us the talk kept referring to God's unconditional love for us. I had more than a little trouble with that because it seemed to me that if someone was a sinner and unrepentant that one had forfeited that love. Isn't God's love conditional upon our repentance and our return to him? If he loves us, how can he put us in hell? In other words, what does that mean -- that everyone is going to heaven regardless of what one has done?

(signed) A.B.

Dear A.B.

The first thing we need to remember is that God's ways are not our ways, our ways are not God's ways. The retreat master was not speaking contradictions but was speaking probably the most important truth of our faith, that God's love is indeed unconditional.

How does that work? It means that no matter how sinful, wicked or unrepentant we may be, that God still has total good will toward us and desires only our happy outcome. Furthermore, it means that if we will allow him, he will do whatever is necessary to bring us back to our senses and home to him. God does not "put us in

hell." Rather, if we go to hell, we have chosen it. That means we have walked away from God and toward ourselves and our own will which of its very self is the beginning of hell.

God gave human beings free will and under no circumstances will he retract that gift. That means that human beings are capable of rejecting God totally and going their way. God will not take away their free will by forcing us to go his way. Therefore, if we end up in a state of damnation, it is a damnation that we have chosen and God has not willed.

Perhaps we could make the comparison with a mother whose son has become a murderer and a social outcast. Even to the gallows she would love him totally and would will only the best for him. The lesson we need to learn is God is always waiting for us to return just as the father of the prodigal son was waiting on the road. His love is always present and only needs our response. He will even give us the power to make that response and to follow through on it by returning home to him if we allow him. The fact is that when we walk away from God in a total way we are quite incapable of returning to him by our own power and therefore it is only the presence of his loving power which enables us to return.

One-thing is certain: if we throw ourselves on the mercy of our loving God, he will not fail us.

The average person listening to a station about the time the change takes place, will be affected in one of two ways, depending on his distance from the station's transmitters. Either the program he is listening to will suddenly become weaker and spoiled by static and interference from another station, or it will disappear entirely from the set. If he lives in a direction from the station where there is no change in signal power, he is not likely to be affected at all. But if he lives in the direction where the signal has to be suppressed at sunset, he will experience the problems above.

What this means in practice then is that a favorite evening program like The Family Rosary For Peace will come in strong when it is on the air before sunset -- usually between April and October -- since the station will be transmitting at full power in all directions, but either drop out or come in poorly during the fall and winter months when sunset comes earlier in the day.

Thus far I have said nothing about FM stations because they are not affected by the changes I have mentioned. Without becoming too technical, I simply want to add that FM signals differ from AM signals in that they travel in a

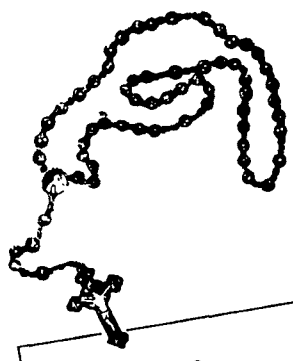
relatively straight line, unlike AM signals which generally travel along the surface of the earth. FM radio sets usually have an outside antenna, a rod that has to be raised to improve reception. Because it travels in a relatively straight line, the FM signal will be limited by two things: a) the horizon, and b) obstructions in its path such as hills or buildings. In the first case, the curvature of the earth will eventually separate the listener from the signal. In the second case, regardless of the power of an FM station, if the signal runs into hills or buildings, it is either weakened or pretty effectively stopped.

I share this layman's analysis of radio reception problems with other laymen like myself to alert listeners of The Family Rosary Hour to the fact that at this time of the year: a) daytime-only stations in our network will be carrying our program, since we will be on the air before they have to sign-off; b) if they have not been able to pick up our program since last fall, they probably can now; and c) if reception of our program has been poor during the winter months, it should improve notably through the summer months.

The Family Rosary for Peace

"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary in the evening."

Pope John Paul II
March 25, 1984



Message of Our Lady of Fatima
DAILY ROSARY

Copies of the above leaflet may be obtained by writing to:
Family Rosary for Peace
P.O. Box 4300
Rochester, N.Y. 14611

The Family Rosary for Peace
P.O. BOX 4300 ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611

Dear Friend,

That the recitation of the Rosary daily is a very important part of the message of Fatima, I have on the highest authority: that of Sister Lucy herself to whom Our Lady appeared at Fatima. It was she who personally gave me the Portuguese version of the above leaflet: MESSAGE OF FATIMA, DAILY ROSARY, which she had composed, and asked if I would have it translated into English and distributed in the English-speaking world.

I was assisted in the translation by the cloistered Dominican Nuns at Fatima and by an Australian lady staying at the convent. That was in 1972. Since then, over a million leaflets have gone out from Fatima, Rochester, N.Y. and Brisbane, Australia, carrying Our Lady's request for the daily Rosary.

I invite you to join in this crusade. Write to The Family Rosary For Peace at the above address for copies of this leaflet and help continue spread the word: MESSAGE OF FATIMA, DAILY ROSARY.

God bless
Msgr. Cirrincione

THE FAMILY ROSARY FOR PEACE RADIO NETWORK Nightly 6:30-7:00

- WWWG, Rochester 1500 (AM)
 - WXRL, Buffalo 1300 (AM)
 - WSIV, Syracuse 1540 (AM)
 - WOIV, Syracuse 105 (FM)
 - WSFW, Seneca Falls 1110 (AM)
 - WSFW, Seneca Falls 99 (FM)
 - WNGZ, Watkins Glen 105 (FM)
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