

Walking the Walk, Talking the Talk Alumni Spotlight...on Ty Agosta

As founder of the "Spread the Word Foundation" and host of the Catholic Radio Hour, formerly on Jukebox Radio, 103.1 FM, Ty Agosta's inspiration for starting a Catholic radio talk show originated in an unusual place—a coffee shop. Amid mingling scents of freshly brewed specialty coffees and sugary scones, Ty struck up a conversation with someone in line who happened to host an evangelical radio program in New York City. Intrigued, Ty later listened to the program and discovered that the show often times challenged the Catholic Church and its teachings in an effort to support its own evangelical message. "That got me going," says Ty. "I started listening to other Christian radio shows and found that they sometimes subtly, or not so subtly, attacked the Catholic Church too."

With no Christian talk show dedicated to the Catholic point of view in all of New Jersey and most of New York, Ty began a journey that would make him a pioneer of Catholic talk radio in the tri-state area. "I always felt we needed a Catholic voice. Catholics needed a program they could call their own so that they could get in the game and let people hear the other side," says Ty. "Of the 12,000 Christian radio stations nationwide, only a fraction of them are Catholic radio stations," he says.

As an alumnus of Felician College and a former member of its alumni board, Ty's career path began in business as an insurance rep for his father's business. In 1996, Ty became an independent State Farm Insurance agent, and in 1999, he broke a 70-year company-wide record

for life insurance sales. On Mother's Day 2001, Ty hosted his first Catholic Radio Hour talk show, and spoke about Blessed Mother Mary. Since that time, he hosted the live program every Sunday from 7-8 p.m. until recently when the radio station closed. Delving into a variety of topics with a variety of renowned people from around the world, Ty's guests on the show included the 1950's singer Dion who sang such hit songs as "The Wanderer" and "Run Around Sue"; Father Benedict Groeschel of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the world's top Catholic speakers and authors; and a number of cardinals and bishops. The Catholic Radio Hour talk show was devoted to bringing the fullness of the Christian faith to others, says Ty. With the Jukebox Radio station now defunct, the show is temporarily off the air, but Ty keeps busy as a motivational/educational speaker on the Catholic speaker circuit. "The purpose of my work is to promote Christian unity and to help Catholics realize and appreciate the abundant treasures of the Church," explains Ty. The goal, says Ty, is not about winning arguments. "It's about winning souls. People aren't just hungry for God. They're starving for The Truth."

Ty says his work is more than a vocation and describes it as a "calling." Ty has been involved in the Church since he was a child, playing the church organ from age 11 on, and serving as a lector at Our Lady of the Assumption in Wood-Ridge, NJ, as an adult. "The most rewarding part of my work is in helping fellow Catholics to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the



Ty Agosta, left, interviews his guest, Father Andrew Apostoli, on The Catholic Radio Hour talk show program.

Sacraments and all the spiritual gifts the Catholic Church has to offer so that they can then go out and share their faith with others."

Faith in God has played a large part in Ty's tenacious fight to get the Word out and the success he has experienced throughout his life. "I'm convinced that the success I've had in my life would not be possible without God. We can never outdo God. The more time we spend with God, the more successful we'll be in work and in life." Life, he says, is not all about working and money. "Build up your treasures in heaven first. Everything else will fall into place."

As a speaker available for church and community groups, anyone interested in booking him can call (201) 933-8967, or email stwfound@aol.com. □