



An Introduction

We'd like to introduce the National Jesuit Conference and members of the Society of Jesus throughout the United States to Provoke Radio. We believe we have a lot in common. No surprise there, considering Provoke is sponsored in part by the Maryland Province. To quote Maryland Provincial, Fr. Tim Brown, "Provoke is the best thing we've done" in terms of reaching a national audience.

What is Provoke Radio?

Provoke Radio is a half hour radio program whose mission is to: *engage the listener in a reflection of important contemporary issues from a religious perspective as an illustration of how Catholic principles, which directly serve faith and promote justice, can be lived out in every day life.* In other words, it is a forum where faith and social justice meet.

Where can you listen to Provoke?

You can listen to Provoke on the Internet anytime at your convenience. All our shows are archived on our website at www.provokeradio.com. You can listen right on the site or download to a CD, Ipod or other MP3 player. You can subscribe to our free podcast and have Provoke delivered to your virtual doorstep for easy access.

You can also hear Provoke on the air in the Baltimore, Washington, St. Louis, and San Francisco areas. Check out our website for a list of radio stations currently airing Provoke. And, as of this fall, you will be able to hear Provoke on the Sirius satellite radio network, courtesy of the Catholic Channel, sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. That means, if you subscribe to Sirius, you can listen to regularly scheduled Provoke shows from anywhere in the United States. Because Provoke has a national feel and polish in terms of production values and audience appeal, we anticipate that Provoke will continue to be picked up in additional markets throughout the country.

So, just what do we have in common?

Like the Jesuits, Provoke is wholly dedicated to service to others. Our goal is to be a voice for the voiceless, to engage culture and to highlight the stories of people who live the Gospel message through their work and in their every day life. Like the Jesuits, we try to do this in a variety of ways: through inter-religious dialogue, by engaging renowned, experts, authors and theologians on any particular issue, as well as by giving an issue a human voice by engaging the poor, the marginalized, and those who have to "live the problem". Our goal always is to strike a delicate balance between being intellectually stimulating and spiritually accessible. Like the Jesuits, we try and do this by accepting no boundaries. By going into the classroom, the boardroom, the frontiers and the streets.

We want to provoke our listeners to thought and reflection first. Then, if they are so moved, to action. To that end, we always give the listener a way they can become involved in a particular issue either through advocacy or direct service.

Why radio?

Because, like the Jesuits, Provoke believes that modern communications is an effective means to conveying the Gospel message. Modern communications is a milieu in which large numbers of people can be reached. People who might not otherwise receive the message. And because Provoke can tell the stories of people the more powerful media tend to ignore. We tell stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the name of love, compassion and justice and often doing so under the most difficult of circumstances. And lastly, because the radio and Internet are the most cost effective yet powerful tools to reach the maximum amount of listeners. When downloaded from the Internet or burned to a CD, Provoke is also a very effective tool to use in the classroom, both on the secondary and college level.

Why “Provoke”?

We take our name from the Latin, “provocare”. To call forth. We want to call forth a profound and personal response to the issues, conflicts, and problems of the day and to do so in a Gospel context.

How can we serve each other?

Not often, but every once in a while, something comes along that turns out to be too good and too easy to turn down or turn away from. Provoke is that something. Provoke and the Jesuits can be mutually beneficial to each other. The Jesuits are men for others. You live for the greater glory of God. You are in the streets and shelters and ghettos and hospitals and classrooms and boardrooms. You live in accompaniment with the poor and marginalized. You are prolific writers, creators and givers and you are among the most influential thinkers and educators. For each of you, there are probably a hundred stories. We would like to profile you, tell your stories, get you opinions. We’d like to feature your books, highlight your programs and good works. If you’ve got a story or idea you’d like to discuss, we’d like to hear from you. You give us stories, we get a show, your message gets heard. In addition, we’d love it if you would talk up Provoke. Get it on a station in your market. Use it in your classroom. Let us know how we can adapt the show for use in the classroom. We’d love to oblige. There is no end to how we can serve each other and ultimately God.

There is a real hunger for this kind of programming. Our e-mails, which come from all over the world, tell us as much. Help us get the word out about Provoke and we’ll help you get the word out about your latest project.

Sometimes less is more. But sometimes...more is magis.

To find out more about how we can be mutually beneficial to each other, contact us at: producer@provokeradio.com OR: 410-472-1066