

October 7, 2011

Dear Catholic Educators and Youth Leaders,

In his 2011 World Mission Day Message, Pope Benedict XVI states that, "Faith is strengthened when it's given to others!" As educators and leaders in our Catholic schools and parishes, you work hard to share your faith with your students, and encourage them to share their own faith through word and deed. Last spring, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Archdiocese of Seattle introduced our first annual Youth on Mission Contest as a way to highlight this sharing of faith in our local schools.

Now, we are introducing our 2012 contest, *Mission: Possible*, around the theme, "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" (based on the prayer by St. Teresa of Avila, attached). The **Educational Goal** of this contest is to instill in children a realization that they are, even now, called to be missionaries of the Gospel in their homes, schools and communities, and to broaden the perspective of children in realizing that their call to mission is both *local* and *global* in focus. The **Objective** is to engage teachers and students in an art contest where they will work together as a class to explore, enact, and creatively explain what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ on earth, which is their mission.

Mission today consists of several paths or approaches:

- **Witness** to the Gospel: How do we act as Jesus did?
- **Proclamation** of the Gospel: How do we share our faith in words?
- **Interreligious and Secular Dialogue**: How do we learn from other religions and traditions?
- **Social Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation**: How do we protect God's creation and the rights of others?
- **Inculturation**: How do we learn from and respect the cultures of people with whom we serve?
- **Liturgy, Prayer, and Contemplation**: How does liturgy and prayer strengthen and guide us in Christ's mission?
- **Reconciliation**: How do we learn from our mistakes, ask forgiveness, and make amends?

We encourage you and your students to reflect upon these questions, brainstorm how you can live out these paths during the school year, and document your efforts to live out mission. The deadline for this contest is **Pentecost Sunday, May 27th, 2012**. We invite students to submit videos, photo journals, or other artistic entries that speak to the theme, "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours." Resources are available at Resources.Maryknoll.Ua and SeattleArchdiocese.org/Missions.

Thank you for helping to plant the seeds of Christ's love in our youth.

Sincerely,

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