

September 11, 2012

Dear Catholic Educators, Catechists, Youth Ministers, and Parents,

October 11th, 2012, marks the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, which declared that as Christians we cherish a feeling of *deep solidarity* with people all over the world, especially those who are poor or afflicted in any way. In celebration of the Council, Pope Benedict invites all Catholics to again walk through the door of faith and rediscover their relationship with Christ during a Year of Faith, which begins on this anniversary.

In keeping with this invitation, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, the Catholic Schools Department, and the Missions Office are challenging young people, youth groups, and classes in the Archdiocese of Seattle to rediscover their relationship with Christ *through* their relationship with those that the world tells them to ignore. These are the people with whom Jesus walked – people who were poor or ill, people of different faiths, strangers and castaways. Jesus and his disciples visited their towns, spent time in their homes, and shared meals with them. *In doing so, experienced the joy of God's love!*

Our **2013 Mission Possible Video/Art Contest: Side by Side, Arm in Arm** invites young people in grades pre-K to 12 to build relationships with, learn about, and learn from the people that others choose to ignore. We invite them to share this journey and how they grew from it by submitting a video, photo collage, or other piece of artwork by **May 20th, 2013**. Some ideas to help guide young people on this journey include:

- Asking what the word *neighbor* means and who our neighbors are
- Learning about those neighbors that we ignore: those who are ill or poor, those of different faiths, immigrants, the elderly, people in other countries, etc.
- Spending time with people in your community that others often avoid
- Working side by side *with* people, not only for them
- Building relationships with people across the world and learning about their lives
- Entering into fasts and conservation efforts that help us learn about the challenges that others might face
- Inviting speakers who live or have lived on the margins of society to visit and share those experiences

We hope that you will invite your students, children, and other young people that you work with to participate in this experience. Guidelines, deadlines, and prize information are available on the contest flyer. Resources for helping young people grow in solidarity and faith are available at Resources.Maryknoll.Ua and SeattleArchdiocese.org.Missions.

Thank you for your dedication to helping our young people grow in faith and love!

Sincerely,

Kevin Foy
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Sandra Barton Smith
Catholic Schools Department

J.L. Drouhard
Missions Office