



May 16, 2016

Dear Principals,

*You are preparing to be Christians capable of making courageous choices and decisions, in order to build daily, even through little things, a world of peace. - Pope Francis to youth, Jan 6, 2016*

The Office for Catholic Schools invites you to join us in inviting students to embrace the call to be missionary disciples who *go forth as living signs of God's love and compassion to the world*. We teamed up with the Missions Office of the Archdiocese, Seattle University's Poverty Education Center, and the Maryknoll Missioners to develop a program which invites 7th grade students to answer this call through a year-long class exploration of what it means to be a Catholic in and for the world, integrating faith, global awareness, and authentic living of Catholic Social Teaching.

The **Missionary Discipleship Institute (MDI)** consists of three units, aligned with the religion standards, to provide a framework for students to **encounter** the lives of their neighbors on the margins and the injustices that they face; reflect on how the Church responds in love and the **disturbance** this creates in our own sense of discipleship; and discern, develop, and carry out a missionary **response**. Throughout the year, your students will engage in a local immersion experience, research issues currently prevalent in our world, and be empowered to take hopeful Christian action. They will document the process on video, and at the end of the year, share their missionary discipleship videos with other schools throughout the Archdiocese.

We will be holding a formation training for 7th grade teachers on **September 29th from 2:00-7:30pm at the St. James Pastoral Center** to understand how to approach our call to love our neighbor through a mindset of solidarity and faith with their students. You are welcome to join as well. Please encourage your 7th grade teacher/s to sign up for this great opportunity to help our students understand our faith and our call.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Kelly Hickman of the Missions Office ([kelly.hickman@seattlearch.org](mailto:kelly.hickman@seattlearch.org)) or Anna Clarke ([acclarke@maryknoll.org](mailto:acclarke@maryknoll.org)) of Maryknoll.

In gratitude,

Kristin Dixon

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