



May 2017

Dear Seventh Grade Teachers,

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 and Maryknoll Mission Education to develop a program which invites seventh 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 our Archdiocesan 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.

[**Click here to register your seventh grade class for the 2017-18 MDI.**](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Kelly Hickman of the Missions Office (kelly.hickman@seattlearch.org) or Anna Johnson (aclarke@maryknoll.org) of Maryknoll.

In gratitude,

Kristin Dixon, Superintendent, Office for Catholic Schools
Kelly Hickman, Missions Office
Anna Johnson, Maryknoll Mission Education