

“Loving our neighbor in a shrinking world”: Local dialogues around election and Catholic responsibility

GOAL: To stress the moral obligation that Catholics have to participate in the elections to bring about the common good, and to broaden the themes that Catholics are contemplating when making their decisions to include international issues and themes that impact the people with whom Maryknollers live and work.

OBJECTIVE: Get information about the themes and issues most important to Maryknollers to influential opinion-shapers in local catholic communities around the country through dialogues planned and hosted by Maryknoll contacts in 5-6 cities.

WHAT: Regional and local dialogues with opinions-shapers in specific locations on the topics such as sustainable and inclusive human security, migration/immigration climate change, HIV and AIDS, and poverty.

WHO TO INVITE: 8-10 opinion shapers from the local community which can include editor and/or editorial writer from the Catholic newspaper; editor and/or editorial writer from the local Spanish-language newspaper; influential preachers; influential radio announcers; university professors or others from the community well versed in theology or ethics who could contribute to a conversation about the elections as seen from a moral perspective or through deep theological reflection.

WHO: Also to consider: Affiliates, former Maryknollers and others who might have the capacity to spread the word in the local area.

WHEN: To be determined by each community.

WHERE: At a Maryknoll house or other venue that is welcoming to the various actors.

HOW: Organized through the local community with help and support from the Maryknoll Global Concerns office.

FOLLOW UP: After the gathering/dialogue, we (Global Concerns staff and/or organizers of the event) will stay in contact with these opinion shapers, sending them occasional information on particular topic/theme related issues.

For more information about planning a local dialogue, contact Kathy McNeely, 2008 Elections Project Coordinator, Maryknoll Global Concerns. 202-832-1780 or kmcneely@maryknoll.org.