

Announcing the Laudato Si School Certification Program!

Pilot Year: 2020-21 in Ontario Catholic Schools

What is the Laudato Si Certification Program?



[Laudato Si](#) certification is an annual certification program created by Development and Peace - Caritas Canada (DPCC) to help schools reflect the vision of Pope Francis to Care for our Common Home. This vision is given to us in the teaching of his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*. The program is inspired by the vision of Pope Francis who announced [a special Laudato Si year in May 2020](#). Pope Francis says that to care for our common home, we need to nurture three fundamental and interconnected relationships: *our relationship to God, to each other, and to the earth*. When we nurture these relationships, we promote an *integral ecology* that **“takes us to the heart of what it is to be human.”** The certification program therefore focuses on all three of these interconnected relationships. (In other words, it is not simply a Catholic version of the eco-schools program!)

How does the certification program work?

Schools register for the Laudato Si certification program with DPCC **each year** using our [online registration form](#). Certifications are awarded to schools on a yearly basis in June. **To achieve certification, schools must earn at least 10 different badges during the school year.**

Each badge corresponds to a particular challenge that reflects the spirit of Laudato Si. The entry badge is called the **‘Registered World Changer.’** Once this entry badge is earned, there are two types of badges a school can earn towards their certification: monthly badges and yearly badges. Monthly badges correspond to challenges that are issued for specific months. Yearly badges can be earned at any time of the year. Once a school completes its [registration](#), it receives an email from a DPCC staff animator who will accompany the school through the completion of the certification for the year. In that email you will also receive your **“Laudato Si School Number.”** **This number is used to identify your school when completing the online report forms for different badges throughout the year.**



How are badges earned?



When a school registers online for the program each year, you are required to select which initial badges your school wants to work on for the year. Schools can then immediately begin working on the tasks required to earn the monthly or yearly badges they have selected. Each badge has a simple reporting system. Once a report for a badge is verified, your badge will light up beside your school’s name on our virtual “Laudato Si Badge Board.” Once your school has earned 10 badges it receives its “Laudato Si School” certification, which is awarded annually

in June.

How do I learn more about the program?

Contact Luke Stocking, deputy director of public engagement @ lstocking@devp.org or 647-927-7838 to receive the detailed **“Laudato Si Certification Kit for Catholic Educators.”**