



***Laudato Si School Certification Kit  
for Catholic Educators***

***(Ontario Pilot, Version#1: Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020)***

## What is a Laudato Si Certification?

Laudato Si certification is an annual 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*. 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 natural world*. When we nurture these relationships, we promote an *integral ecology* that **“takes us to the heart of what it is to be human.”**

## 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 you complete your school’s [registration](#), you will receive an email from a DPCC staff animator who will accompany you through the completion of your 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 your school registers online for the program each year, you are required to select which 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 unique online reporting form. Once a report for a badge is submitted and 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 in June.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL FOR THE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM!](#)**

## Your Contact for the Program:

The staff animator for your region who contacts you following your registration is your primary contact for all questions related to your work towards earning the certification. Be sure to make a note of their name and contact info!

For other questions about the program, including questions about enrollment, you can also contact Luke Stocking, Deputy Director of Public Engagement: [lstocking@devp.org](mailto:lstocking@devp.org) or 416-922-1592 x225.

**Thanks for starting your journey towards becoming a Laudato Si School!**

## BADGE INSTRUCTIONS

### ENTRY BADGE:



**Month:** Open from November 2020 onwards

**Badge:** Registered World Changer

**Challenge:** [Register your school](#) for our **2020-21 Laudato Si School Certification program** & display an “upside down” map somewhere in your school.

**Badge Instructions: Part A:** All you need to do to get halfway to earning your school’s first badge towards becoming a certified Laudato Si school is register for the program! Easy! When you [register](#), you will be sent a free “Rethink the World” t-shirt. You will also be sent the artwork if you want to print additional t-shirts for students on your own (make sure that they are not made with sweatshop labour!). You can also order additional t-shirts for students directly from us when you [register](#). The cost is \$15 per shirt plus shipping and handling. Various sizes are available in both unisex and female fits. **Part B:** The graphic on the t-shirt features an “upside down” world that challenges people to “rethink the world.” To complete the badge, schools must print a copy of the DPCC [“Rethink the World” infosheet](#) and display it next to an actual world map somewhere in the school that has been turned upside down. [DOWNLOAD THE INFOSHEET HERE](#). Take a picture of the map *with the name of your school clearly visible somewhere*. Include yourselves in the photo too if you like! You will need this photo for your badge report.

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “REGISTERED WORLD CHANGER” ENTRY BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE](#)

### MONTHLY BADGES:

Monthly badges are challenges that are issued for specific months. For some monthly badges it is possible to complete them during a different month if it works best for your school. However, for monthly badges that are tied to participation in a particular event hosted by DPCC, the badge must be earned during the specified month.



**Month:** December

**Badge:** Party for Peace

**Challenge:** Attend the **Caritas Christmas: Party for Peace** online event on [Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-1:30pm ET](#) and share your school’s commitment to Peace!

#### Badge Instructions:

You and your students can use this zoom link to register for the party: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtc-CqrD4qHtGh1OkuT9bpte\\_TJ8E8yya8](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtc-CqrD4qHtGh1OkuT9bpte_TJ8E8yya8).

DPCC is part of the global Caritas family – the humanitarian aid network of the Catholic Church (and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest network in the world after the Red Cross!) Christmas and New Year’s is a time of peace and joy. Join us for our first annual global on-line Christmas party to promote our Catholic commitment to create peace and well-being in the world. Meet other young people involved with Caritas in their own countries. Come prepared to share how your school celebrates Christmas and what your school does throughout the year to create peace and well-being!

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “PARTY FOR PEACE” BADGE?** No report necessary this month! After the party takes place, we will verify your school’s participation from zoom registration report and light up your badge!



**Month: January**

**Badge: Lesson Learned**

**Challenge:** *Carry out one social justice activity from our activities database as a group and get at least one teacher in your school to use one of our many lesson-plans available to teachers.*

### Badge Instructions:

DPCC has a [large database of fun social justice activities](#) your group can do. Choose and carry out one activity from this database as a group. Many of these activities can also be used as lesson plans for a classroom. DPCC also has specific [lesson plans](#) that teachers can use in your classrooms! For grades 8-12 specifically, we have an [extensive set of lesson plans](#) focused on Laudato Si and caring for our common home. Get at least one teacher to use a DPCC lesson plan in their class (it is fine if that person is you!)

[Click here to find your fun activity](#)

[Click here to find a lesson plan \(k-12\)](#)

[Click here to see the Laudato Si focused lesson plans \(8-12\)](#)

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “LESSON LEARNED” BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE](#)



**Month: February**

**Badge: Fast Planner**

**Challenge:** *Set up your school’s fundraising page for our [National THINKfast \(March 18-19\)](#) and start collecting pledges. **Optional Challenge:** *Join us on [Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm ET](#) for a Lenten gathering to meet one of our partners from the Philippines.**

### Badge Instructions:

DPCC promotes development in the global south by working with local partners. Local partners know the realities of their own communities best and how to meet the challenges they face. The financial support

provided through our [THINKfast program](#) provides important resources for them to meet those challenges. A THINKfast is a fast done by students and teachers who collect pledges in support of DPCC. During a THINKfast, students participate in fun and educational activities designed to promote their commitment to Catholic Social Justice. This year, schools are invited to join our National THINKfast on March 18-19. To earn this badge, you simply register to participate!

**Join the National THINKfast:** Visit our 2021 National THINKfast page and click **'Join this team'** to set up your school's team page. [Click here to go to the National THINKfast page](#). Once your school's page is registered you can start recruiting students to participate in the THINKfast and collect pledges for your school's page. Pledges can be collected online and offline. For assistance with registration and promotion contact your DPCC animator.

**Meet a DPCC partner:** [Click here to register for our Lenten gathering on Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm ET](#)

At our Lenten gathering you will learn more about the National THINKfast and hear from one of our partners from the Philippines about the work they are doing in their community with our support. *Note: your school does not need to attend this gathering to earn the Fast Planner Badge.*

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE "FAST PLANNER" BADGE?** No report necessary this month! As soon as you have registered your school's THINKfast page with our National THINKfast, your Fast Planner badge will automatically light up within 48 hours!



**Month: March**

**Badge: Master Faster**

**Challenge:** *Complete your school's planned THINKfast (either on the date of the National THINKfast March 18-19 or on the date chosen by your school) and send any off-line funds raised to DPCC with your financial report.*

### Badge Instructions:

Participate in the National Online THINKfast on March 18-19, 2021 with other schools and students from across the province and country. **If it does not work for your school to do your THINKfast on the same day as the National THINKfast, you can still join the national THINKfast team on-line but organize your THINKfast locally on the day that is best for your school.** Our [THINKfast guide](#) is useful if your school is holding your THINKfast on a different day or if you will be organizing your own activities locally to complement the ones being held nationally on-line.

[Click here to register for the zoom link for the National THINKfast online activities March 18-19.](#)

Once your school finishes the THINKfast, be sure to complete and submit the financial report found in the [THINKfast guide](#) if you collected any cash or cheques as part of your fundraising efforts.



**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “THINKfaster” BADGE?** No report necessary this month either! As soon as your financial report (found in your [THINKfast guide](#)) has been submitted for your THINKfast, your badge will automatically light up!

Because of all the hard work involved in earning the THINKfaster badge, schools that earn this badge are also mailed a THINKfast pennant to hang in their school!

**Month: April**



**Badge: Seed Planter**

**Challenge:** Plant a mustard seed anytime in April to start growing your mustard seed plant. Start collecting loonies and toonie “mustard seeds” that you will need to “Harvest” in May for your May badge. **Optional Challenge:** [Join us on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm ET](#) to meet a special Development and Peace partner in the Global South who is working for Ecological Justice.

### Badge Instructions:

**Plant a Seed:** Spring is a time of new growth! To earn this badge, your school must plant at least one mustard seed and nurture its growth. You can have one plant for your school or encourage multiple classes to grow their own plants. We want to see how high you can grow your plant!

**Collect Loonies and Toonies:** Once your seed is planted, find a creative way to tell your school about the parable of the mustard seed – where Jesus showed us how the Kingdom of God is like the smallest of seeds that becomes the largest of shrubs. For example, you could use the [Mustard Seed Planting prayer](#). Challenge your school to help your plant “grow” toonie and loonie “Mustard Seeds” to support our work in the Global South! Be as creative as you like in how you choose to grow them!

**Meet a DPCC partner on Earth Day:** [Click here to register for our Earth Day celebration on Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm ET](#)

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Seed Planter” BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)



**Month: May**

**Badge: Major Mustard**

**Challenge:** Submit a picture of the Mustard Plant that you grew and harvest all the loonies and toonies it produced to send to DPCC for the people of the Global South working for ecological justice in their communities.

**Badge Instructions:** Continue to promote the message of the mustard seed parable and your efforts to collect loonies and toonies for your plant. Catholic Education Week can be a good time to do a special promotion of your efforts. On or before **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, take a picture of your Mustard Plant(s) along with all the loonies and toonies that you harvested from it. The picture should clearly show how tall the plant grew using a ruler or tape measure. There will be prizes for the tallest plant grown by a school, the greatest number of plants grown by a school, and the most loonies and toonies harvested! These winners will be announced by email at the end of the month!

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Major Mustard” BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)



**Month:** June

**Badge:** The Happy Badger

**Challenge:** Send your favourite photo from your year of becoming a Laudato Si school by June 4<sup>th</sup> to [schools@devp.org](mailto:schools@devp.org) or your local animator. Then join us online on Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm ET to celebrate with all the other schools that earned their Laudato Si certification for 2020-21!

**Badge Instructions:** This is our moment to say THANK-YOU to your school for all your hard work throughout the year towards becoming certified Laudato Si school! We will light up the badge board for the final time of the year! There will be a slideshow from our school year with the photos you send us. We will announce the total number of badges earned as well as the total money raised collectively by all schools in Ontario for the year. We will also give out fun awards (every school will get one!) and have draws for some fun prizes! Then we take a break for the summer and get ready for next year!! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE YEAR END AWARDS CEREMONY ON JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> AT 4PM ET](#)

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Happy Badger” BADGE?** Your badge will automatically light up as soon as you have sent your photo and registered for the year end!

## YEARLY BADGES:

Yearly badges are challenges that can be completed at any time of the year.



**Badge:** Certified Eco-School

**Challenge:** Have a current designation (at any level) as an eco-school under the certification program run by eco-schools Canada ([www.ecoschools.ca](http://www.ecoschools.ca)).

**Badge Instructions:** The mission of eco-schools Canada is, “To nurture student leaders, reduce the environmental impact of schools, and build sustainable school

communities.” The mission of this excellent program fits the vision of Pope Francis in Laudato Si to care for our common home. If your school is already a certified eco-school – this badge is an easy win for you! If not, you can find more information at [www.ecoschools.ca](http://www.ecoschools.ca) on how to start the process.

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Certified Eco-School” BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)



**Badge: Laudato Si Singer!**

**Challenge:** *Write and record a new verse to add to the Laudato Si Song! (And perform it for your school for bonus points!)*

**Badge Instructions:** You may want to enlist the help of a music teacher for this one!

We learned the Laudato Si song at World Youth Day in Panama and we have been teaching it to people ever since! Now it is your turn to learn it! [CLICK HERE](#) to download the sheet music for this simple song. It includes some special verses that were written by high school students from the Catholic Student Leadership program at Camp Olympia in Huntsville Ontario. Your job is to learn a little bit more about the pope’s encyclical letter, [Laudato Si](#), and then write a new verse – just like they did! You can also check out this little video where we sing the chorus for you! Just fill in the space where the verse goes! (Clue: the verse has the same melody as the Chorus). For Bonus Points, perform the song for your school (for eg. at a school mass)

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Laudato Si Singer!” BADGE?** [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)



**Badge: Funraiser!**

**Challenge:** Raise money and donate it to our work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

**Badge Instructions:** We rely on the generosity of schools across Canada to be able to carry out our work of Solidarity with the people of the Global South. You can raise money

by completing the Major Mustard or Master Faster badges, or through your own creative fundraising idea! Every school that donates to our work receives this badge.

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Funraiser!” BADGE?** If you complete either the Major Mustard or Master Faster badges, this badge will light up automatically for you. Otherwise, you can [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)





### Badge: Retreat Leader!

**Challenge:** Use our retreat package, [“On Earth as it is in Heaven,”](#) for one of your school retreats. *Note that this retreat package has been designed for a secondary school level.*

**Badge Instructions:** Our retreat package [“On Earth as it is in Heaven,”](#) contains everything that you need to run a retreat for students that is focused on Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of nourishing a spirituality of solidarity. Simply download the retreat package

here and use it for one of your school retreats during the year. It contains everything that you need for your retreat!

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Retreat Leader!” BADGE? [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)**



### Badge: Liturgy Leader!

**Challenge:** Incorporate the theme of Laudato Si and Global Justice into one of your school liturgies.

**Badge Instructions:** DPCC has lots of prayers, videos and other resources that can help

bring the theme of Global Justice and the message of Laudato Si to your school liturgies on our [Laudato Si resource page](#). You can also find lots of other resources for your liturgy in our [activities database](#) as well. Simply use any of these resources or resources of your own to plan a beautiful liturgy focused on the theme of Laudato Si and Global Justice!

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Liturgy Leader!” BADGE? [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)**



### Badge: Dress Down and Speak Up!

**Challenge:** Hold a non-uniform day to raise awareness about the impacts of sweatshops and fast fashion. Donate the proceeds to DPCC.

**Badge Instructions:** Did you know that DPCC helped organize catholic schools in the 1990’s to build more accountability from uniform providers like McCarthy’s to ensure that

workers in the Global South who make their uniforms have their dignity and rights respected? Unfair working conditions continue to exist for the people who make our clothes, largely due to the pressures of the fast fashion industry. Research the issue to develop an announcement that you use to promote your non-uniform day (an excellent resource is [www.cleanclothes.org](http://www.cleanclothes.org).) On your non-uniform day, put a world map up in a public place (‘upside down’ of course!) and invite students to put a pin on the map in the country where the clothes they are wearing were made to create a “Clothes Map” and raise awareness about where are clothes come from and who makes them

Optional: research the countries that appear on your clothes map. What are the issues that textile workers in those countries face and what is being done to protect their rights?

Optional: write to McCarthy's or other uniform provider to ask them to send you a copy of their most recent Corporate Social responsibility report. Look at it with your students. Does the report do a good job explaining what the company does to protect the rights of workers?

**HAS YOUR SCHOOL COMPLETED THE “Dress Down and Speak Up!” BADGE? [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE YOUR REPORT AND LIGHT UP YOUR BADGE!](#)**

**Note: These are the badges available to earn as of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. There may be more yearly badges that are added throughout the year. Contact your staff animator to ensure you have the most recent version of this guide.**