



Program Kit

(last updated September 2023)

What is the D&P Schools Program?

The D&P Schools Program was created by [Development and Peace - Caritas Canada](#) to help Catholic schools engage in Social and Global Justice issues through the lens of their faith. Inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the D&P Schools Program encourages school communities to nurture three fundamental and interconnected relationships: *our relationship to God, to each other, and to the natural world*. Pope Francis says that when we nurture these relationships, we promote an *integral ecology* that “**takes us to the heart of what it is to be human.**” We hope that this program will provide you with concrete (and fun!) activities to help take you there.

How does the program work?

The program consists of a series of challenges for which schools earn badges. Each badge corresponds to a particular theme of global/social justice. The aim of the program is to earn as many badges as possible in a year, but we welcome any level of engagement.

How do I sign up?

Schools register for the D&P Schools Program via a teacher supervisor by using our [online registration form](#). You will then receive an email from your local D&P animator who will accompany you throughout the year. Note: If you signed up in a previous year, no need to register again! Just [say hello](#) to let us know how we can support you this year.

How are badges earned?

Most badges can be done at any time during the year. However, a couple badges are tied to participation in events that take place at a particular time of year (Party for Peace and Happy Badger). After you've completed a challenge, award your students with a badge. Be sure to send a photo to youth@devp.org (or tag us @devpeace) so we can share your amazing work!

Who do I contact with questions?

Your local D&P animator (who will contact you following your registration) is your primary contact for all questions related to the program. Be sure to make a note of their name and contact info! For other questions about the program, including questions about enrollment, contact Emily Lukasik, Youth Programs Officer: elukasik@devp.org

We look forward to supporting you on your *D&P Schools* journey!

BADGES:

You can also check out our [“flip the world flipbook”](#), a visually-engaging version of this list designed with students in mind!

Badge: Registered World Changer (aka: “Flip the World” badge)

Challenge: Display an “upside down” map somewhere in your school.

Badge Instructions:

When you [register](#) for the program, you will be sent a free “Rethink the World” t-shirt. (You can also [order additional t-shirts](#) at \$15/each plus shipping and handling.)

The graphic on the t-shirt features an “upside down” map that challenges people to “rethink the world.” To complete the badge, print a copy of the D&P [“Rethink the World” infosheet](#) and display it next to an actual world map somewhere in the school that has been turned upside down. Pro tip: Many schools use this “upside down” map bulletin board as their D&P Schools board for the year!



Badge: Truth and Action

Challenge: Contribute to reconciliation in your school community.

Badge instructions:

During his visit to Canada, Pope Francis called on Catholics to face up to the truth of our relationship to colonialism, and to work for justice and reconciliation. We encourage you to find opportunities to contribute to reconciliation in your school communities, for example, on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30th.

Our friends at [Kairos](#) have lots of amazing [resources](#) to help take your learnings to the next level. We also recommend [Listening to Indigenous Voices](#), a collection of stories and reflections ideal for an after-school book club or for integration into the classroom.



Badge: Petition Magician

Challenge: Gather signatures for our fall campaign petition.

Badge Instructions:

Each year, D&P does a fall action campaign highlighting a different global justice issue. This year, our [Stand for the Land](#) campaign highlights our partners in the Global South who are putting their lives at risk defending the environment. Part of our campaign involves a [letter to the Honduran Ambassador to Canada](#). To earn this badge, make as many signatures “appear” on the petition/letter as you can, then mail them to Development and Peace’s head office: 555 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 8th Floor, Montréal, QC, H2Z 1B1.



Badge: Party for Peace

Challenge: Attend the Caritas Christmas Party for Peace online event **Monday, December 4 at 3:00pm EST** and share your school's commitment to Peace. - [Zoom registration HERE](#)



Badge Instructions:

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada is part of [Caritas Internationalis](#) – the official humanitarian aid network of the Catholic Church (and the 2nd largest network in the world after the Red Cross!). Christmas is a time of peace and joy. Join us for our 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!

Badge: CST Promoter

Challenge: Learn and promote all 10 Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs) in your school community.



Badge Instructions:

[Explore the Catholic Social Teaching Principles](#) and how they guide the work of D&P. Get creative in promoting the CSTs! Examples of what you can do:

- Share and promote CSTs on a dedicated hallway bulletin board.
- Make short videos of skits, songs, poems or artwork about the CSTs
- Share the CSTs on your school's social media. We've got lots of [CST posts](#) ready to go
- Don't forget to tag @devpeace in your CST sharing

Tip: promote 1 or 2 per month to make it more manageable!

Badge: Lesson Learned

Challenge: Carry out a social justice activity from our database!



Badge Instructions:

D&P has a [large database](#) of fun social justice activities. Choose and carry out one activity from this database. Many of these activities can also be used as [lesson plans](#) for a classroom. For grades 8-12 specifically, we have an [extensive set of lesson plans](#) focused on *Laudato Si'* and caring for our common home.

Badge: THINKfast!

Challenge: *Run a THINKfast at your school*



Badge Instructions:

A D&P “[THINKfast](#)” is a 12 or 24-hour fast that raises both funds and awareness to address global poverty. During a THINKfast, students participate in fun and educational activities designed to promote their commitment to social and global justice. Everything you need to run a THINKfast at your school can be found [HERE](#).

Badge: Major Mustard

Challenge: *Plant a mustard seed (literally)! Then, start collecting loonie and toonie “mustard seeds” that you will “harvest” to support Development and Peace partners in the Global South.*



Badge Instructions:

1. Plant a Seed: 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! (Tip: These are the yellow mustard seeds you’d find in the spice aisle of most grocery stores.)
 2. 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!
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Badge: Laudato Si’nger

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 at D&P 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. It includes some special verses that were written by high school students from the Catholic Student Leadership program at Camp Olympia. Your job is to learn a bit more about the Pope’s encyclical letter [Laudato Si’](#), and then write a new verse yourself. You can also check out [this video](#) where we sing the chorus for you (just fill in the space where the verse goes; the verse has the same melody as the chorus!). For Bonus Points, perform the song for your school on the announcements or at a school mass.

Badge: FUNdraiser

Challenge: *Raise money to support our partners' work in the Global South.*



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 THINKfast challenge, or through [another creative fundraising idea](#).

Badge: Retreat Leader

Challenge: *Use our retreat package "On Earth as it is in Heaven" for one of your school retreats.*



Badge Instructions:

Our retreat package ["On Earth as it is in Heaven"](#) contains everything 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 and use it for one of your school retreats during the year.

Note: This retreat package has been designed for a secondary school level, but can be adapted for elementary.

Badge: Liturgy Leader

Challenge: *Incorporate themes of Laudato Si' and global justice into one of your school liturgies.*



Badge Instructions:

D&P has lots of prayers, videos, and other resources that can help bring the theme of global justice 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.

Badge: Tree-Planter

Challenge: *Plant a tree in your schoolyard or community and raise awareness about the [benefits of trees](#).*



Badge Instructions:

As with most D&P initiatives, the Tree-Planter badge involves a two-fold approach: action and education.

1. **ACTION:** Investigate the plants that are native and hardy to your school's specific ecozone; this will ensure a healthy tree for many years to come. Tip: Check out TreeCanada's [grants and resources](#). Then, get planting!
2. **EDUCATION:** [Grow Green Awareness](#) in your school and community.

Optional: Planting a tree is a wonderful way to start (or continue!) a conversation around [ecological justice](#). We encourage you to hold a school mass outside by the new tree, using readings and reflections from Pope Francis's [Laudato Si'](#).

Badge: Dress Down and Speak Up

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



Badge Instructions:

Did you know that D&P helped organize Catholic schools in the 1990's to build more accountability from uniform providers like McCarthy's, demanding 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). On your non-uniform day, put a world map up in a public place (upside down, of course!). Invite students to put a pin on the map in the country where the clothes they are wearing were made. Bonus: have students wear their shirts inside out and backwards, so the "MADE IN..." tag is front and center!

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 providers and ask them to send you a copy of their most recent Corporate Social responsibility report. Does the report do a good job explaining what the company does to protect the rights of workers?

Idea: Some schools choose to hold their Dress Down, Speak Up day April 24, the anniversary of the Rana Plaza [factory collapse](#) in Bangladesh.

Badge: Bottled Water Free

Challenge: *Make your school a Bottled Water Free Zone.*



Badge Instructions:

Going bottled water free benefits not only our planet, but our brothers and sisters in the Global South, too! D&P's 2010 Fall Action Campaign "[Water for All: Let Justice Flow](#)" educated

Canadians on the many reasons to "take back the tap." We encourage you to use resources from this campaign when carrying out this initiative at your school.

Becoming "bottled water free" involves a two-fold approach:

1. **ACTION:** You guessed it! Eliminate single-use bottled water as a school community. This means not providing or allowing bottled water to be given away or sold at your school, including all food/beverage vendors and vending machines. Note: Your school board may have existing contracts with bottled water companies, making it difficult to make immediate change. If you're actively working to convince your school or school board to *terminate* those contracts, we'll still consider your school bottled-water free.
2. **EDUCATION:** This is the perfect opportunity to educate your school community about [ecological justice](#) and the many benefits of "taking back the tap!"
Optional: Share "[The Story of Bottled Water](#)" video as part of your morning announcements or in religion classes.

FUN FACT! Did you know that each plastic bottle takes over 400 years to decompose? So, by becoming bottled-water free, you'll help us to save millions of bottles from ending up in our landfills today, and in our great great great great great great great great great great grandchildren's soil in the future!

Badge: Prayer Power

Challenge: *Use any one (or more) of our prayers and reflections in your school setting.*



Badge Instructions:

Our [Activities Database](#) has over 35 choices for "Prayer and Reflection". You may even find one with a particular theme you want to focus on, like Forced Migration, Water, the Environment, Food and Hunger, or Mining. Use one or more of the prayers or reflections in your school setting, such as in the classroom, during morning announcements, at a retreat, etc.

Badge: Essay Contest

Challenge: *Write an essay about why you support the work of D&P! (deadline: June 1st)*



Badge Instructions:

Write an essay in the form of a 250-500-word letter about why you support the work of D&P using the suggested resources below. Include the following:

- What does D&P do; and why does it inspire you? Make sure to include examples from both our in-Canada and international work.

- What lessons did you find to be most important from your participation in the D&P Schools program?

Elementary students can write an essay at an age-appropriate length to be determined by their homeroom teacher.

Alternatively, you could paint/sculpt/dance/create a piece of art that expresses this without words!

Suggested Resources: our [Catholic Social Teaching Principles](#) page, "[About us](#)", [Latest Annual Report](#), and/or [videos from our Youtube Channel](#).

Badge: Graphic Novel Bookworm

Challenge: *Read one of our graphic novels and engage in the call to action.*



Badge Instructions:

With the help of our partners and local artists in their countries, we have developed two graphic novels: [Burundi: Kaneza and Kagabo under the shade of the coffee tree](#) (Kaneza and Kagabo)

and [DRC: Roza or the Courage to Choose Life](#) (Roza). The themes address the injustices and violence surrounding the global trade of popular commodities like coffee and minerals necessary to create technologies we use and discard sometimes yearly. Choose one our graphic novels, read, discuss, and do an associated action.

Note: Due to mature content, Roza is best suited for high school (i.e. discussion of sexual violence).

Badge: #hashtag

Challenge: *Spread the good news of #LaudatoSi and #GlobalJustice on your school's social media accounts. Follow @devpeace and tag us in your world-changing posts.*



Badge Instructions:

"Go out into all the world [wide web] and tell the good news" (Mark 16:15)! Social media is a powerful tool to spread solidarity. Post a picture of your #upsidedown map, create a TikTok video promoting #plasticfree, or do an IG Live #GlobalJustice liturgy...the possibilities are endless! Don't forget to follow/tag @devpeace!

Badge: The Happy Badger

Challenge: *Join us online Monday, June 3 @ 3:00pm EST to celebrate with all the other D&P Schools! ([Zoom registration link HERE](#))*



Badge Instructions:

This is our moment to say THANK-YOU to your school for all your hard work throughout the year. We will announce the total number of badges earned by all D&P Schools for the year. We will also give out awards and have draws for prizes.

Badge: Supply Chain? Human Chain!

Challenge: Choose an everyday product (a particular food, a t-shirt, a phone, or a bottle of water, for example). Learn about who makes it, how it is made, and where it comes from. Write a letter to the manufacturer or your MP demanding just supply chains. Research and consider more sustainable alternatives where possible.



Badge Instructions:

Our global economy is intricately connected, and what we consume in this part of the world requires materials, labor, and lots of hidden work located in other parts of the world. Our profit-driven economy often exploits the most vulnerable people in our human family by making them work for low wages in dangerous conditions, and sometimes for no wages at all. According to the [International Labor Organization](#), 25 million people are victims of modern slavery in the labor sector today; most of them are women, and a quarter of them are children. Yet these and other exploited workers make the products we buy at malls and supermarkets and through online retailers, keeping prices lower because of low labor costs. That means we benefit from these inequalities! To dismantle this structural injustice, we need to make the invisible things visible.

Watch one or more of the videos below, introducing supply chain and production issues related to various products. Have your students choose a brand or manufacturer associated with one of these product stories, and brainstorm or assign an action you can do to raise awareness and contribute to structural change! For example, your students might write to the brand or manufacturer inquiring about their production process, and do their own research to compare with any potential response they might receive. Your students might also write to their local Member of Parliament, asking if they are aware of these issues, and for a commitment from the MP to advocate for more corporate responsibility throughout supply chains of companies headquartered or operating in Canada, so that consumers can be confident that they are not contributing to injustice by purchasing these products. Lastly, see if there are alternative consumer choices in the meantime: Can students commit to holding on to that electronic device a little longer and not buying the latest model? Can students wear last year's fashion, or ask their parents if they're willing to only buy fair trade coffee? Can students go on a thrift store visit and host a thrift store fashion show in their class or club? Get creative!

- [The Story of Electronics \(The Story of Stuff\)](#)
- [Why do your jeans wear out so quickly? \(TED-Ed\)](#)
- [The life cycle of a t-shirt \(TED-Ed\)](#)
- [The life cycle of a cup of coffee \(TED-Ed\)](#)

Bonus: After you complete the World Flipper badge, use post-it notes or tacks and yarn to visualize the path of a product you research. For example, if you researched a t-shirt, you might put a pin in Texas, where cotton is picked, with yarn leading to another pin in China, where the cotton is milled. That pin might connect to Bangladesh, where the cotton is sewn, and then on to Toronto, where a shirt is sold in a store. You might include other post-it notes with details you discover about the product journey, like how much people in each stage are paid, how much the shirt costs, and how much profit goes to the owner of the shirt company.

Badge: Walk the Walk!

Challenge: Join or plan a demonstration, rally, or march to raise awareness about an issue important to your school community.



Badge Instructions:

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to civic action and participation. Advocacy and mobilization are important parts of what we do in Development and Peace to create sustainable change in society. For this badge, invite your students to discuss what issues are important to them, and participate in the following:

1. **Join a local walk or march:** Take a look at what's happening locally. Are there any marches or walks happening this year related to an issue your students are passionate about? Are D&P members in your area planning to participate in an event? If you need help, [contact your local animator](#).
2. **Plan one yourself:** Organize a walk, vigil, or rally in your community. Have students make signs, plan a program, and designate a speaker who can inspire people who attend. Invite your chaplain or a priest to open the event with prayer. Let your local animator know, so they can invite D&P members and others in the community who might attend. Add more visibility by taking your event to social media, coming up with a hashtag, graphics, and posts.
3. **Have students write a letter to your principal or MP:** Invite your principal or MP to join you for an event, either one you're attending or one you've organized! Share with them why this event is important and how it can be used to make change. You can find a template below from the faith-based advocacy group Citizens for Public Justice! Feel free to make any changes you wish.

Example template: [Writing a Letter to Your MP | Citizens for Public Justice \(cpi.ca\)](#)

Note: These are the badges available to earn as of August, 2023. There may be more that are added throughout the year.

Visit devp.org/schools for the latest version of the kit!