

Introduction to Development and Peace-Caritas Canada For Our Common Home Lesson Plans

Development and Peace is engaging a new generation of young people in Catholic Social Teachings by delving deeply into the causes of poverty and injustice and mobilizing students towards actions for change. We are proud to share with you these extensive resources on *Laudato Si* and our campaign [For Our Common Home!](#)

Module One, with its focus on worldview, the application of Catholic Social Teaching, and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, provides the cornerstones for the structured learning in Module Two. Module Two could be a stand-alone unit; it brings to life the Development and Peace Share Lent campaign: *For our Common Home: A Future of the Amazon is a Future for All*. This Module is conceived as applied Citizenship through a Catholic Lens, with the intent of building and strengthening Essential Citizenship Competencies (Concentus Citizenship Foundation) within the campaign focus.

The two Modules are designed to be complete units in themselves, adaptable Grade 8-12. They both use a scaffolding pedagogy with each lesson building upon previous learning. There is unity and coherence in using all lessons as designed. Each lesson is structured within a framework of *Ignite, Immerse, Coalesce, and Create*. Depending on grade level and engagement in the learning, one block of lesson time may be inadequate to complete the Create section. Omitting the *Create* sections will not significantly impact overall learning. At the same time, the Create sections provide possibilities for summative assessment.

Most lessons contain a downloadable power point with video links. All lessons contain a detailed teacher lesson plan, and any number of accompanying strategies, worksheets, and reference materials.

Development and Peace-Caritas Canada offers this educational work to Catholic schools free of charge, as partners in Catholic education. This work aligns with Development and Peace's mission of educating and mobilizing Canadians of all ages to help God build the kingdom of justice and peace on earth. *However, it will make an enormous difference if your school will partner with us, in education and fundraising, so together we can support the partners organizations who are making a difference around the world.* We can't do it without you!

It will also be very helpful for teachers who use these resources to take a moment to send an email to schools@devp.org to inform of use and offer any feedback.

Thank you.

Acknowledgements

These modules were conceived of and created by Louise Bitz, from our D&P Catholic Schools Program team, and Sherry Van Hesteren, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They are designed with a post-colonial, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist framework. Many lessons use a constructivist pedagogy. Development and Peace-Caritas Canada is deeply grateful for the work of the educators in designing a journey of transformative learning *For Our common Home*.

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Module 1 Introduction to Care for Our Common Home

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis asserts that, to “Care for our Common Home” in this time of urgent need, collectively humanity must shift towards a spirituality of kinship and integral ecology that encourages an ethic of accompaniment within the Earth community. In the lessons within this module, through their engagement with a variety of media and texts, students will:

- Develop an understanding of worldview (lens)
- Explore an overview of Pope Francis’ letter to humanity: *Laudato Si'*
- Develop an understanding of Indigenous wisdom with respect to Care For Our Common Home
- Examine Catholic Social Teaching with respect to Care For Our Common Home
- Apply Essential Citizenship Competencies to analyze social justice issues
- Reflect on the responsibilities of kinship as a way of being in the world

Lesson 1: Understanding Worldview and Our Relationship with Creation

Lesson 2: Introduction to *Laudato Si'*

Lesson 3: An Indigenous Lens

Lesson 4-8: The Lens of Catholic Social Teaching (human dignity, solidarity, preferential option for the poor, care for creation, rights and responsibilities)

Lesson 9: Applied Catholic Social Teaching and Essential Citizenship Competencies

Lesson 10: Creating the Classroom Kinship Covenant

Module 2 A Response *For Our Common Home*

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis stresses that the “whole human family [must join] together to seek a sustainable and integral development” (LS, 13). In this module, students will collaboratively engage in learning to both understand and respond to the symptoms and root causes of urgent threats to our Common Home in the Amazon region. In the lessons within this module, through their engagement with a variety of media and texts, students will:

- Explore the value, importance, and threats to the Amazon biome
- Develop an understanding of integral ecology
- Examine catholic social teaching of Participation and Dignity of Work in *For our Common Home*
- Appreciate the importance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Investigate process of agency and advocacy for actions of citizenship
- Reflect on learning and identify next steps including citizenship actions
- Examine the initial steps in ecological conversion

Lesson 0: Sacred Spaces (optional introductory)

Lesson 1: Integral Ecology

Lesson 2: Participation

Lesson 3: Actions and Agents of Solidarity

Lesson 4: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Lesson 5: Advocacy

Lesson 6: Towards Ecological Conversion