



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

LAUDATO SI ENCYCLICAL

“We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. .Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Nothing in this world is indifferent to us.” Pope Francis Laudato Si: 2

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INFORMATION REPORT		

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Laudato Si is Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment or more formally – On Care for Our Common Home. *Laudato Si* means “Praise be to you” which is the first line of a canticle by St. Francis that praises God with all of his creation. The goal of this Encyclical is to bring the church into dialogue with all people about our common home” (*Laudato Si* #3) and the ongoing Ecological crisis and environmental challenges that “we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (*Laudato Si* #14). We are to be protectors of God’s handiwork the earth’s environment. Pope Francis has this message for us: “I invite all to embrace with open hearts this Encyclical which is in line with the Church’s social doctrine” (General Audience, June 17, 2015).

B. PURPOSE

1. This Information Report is in response to the September Student Achievement motion for Staff to develop programming for roll-out to both elementary and secondary students for a study of and reflection on, Pope Francis’s Encyclical letter *Laudato Si* on the “Care for our Common Home”.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Staff has purchased and distributed to both elementary and secondary schools “**Our Sunday Visitor's pamphlet**” (package of 50, \$15.95) see attached Appendix A, in response to Pope Francis' release of his encyclical *Laudato Si*, outlines the encyclical’s main points.
2. Central Religion Resource Staff have visited all schools touching base with ES Religion Reps, SS Chaplains and SS Religion Department Heads about curricular links to the Religion programming and also the on line information see Appendix B.
3. Presentations about the pamphlet and curricular connections to the encyclical have taken place at the Principal’s meeting in October.
4. We are including this encyclical in our year end in- services to Elementary and Secondary Teachers.
5. There will be many opportunities for continuing conversations about *Laudato Si* and its connections to the Catholic Graduate

- Expectations, Catholic social Teachings and Virtues as we move through the year.
6. Laudato Si Encyclical continues the Church's ongoing conversations about caring for the environment and the common good. We have existing connections to programs in place through Student Leadership programs in both elementary and Secondary highlighting *Laudato Si'* with connections to the Catholic Graduate Expectations, Catholic social Teachings and Virtues attached Appendix B. In our TCDSB Pastoral plan 3 year program, we will foster connections to Laudato Si as we animate our Faith and what the Church teaches and why.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This informational report is for the consideration of the Board.