

THE AUGMENTER

Webster's Definition:
augment (verb)—to make or become greater
augmenter (noun)

Newsletter for Families of St. Augustine Religious Education in Larchmont, NY

Our entire task in this life consists in healing the eyes of the heart so that they may be able to see God. — St. Augustine

Year of Consecrated Life



Pope Francis has declared 2015 a year for celebrating consecrated life, the vocation of those who dedicate their lives to God as religious sisters, brother, and priests. Events are being planned at the parish level to familiarize families with the life and ministries of religious sisters, brothers and priests.

On a personal note I have found many without any real knowledge of the life of a "sister." While in common usage the terms "nun" and "sister" are often used interchangeably (the same title of "Sister" for an individual member of both forms), they are considered different ways of life, with a "nun" being a religious woman who lives a contemplative and cloistered life of meditation and prayer for the salvation of others, while a "**religious sister**", like **Sister Suzanne (of the Congregation of Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius)** and **Sister Muriel (a Sparkhill Dominican)** live an active vocation of both prayer and service, often to the needy, ill, poor, and uneducated.

National Sisters Week

A new week celebrating women religious begins on International Women's Day, March 8. SisterStory.org is a website where sisters tell their stories in their own words. This event offers an opportunity for all of us to learn more about sisters. Find the Participate section of the National Sisters Week website and click on our Parish. You may find Sister Suzanne's story!!

Upcoming Dates

- Saturday, March 7—First Reconciliation**
- February 18—Ash Wednesday**
- March 25—Living Stations**
- May 2—Confirmation Retreat**
- May 16—First Eucharist**
- May 30—Confirmation**

Inclement Weather Closing Information

WEDNESDAY—

We will close when the Mamaroneck School District closes.

SUNDAY—

A message will be on the phone 834-9523 when a closing occurs.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHAT HAPPENED TO CCD?

In the 1960s, the decision was made nationwide to drop the title CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine). As of the 60s, this organization no longer existed.

Today we use the term Parish Religious Education - a title you will hear throughout the country. It conveys the image of a Parish Catechetical Program which hands on the faith with excellence to the children of parish families who choose to educate their children in the public school system. It is an alternative way to the Catholic Schools of preparing Catholics for the next generation.

God Lives in our Midst — LENT — Living the Eucharist

This Lent our parish will be embarking on a special adventure of delving into the mystery of the Eucharist. We hope to offer a deeper appreciation of God's presence in the world, the Body of believers, and the Eucharistic Bread of Life.

Living the Eucharist is a new, parish-based program designed to help revitalize parish life and spirituality through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish—adults, teens, and families—grow in their Catholic faith and live more fully as disciples of Jesus.

By encouraging families to participate in their homes through the Family Activity Booklet (Grades 3 through 5), by having adults sign up to participate in small groups, and by challenging preteens and teens to show up for the weekend Sunday Liturgy, we hope that we will become more faith-filled disciples.

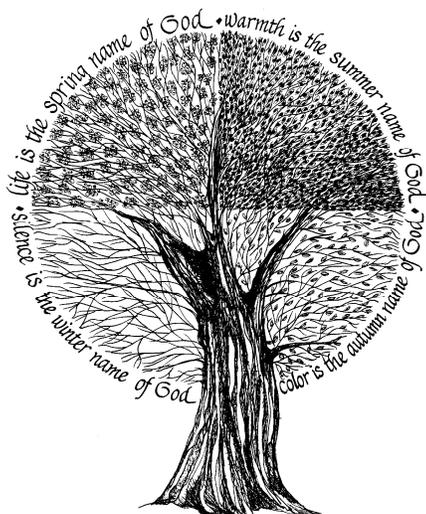
This program just asks us for **SIX Weeks in Lent** when we are reminded that prayer, fasting and alms giving enter the realm of the Eucharist, the centrality of our faith. The Mass is where we gather as a community of believers to hear God's Word, to pray for the world and to become what we eat. As people of faith we are bound to each other for the life of the world. The Mass strengthens us for the outreach that is the Eucharistic call for our mission to the needy, marginalized, and the systemic change we need to enact. The Eucharist convinces us that the "common good" is God's mission.

Tom Reese, former editor of the America magazine says: "In Brazil, Francis led the bishops through an examination of conscience, which included the question: Do we give the laity "the freedom to continue discerning, in a way befitting their growth as disciples, the mission which the Lord has entrusted to them? Do we support them and accompany them, overcoming the temptation to manipulate them or infantilize them?"... **Francis has given us hope and shown us the way, but it is up to us to pick up the ball and run with it. There is no room in the church for passive observers; we are all called to be the body of Christ active in our world today.**"

This Lent, which means SPRINGTIME, lasts 40 days.

- * Let's bring Lent into our homes, our relationships, our activities.
- * Let's make Sunday Mass attendance, a must.
- * Let's invite people who don't participate in the Eucharist, back to the table.
- * Let's reflect on the booklet **From Exodus to Easter** that you will find in the back of the church.
- * Let's participate in the **Living Stations of the Cross in the words of Pope Francis for Adults and Youth on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.** with our Confirmation candidates leading the Way.

Let's PRAY, FAST, and Give by Living the Eucharist.



The Augmenter logo expands our vision of God through the seasons. It reminds us of God's presence in the here and now of our community in Larchmont, where most of the streets are named after trees. It takes us into a new realm of naming God through the signs of the seasons and makes greater the marvel of who God is—life, warmth, color and silence.

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