

# 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

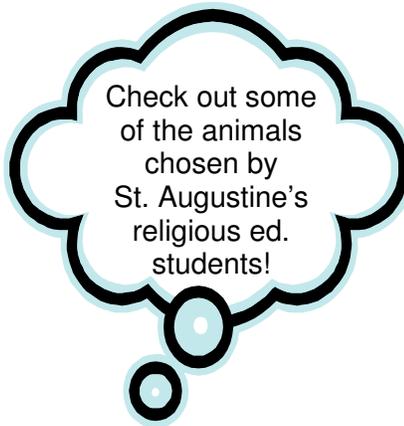
## *From Pennies to Greenbacks*

Our Young People Reached into their Hearts for Others

*Our children and young people gave wholeheartedly in a cooperative effort since February to make a difference for advancing the lives of others and creating systemic change.*



Each class from Grades 6 through 9 viewed a DVD explaining Heifer International's program of providing people in developing countries an avenue of self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. Each class chose an animal that they would like to donate and support. That focus was the impetus that encouraged our young people to donate \$1,691 and added to Heifer's work in over 125 countries.



**Helpful to the success of our religious ed process of growth:**

- ☺ Be on time for class.
- ☺ Come ready with a smile on your face and in your heart.
- ☺ Remember that you are in God's presence.
- ☺ Open your heart to God.
- ☺ Share the Good News of Jesus with your family and friends.



Our children from Grades 1 through 5 collected coins in their Operation Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services' mission of confronting global hunger. Their combined efforts yielded \$1,000.



Our teens in STAY Connected sponsored the Empty Bowls Soup Supper in March that provided \$600 for Hope Food Pantry and \$600 to the CAP Center in their efforts to eradicate world hunger. This intergenerational project was one that involved parishioners in making the soup, those who attended the supper and children who participated in crafts. Thirty teens orchestrated, welcomed, served and entertained almost 100 hundred participants.



We thank the catechists and the families of our young people for supporting these efforts and urging their participation. We especially commend all our children and young people in following Jesus' words:

***"Love one another."***

## *An Eye view of Religious Education in the Process of Creating 2012-2013*

**What are you registering for in 2012-2013?** That may be a question on your mind when you fill out the new registration form, sign up your children and write out a check. I, for one, like to know the expectations before I take on a new venture or continue one.

In the past four years since I have come to St. Augustine Parish we have grown in our enrollment from 475 to 575. This new year seems to hold another increase especially for the Wednesday classes. Grades 1 through 4 will have 5 classes each and Gr. 5 four classes. The Confirmation class will increase considerably to 60 plus. More catechists, assistant catechists and the ongoing education of catechists are always priority needs. The commitment to teaching 30 classes a year is a noble task. Preparing catechists for this adventure is one of my passions.

It has become more obvious to me that **our children and young people** are curious and **wish to be well-informed**

**Catholics.** From the youngest children at the Liturgy of the Word for Children on Sundays to our STAY Connected teen leaders I'm seeing a burning desire for God.

The impetus to be more prepared and participative in the Eucharistic liturgy (the Mass) is primary. Therefore more opportunities for instruction and experience in Liturgy will be provided. Church behavior needs to be learned and modeled. The knowledge of Scripture, especially the readings of each Sunday, will be central to our program. The person of Jesus and a relationship with God are integral. The inclusion of music, guided imagery prayer and sacred art will be at the hub as well. Loyola Press provides some of these opportunities but other sources and talented people will be brought in for these components. Our emphasis on social outreach will prevail as Catholic Social Teaching becomes a common thread woven into the fabric of Jesus' Gospel.

**I encourage you to take advantage of the \$50 discount by registering before June 1.** The registration fee reflects our continuing efforts to provide the best program possible. Please note the additional sacrament fees of \$50 if you have a child who will receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and \$125 for a candidate for Confirmation. Class lists can only be formed when we receive your registration form. Therefore **the deadline for registration is June 30.** Insuring a small class size with ordinarily two catechists per class is my goal. With 49 classes in the offing the number of catechists needed nears the one hundred mark. Please consider your Baptismal call to holiness of passing on the faith.

A registration form is also available on our website, can be printed and sent or given to the religious education office. This mailing contains one for each family.

The axiom is: **Teach them, reach them.**

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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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