

# THE AUGMENTER

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

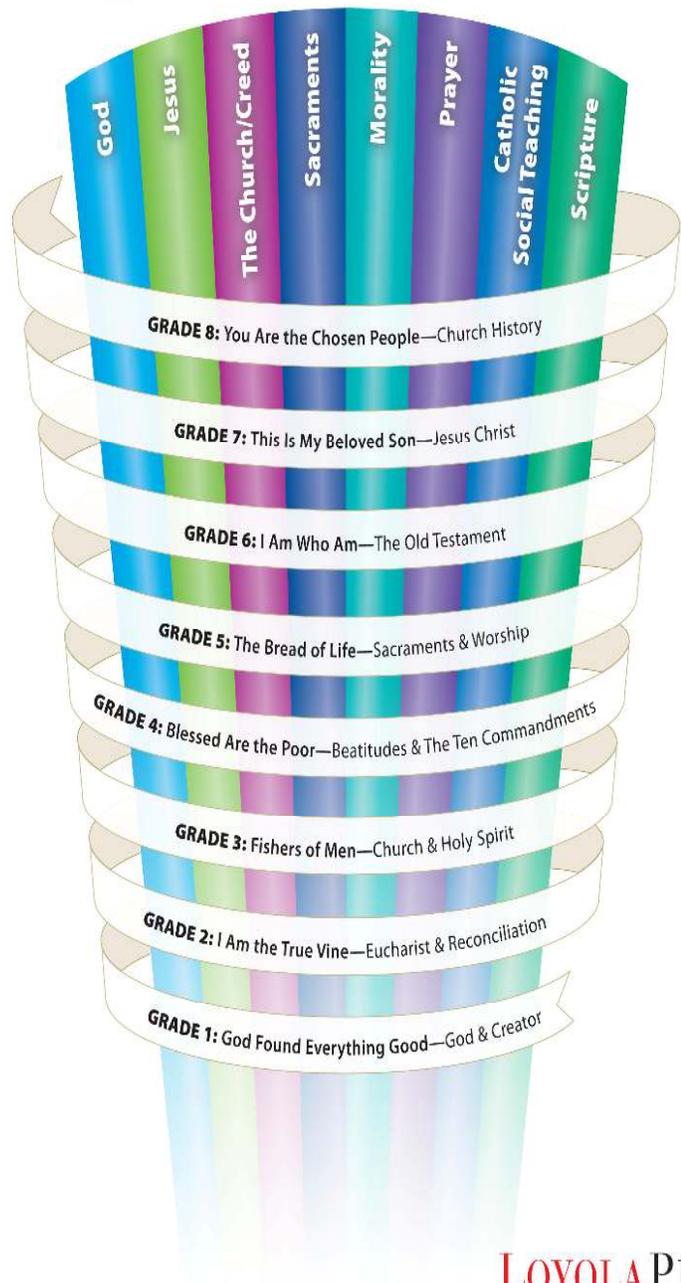
Newsletter for Families of St. Augustine Religious Education in Larchmont, NY  
*Our entire task in this life consists in healing the eyes of the heart so that they may be able to see God.* — St. Augustine

*A Revised Series of Our Books — Forever Relevant*

## Finding God

With a copyright of 2013 our **Finding God** series has been revised and revisited to include art prints for each lesson from Grades 1 through 6. Though the lessons continue to revolve around the five themes of **God, Jesus, the Church, sacraments and morality** the inclusion of new music on CDs, guided imagery prayer and Scripture stories weave a tapestry of intricate simplicity and vibrancy to the call for discipleship. The website, **findinggod.com** reveals a menagerie of computer games, catechist ideas and parent partnership for a family's accessibility to living our Catholic faith. The emphasis on liturgy brings home to us the **need for family participation by weekly Sunday attendance at the Eucharist**. Parents are lauded as the pivotal persons who nurture faith and help it grow. The spiral captures the dynamism of the series of books that encapsulates the marvels our children will be offered by catechists partnering with parents.

The new revised editions of Grades 7 and 8 will be available next year. Presently we will be using the 2005 editions of *Finding God* for our young people with Sister Suzanne teaching grades 6, 7 and 8 each month with a kaleidoscope on Scripture, the Mass and the Maryknoll series, "Children of the Earth." As we widen our young people's world view we open them to a world in need of God and each other.



**LOYOLA PRESS.**  
A JESUIT MINISTRY  
800-621-1008 • www.findinggod.com

## *New Confirmation Process—a Potential Pilot for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth*

Through the initiative of parents in dialogue with Sister Suzanne and Msgr. Kelly an experiential adventure for our newest Confirmation candidates will begin on Sunday, October 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Our largest group of 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth, 61 candidates will receive compasses to remind them of the direction they are seeking as they embrace the journey to a more committed faith life. They will be asked three vital questions: Where are you? How are you? Who are you? The inner compass that reverberates within us is often unwilling to deal with such loaded questions but nonetheless our young people

will be faced with such challenges. This year our candidates are invited to 18 (two hour) gatherings on certain Sundays two or three times a month until their Confirmation on May 4, 2013. Included in these sessions will be a retreat done in two sessions, one in November and the other in April by a retreat team, **ABC ministries** (Fr. Chris Cleary, C.P., Allyse Gruslin and Brian Knipping).

The model of this pilot process will be created by Sister Suzanne with her Confirmation team: Mary Ellen Beitel, Joan Clarke, Barbara Girardi, Sue Girardi-Sweeney, Greg Hurley, Liz Fitzgerald, Angelo Mancino,

Anne Marie Papazoglou, Rosemary Parandelis, and Carmen White. The content will be driven by the **SPiRiT** program published by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Scripture plays, liturgy, film clips, art projects, skits, discussions, and service initiatives will be woven into the fabric of this tapestry with Catholic social teaching as the thread. The parents and sponsors of the candidates will be involved to walk as true partners in engaging and encouraging our candidates. The totality of this process will reflect in the candidates' willingness and commitment to embracing the fullness of all that is offered.

### *Still in Grateful Awe*

I thought you had to die before people thank you for your daily efforts of discipleship in spreading the Gospel of Jesus. I thought only God gives the outburst of thanks but this summer I found that to be untrue. The parents of St. Augustine Religious Education program presented me with bountiful gifts for my trip to Rome and beyond. I am still in awe of such generosity. God's presence abounds at St. Augustine's!! I am forever grateful. In addition to this outpouring I received a personal note from Bishop Dennis Sullivan that said, "I thank you on behalf of the church but I am sure the church, i.e. your people have done that. I recognize the pastoral efforts of your labors among the youth and their parents. You should not only be proud of such excellence but wherever, share your best practices with others who face the same challenges and perhaps, learn from you." My response is "Deo gratias."

### *Take Note of Starting Dates*

**Sunday, September 16**—Gr. 1 through 8 at 9:00 a.m. with dismissal at 10:15 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 19**—only Gr. 3, 4 and 5 at 2:45 p.m. with dismissal at 4:15 p.m.; Gr. 6, 7 and 8 at 7:15 p.m. with dismissal at 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 3**—Gr. 1 and 2 at 2:45 p.m. with dismissal for Gr. 1 at 4:00 p.m. and Gr. 2 at 4:10 p.m.

**Sunday, October 14**—Confirmation Candidates at 4:00 p.m.

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.

