

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

"Take care, take care, not to close your heart to anyone."

—St. Peter Faber

THE JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD

One of my favorite stories comes from the *Tales from the Magic Monastery*, where Theophane, the monk writes,

I thought it good fortune to go to the Magic Monastery for Christmas. But at the foot of the hill sat a blind beggar, and when I drew near to give him some money, I heard him ask, "Who will lead me into the heart of God?" I couldn't go on. Who would lead him into the heart of God? I sat down in front of him. I took his hands. "Together," I said. "Together we'll go into the heart of God."

This story resonates within me over the years. I thought it to be a theme that could continue us on our faith journey this year. Christmas (the Incarnation) to the Cross (redemption) to Easter (our salvation) continues as a spiral that weaves our life together within the liturgical year as Catholic Christians. Christ always wants more from us, as we journey to his heart, but as one human family. Pope Francis says it best, "**We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one human family.**" As catechists and parents we share and nurture the faith of our young people. We are their anchor, their lighthouse, their oar, their hope to see Christ in our midst and to follow his lead with all our brothers and sisters.

NEW VENTURES ON THE JOURNEY

Michael Ward, our expert master musician and choir director, will be teaching liturgical Music for **Grades 2 through 4 on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.** They will learn **contemporary and traditional hymns** as introductions for the Gospel of that week. Jodi Jamieson, our choreographer and first grade teacher, will lead our **1st graders in music and movement** at the same time.

By using writing prompts, Grades 5 through 9 will have the opportunity of writing some of their own convictions, new vocabulary words, Scripture that they live by, in relation to the Sunday Gospels in a **Good News** notebook that will become their testament of faith as disciples. A greater delving into *What the Church Believes and Teaches* will help the learners put their beliefs into practice in their lives. With a lectionary and liturgy based program, the emphasis on regular Sunday Mass is inherent in our listening to God's Word and living it in a Eucharistic parish community.

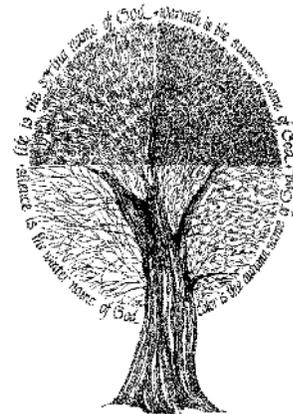
CHRIST WANTS MORE

New Model of Youth Ministry for 10th, 11th and 12th Grades

We will offer our teens, after Confirmation, a way to **STAY Connected** and grow in their faith. **Christ Wants More** is a new model for teens that gathers them together once a month on a Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for the Spirit Online version of listening to the Gospel with Christ as the voice in our midst, and learning how the Gospel applies to the lives of a 21st century teen. A husband and wife team will facilitate the dialogue and a half hour social will follow until 7:30 p.m. in Kenny Hall. If a teen attends 7 out of the 9 monthly gatherings, the teen will be eligible to participate in an all-expense paid mission trip to the Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey from June 27 to July 2, 2016. First, we encounter Christ in the Gospels, then we go on mission. The first gathering is on September 27, 2015. Anyone interested should contact Sister Suzanne at srsuzanne@verizon.net. More info is on the STAY Connected Facebook page.

SISTER SUZANNE RECEIVED A GRANT TO THE COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE

This summer from July 6 to 12th I was awarded an all-expenses paid grant to the Collegeville Institute in Collegeville, Minnesota on the campus of the Benedictine St. John's University with the theme, "**Awakening the Theological Imagination through the Spiritual Practice of Writing for Religious Educators and Pastors.**" I participated in a group of 12 selected awardees from all over the country in an interfaith experience of writing with the presenter, Karen Hering, author of *Writing to Wake the Soul*. As the only Catholic in the group, I was involved in an ecumenical dialogue, that extended my horizons and my appreciation of various Christian faith traditions. The results will be the signposts that teach a greater respect of each other and a deeper reverence for God, prompting more writing across our religious educational curriculum as we walk mindfully to the heart of God.



What Parents and Young People Need to Follow for St. Augustine's Religious Ed

Wednesday afternoons for Grades 1– 4

- ◆ **Gr. 2, 3 & 4 enter the main doors to Kenny Hall from Larchmont Avenue** (only entrance available for safety reasons) and sit in assigned row of chairs.
- ◆ **Gr. 1 enters through the red side door to the cafeteria** off the parking lot and is directed to their assigned table.
- ◆ **Sister Suzanne provides care and supervision** from 3:15 p.m. on in Kenny Hall and the cafeteria.
- ◆ **At 3:30 p.m. the actual start time, liturgical music with Michael Ward for Gr. 2--4 and music and movement with Jodi Jamieson for Gr. 1** will be held followed by procession to the classrooms.

Exits:

- ⇒ **Pick-up for Gr. 2 for parents/caregivers** is done via the **main doors to Kenny Hall** from Larchmont Avenue in Kenny Hall.
- ⇒ **Pick-up for Gr. 1 parents/care-givers through the cafeteria side door leading to the parking lot in the back of the school to the cafeteria.**
- ⇒ **Gr.1 and 2 parents/care-givers must initial the exit chart for the child to be dismissed.**
- ⇒ **Gr. 3 and 4 via the main doors** led by their catechists on the first floor to Larchmont Avenue. **Parents and caregivers will wait on the sidewalk.** Children with younger siblings will follow the exit of the youngest sibling.

Wednesday evenings for Grades 5 – 8

- ◆ **Entrance and exit will occur only through the main doors to the school near the Religious Ed office.** (This is the only door that will be open for safety reasons.) Gr. 5, 6 and 7 will assemble in Kenny Hall, and Gr. 8 in their first floor classrooms. **At 7:15 p.m. the bell will ring.** After this, learners must report to the office for a late slip to enter their classroom.
- ◆ **At 8:30 p.m. Gr. 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be dismissed via the main doors led by their catechist.**

Sundays for Grades 1 – 8

- ◆ Entrance and exit are via the main doors near the Religious Ed. Office. **ALL LEARNERS will assemble in Kenny Hall. At 9:00 a.m. the bell rings.** The catechists lead their classes to the classrooms. At 10:15 a.m. the bell will ring for dismissal.
- ◆ Grades 1 and 2 will be dismissed in Kenny Hall with a parent/caregiver. **Grades 3-8 will exit only via the main doors to Larchmont Avenue.**

Special considerations, please, from your director:

- ◇ **Children may bring their own snack and finish it by 3:30 p.m.**
- ◇ **No food may be brought into the classrooms by young people or catechists.** For special occasions Kenny Hall and/or the cafeteria will be used for any food consumption.
- ◇ **Parking is available in the parking lot behind the school, on Larchmont Avenue, Cherry Avenue and Elm Avenue.** Double parking is prohibited by the Larchmont Police. Extra moments of patience will provide safety for our children. We are grateful to the **Larchmont Police** for the traffic control and supervision they provide.
- ◇ Any young people without pickup will be brought to the Rel. Ed. Office where parents/caregivers will claim them.
- ◇ **Consistent attendance is expected.** If a learner has a total of three absences, an email will be sent to arrange for a conference with parents. Confirmation preparation begins at Baptism and continues throughout the years preceding this sacrament. A call from a parent to report an absence is expected .

The *Augmenter* logo on page 1 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.

Sister Suzanne Duzen, SS.C.M.,
Director of Religious Education
Publisher of *The Augmenter*

Send suggestions for future articles to:
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