

# 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*

## *Daring Discipleship*

Words intrigue me! I have always admired a wordsmith and been fortunate to know three in my life. When it comes to the Living Word of God that we, as catechists, try to hear and then to translate into our daily life, we sometimes come up speechless. Our **Pflaum Gospel Weeklies** help in this endeavor. Through colorful and developmentally appropriate handouts, new and relevant each week, *always relating to the Sunday Gospels*, young people become attuned to God's voice, and "The Word of God" comes alive. The divisions are:

\* **Promise (Gr. 1)** helps children begin to participate in worship in an active way. Storytelling, prayer and fun activities relate children's own experience to the Gospel. Weekly "lessons in love" can also be shared by parents.

\* **Good News (Gr. 2 & 3)** guides early grades to more involvement in Sunday worship as they see how the readings tie into their own lives. Realistic stories and Gospel narrations plus fun-to-do hands-on activities support learning. (Sacrament preparation for **Gr. 2 : Making Things Right** for Reconciliation and **Called to His Supper** for First Eucharist along with materials for parents to use at home to complement the process.)

\* **Venture (Gr. 4, 5 & 6)** leads our young people to make moral choices and explore an expanding faith through Gospel dramatizations, current events, and original stories linked to the Gospel and children's own lives. (Plus saints' lives in comic book format and imaginative activities to demonstrate applications of the Gospel message as well as "THINK" questions to reinforce doctrinal concepts.)

\* **Visions (Gr. 7 & 8)** emphasizes social justice, moral reasoning and service to others through current-interest articles and life-dilemma stories. Discussion starters help young teens explore links between today's issues, the Sunday readings (including Old Testament) and their own lives.

Included in the process is a small book housed in each learner's folder titled **What the Church Believes and Teaches** that is integrated in each lesson.

Building on the Gospel theme of the Sunday's Gospel the lesson moves in three parts: **Sharing our Life Stories, Listening to the Gospel, and Building Christian Community**. Because each week is new with timely pictures and events, relevant applications and engaging experiences at each moment, the prayer life of each learner, the knowledge base and moral implications come alive for a more lived faith with the person of Jesus, central to each young person. The take home handout can create conversations at home and provide another impetus for **regular Sunday Mass attendance**. Response to needs of social justice and the common good are also at the heart of this process with Jesus showing us "The WAY".

Our children are lead to discover God speaking to them in their daily lives. The word "discipleship" is not a foreign word but a living call to each of us from God. Putting "daring" in front of "discipleship" emphasizes the challenge and the courage needed to be "a disciple" in today's world. Our families at St. Augustine's register their commitment to *daring discipleship: following in the life and words of Jesus for a lifetime, the formidable life of faith in the Word of God.*

# To Be a Catechist: To Encounter Christ, to Follow His Way and to Build Community

The early Christians were identified as followers of "The Way." This issue is a plea for our present catechists to continue the mission of passing on the faith through our Pflaum Gospel Weeklies program of encountering Christ through the Sunday Gospel.

I also hope that more parents will consider this ministry for next year. Our methodology is simple and threefold: **Sharing Our Life Stories, Listening to the Gospel** and **Building Christian Community**.

An additional book titled *What the Church Believes and Teaches* is provided for each young person and catechist to learn to articulate their beliefs. Sister Suzanne provides the mentoring and guidance for every catechist.

Please contact her at [srsuzanne@verizon.net](mailto:srsuzanne@verizon.net) with your decision to continue teaching next year—or to begin this great work of building the Body of Christ. Schedule a meeting with Sister Suzanne if you have any questions or reservations. She will be happy to clarify and help you discern your talents.

## Registration for the NEW YEAR - 2016-2017

The new registration form for 2016-17 is enclosed with this issue. **The EARLY BIRD discount is only available until June 1, 2016.** The fees are staying the same as last year. **The deadline is June 30, 2016.** After that date a late fee of \$50.00 will be applied to the total amount. In order to plan for small classes, and to provide at least two catechists for each class, **it is essential to have the registration submitted ON TIME.** The registration form is also on our website where it can be printed and submitted to Sister Suzanne.

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.

### SAVE THESE FALL DATES

**Sunday, September 11:** The Liturgy of the Word for Children ages 4 through 9 begins during the 10:30 Family Mass

**Sunday, September 18:** *Catechetical Sunday* – Over 60 catechists will be recognized at the weekend liturgies for their commitment to teach.

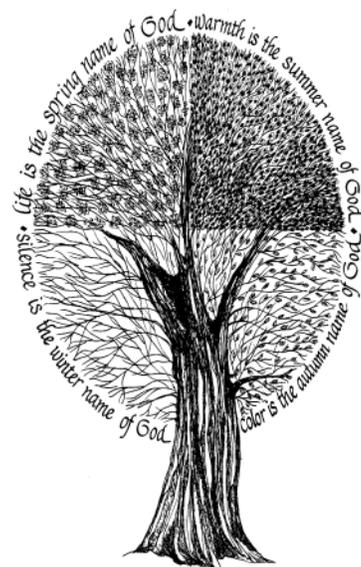
*and on the same day:*

**Sunday, September 18:** Religious Ed begins for Sunday young people for Gr. 1-8 at 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 21:** Religious Ed begins for Wednesday afternoon children for Gr. 2-4 at 3:30 p.m. and for Wednesday evening, Gr. 5-8 young people at 7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 28:** Religious Ed. begins for Gr.1 Wednesday children at 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 2:** Gr. 9 Confirmation candidates assemble in Kenny Hall at 3:00 p.m.



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

Send suggestions for future articles to:  
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