

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 New Approach for Confirmation Candidates

Since Catholic Social Teaching is the best kept secret in the Catholic Church our Confirmation candidates are learning to reveal its worth. A new format provides the candidate with many experiences of learning this secret and sharing it. For the first principle, "The Life and Dignity of the Human Person," special guests were invited. Sister Siphim, OSU from Thailand spoke on "human trafficking." Father Richard Dillon presented three moral dilemmas on human life for the candidates to grapple with. Sophomores Anna Marr, Catherine van Eyck, Ryan McSherry, Blaze Gawlik, and Christian Anderson shared their insights of Confirmation preparation and agreed to be mentors. For the second principle, "The Call to Family, Community and Participation," panelists were invited to share their stories. Jocie and Junior Corona with their four month old baby, Emma Rose, explained the

responsibilities of being new parents and Emma Rose attested to their words of wisdom by demanding her bottle! Ann and Artie Avenius shared their own life's lessons especially when you keep trying to think and live "outside the box" or the stereotypes. Celine from India who established "Homes of Compassion" for young women and their babies articulated God's presence in ways that often are mysterious and challenging. Karen Killilea, is a living example of a person who refuses to define herself as disabled or handicapped but prefers to typify the description as "permanently inconvenienced." The candidates were amazed at Karen's agility and courage despite her confinement to a wheelchair due to cerebral palsy. She sees her life as a possibility rather than a problem. Future sessions will continue various formats.

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.

Sacramental Preparation Upcoming Event

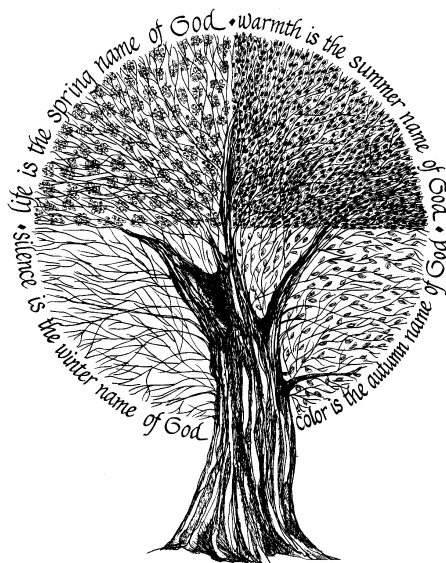
Enrollment of Confirmation Candidates

**Sunday, November 1
10:30 am Liturgy**

As an instrument of peace and community building the newsletters, **Finding God** and **The Augmenter**, will come to your home to promote communication and hospitality. At St. Augustine's, we are a welcoming Church, reaching out to one another and to all, for the life of the world.

An Initiative to Promote Community and a Combo of Values

When our Wednesday learners from Grades 1 through 5 arrive at St. Augustine's they proceed to Kenny Hall for Grades 3-5 and the cafeteria for Grades 1-2 to eat their snacks. The puppets, *Lily Rose* and *Chef Combo* appear to promote healthy habits of eating, knowing the children need some down time and healthy snacks. Once Sr. Suzanne surprised everyone with fruit roll-ups! The children were happy but the parents, not so. Luckily Sr. Suzanne's puppets have convinced her that apples, crackers, raisins and the like offer a better alternative. Since all the children are offered the same snacks collectively it is unwise for parents to send donuts or other sugary snacks. If a child has a health issue that would be the only exception. Parents are asked to send a \$15 cost for the year toward the snacks. Both parents and catechists are saved the inconvenience of providing them. At 3 p.m. the catechists lead their classes to the classrooms for their *Finding God* experience. But we all know *Finding God in all things* is experienced at every moment at St. Augustine's!



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.

Sister Suzanne Needs Help
A Coordinating Committee for
Social Justice

JUSTGOSPEL

Because we want our children to learn and experience the Gospel of Jesus they need many opportunities to serve and extend their gifts to those in need. This kind of service is not reserved to Confirmation candidates but to all of us at every stage of our life. A committee that acts as a liaison to parents at every grade level is the goal. Any parent who would like to meet once a month with Sr. Suzanne for an hour (she only likes short meetings) to coordinate our efforts will inherit the marvel of "blessing the world." Sr. Suzanne needs help!! Please call her at 834-9523 or email her at srsuzanne@verizon.net.

Wish List

Sr. Suzanne has replaced the non-operable VCR and DVD players. Two **new TVs** are needed. If you have one to donate we would be most grateful. Room 104 has taken on a new look that is inviting and more user friendly for catechists. The religious ed office needs some work. A **formica top** would be a plus. A **L-shaped computer desk** and **cabinets** would also be helpful. The phone system has been replaced and the computers are in process. We have 500 learners and 80 catechists in our religious ed process. We want to insure our families, over 325, that we offer professionalism, competence and honor in living Gospel values.

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

Send suggestions for future articles to: srsuzanne@verizon.net

Respond online to be of service with November Needs—staugred@verizon.net

Walk for Habitat!

Sunday, November 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Help build a home and a future for a needy family . . .one step at a time! Join us. Start at Constitution Park (across from St. Augustine's). Walk to Manor Park and return to St. Augustine's cafeteria for refreshments! Get pledges from grandchildren, grandparents, friends and family. Donations will be collected at the Walk or email to Habitat for Humanity at 18 Cherry Avenue Larchmont, NY 10538. For more information call Anne Avenius at 527-6762 or respond to staugred@verizon.net.

**Thanksgiving Dinner Drive
for the Needy**

Please consider preparing a Thanksgiving meal for the needy neighbor in our surrounding community.

How: Sign up on the posters at Church to prepare a fully cooked meal for the family size you agree to with all the trimmings.

When: Drop off your prepared meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009 between 8 and 9 a.m. in a sturdy, well-marked container, before the 9:30 a.m. Mass. If you don't have a good box we will provide one at the church.

We will need drivers on Thanksgiving morning to make the deliveries to the local individuals.

If you are going away you can still help with meals. Contact Joan Clarke and find out how. 834-7221.

A brief meeting will be held for volunteers on Sunday, November 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.