

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

Sister Suzanne's Summer Yields More Creative Adventures Ahead

Story Soothes and Stimulates—A Gift for Our Children each Week

In reading *Really Good Books for Kids: A Guide for Catechists and Parents* by Janaan Manternach I almost started dancing in sync and agreement with each word. Having spent most of my life promoting "story" in hundreds of creative ways I felt a special bond with this author whom I admire. She cited a report from *Imagination, the Heart's Best Guide*, which encompasses the value of story in a child's life. Stories create an emotional attachment to goodness, a desire to do the right thing. They provide a wealth of good examples—the kind of examples that are often missing from a child's day-to-day environment. Stories familiarize children with the codes of

conduct they need to know and help us to cast our own lives as stories. Unless this sense of meaning is acquired at an early age and reinforced as we grow older, there simply is not moral growth. Manternach feels that, "as we see more into our own lives through story, we become more open to God's story unfolding in our lives." The connection being **God-with-us through story!**

I ordered over 100 books via Amazon's used book offers to start the process. Each week near the ending of the class I am asking each catechist to **read aloud a story** or continue reading a book that I have selected (I read over 100 books this summer) that inspires the moral imagination of a

child and leads to morality and spirituality. These books are called **BOOKS OF BLESSING**. Anyone wanting to donate \$10/\$15/\$25 toward this venture may do so by donating a book in memory of a loved one, in remembrance of a child's birthday or anniversary to the menagerie. A book plate will be placed inside the book with the name inscribed for posterity. A revolving book stand holds the books that air each month in Room 104 and new books are readied as each new Unit in the learner's religion book is begun. The selection of the books matches the themes and developmental levels of children from the first grade through the fifth grade.

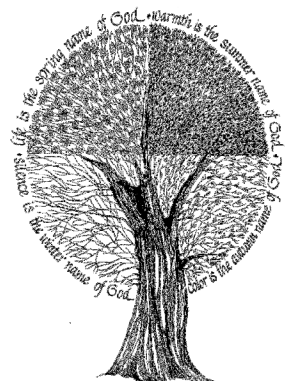
Global Awareness, Catholic Social Teaching, the Best Kept Secret in the Catholic Church!

Having heard a renowned speaker air her views on Catholic Social Teaching nearly a decade ago with a true sense of humor woven in the mix I laughed at her reference to CST as the "best kept secret in the Catholic Church!" Since those days I believe she wasn't kidding!! In many circles Catholic Social Teaching is not heard or spoken of. Though religion books indicate how and where they refer to its seven principles I am not sure many people get the drift that these tenets are wholly "**Jesus' Gospel.**" If I use the term "Global Awareness" to our middle school students and Confirmation candidates I might get some positive reaction. With the help of the Maryknoll Global Education series of videos I will teach each grade from 6 through 9 every fourth week using various methodologies. The bridge to either term is the DVD, "It Takes a Child" with Craig Kielburger. Some of the learners have viewed the film at the end of the year. All will view it at the outset of the year to imbibe Craig's passion for others, exploring a ME TO WE philosophy. Craig is shown as a twelve year old starting a mission to eradicate child labor in India. His passion has taken him to found with his older brother, Mark, a foundation called FREE THE CHILDREN. Crag, now 28 years old, continues to travel the world building schools, impacting more than one million young people in forty-five countries.

The brothers, true servant leaders, find meaning in a material world and cause it. Inspired and influenced by their parents, Craig and Mark challenge us to step beyond the world of self and into the world of others. Do these themes of Catholic Social Teaching sound familiar?

- * Life and dignity of the human person
- * Call to family, community and participation
- * Rights and responsibilities
- * Option for the poor and vulnerable
- * The dignity of work and the rights of workers
- * Solidarity
- * Care of God's creation

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.



Quick Tips for A Faith-filled Year

Every Minute Counts!

Sunday classes for Grades 1-8 begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. until the bell rings at 10:15 a.m. Entrance and dismissal occur through the main doors on Larchmont Avenue.

Wednesday evenings Grades 6, 7, 8, & 9 learners enter the main doors between 7:00 and 7:10 p.m. Classes begin promptly at 7:15 p.m. when the **bell rings**. Chronic tardiness will necessitate makeup sessions. The bell rings for an 8:30 p.m. dismissal through the main and side doors.

Since the Village of Larchmont prohibits double parking, Xavier Gonzalez, our paid Traffic Supervisor and Safety Officer, directs the dismissal for every learner's safety.

Patience and courtesy are required for the common good of all.

Wednesday classes for Grade 1 through 5 begin at 2:45 p.m. A healthy snack is provided for all the children. **NO personal snacks** should be brought into the school.

Grades 1 and 2 assemble at their assigned class table in the **Cafeteria**.

Grades 3, 4 and 5 assemble at their respective tables in **Kenny Hall**.

All proceed to their classrooms led by their Catechists at 3:00 p.m.

Dismissal

A staggered dismissal will promote safety. Parents & Caregivers may enter the side doors to the Cafeteria. **Grade 1** will be released at **4:00 p.m.** from their assigned tables in the Cafeteria and **Grade 2** will follow the same procedure at **4:10 p.m.**

At **4:15 p.m.** the bell rings and **Grades 3, 4 & 5** exit through designated side and main doors. Parents of these children are waiting outdoors.

Absences are a rare occurrence. Attendance is a priority! If a child is absent, please call 834-9523 to inform the office. This courtesy will avoid our calling your home.



Catholic Relief Services are on the ground of northern Africa trying desperately to eradicate the hunger caused by the worst famine in sixty (60) years.

Our children collected over \$1,000 for **Operation Rice Bowl** last Lent which provided food through Catholic Relief Services.

This year we are asking each family to **bring a non-perishable food item each week** to the Cafeteria, Kenny Hall and/or the statue of Jesus and children which will be forwarded to the **Hope Food Pantry** in New Rochelle. A globe bank is located in the religious education office for your monetary donations for this relief effort.

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