

## LIFE'S LITTLE LESSON?

Dear Friends:

Does an evangelizer need to study the Bible? Yes! If one is going to spread the Good News, one should know what it is. There is another reason: What if life is a test?

Eternity is a long time. Some people are given decades to learn how to love and forgive. Think about it. Who do you want to spend "forever" with? The office gossip? Your back-stabbing-ladder-climbing co-worker? The chronic grump? If there is such a "test," it might be called "Life." What would it look like?

We each have our own test, don't we? What is yours: a disability, an illness, the loss of a loved one, poverty, alcoholism, an addiction, lust, abuse, a loveless marriage, anger, resentment, comfort, wealth? Some may be tested over and over.

Still, God equips each of us with all we need to pass. We are each blessed with different talents, skills and gifts. Sometimes we draw deep within ourselves to find the strength. Sometimes, we call on strength beyond ourselves. The test is not easy, but we have been assured that we have what we need.

God, in his great mercy, has made this an open book test. The answers are in the Bible, but we must look for them. If we need help understanding, Christ gave us the church and almost 2,000 years of tradition to discern the meanings. God didn't stop there; he gave us Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the sacraments.

Finally, he gave us the ability to get a clean answer sheet when we make mistakes. That's called the sacrament of reconciliation.

There is one catch: Only God knows when the test is over.

So, how are you doing on the test so far? Are you looking for some new answers? He gave you the only book you really need. Share what you learn with your loved ones, just as evangelizers do. It will be a lot more fun if we all pass together. Have a blessed week.

Linda

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