

Senior Religion

Summer Reading Assignment

Senior year is a pivotal moment in the lives of teens, a time when young men & women are *shaping their goals and hopes for the future and seeking spiritual guidance*. The Vocations course is a comprehensive one-semester course, which addresses significant issues teens will face as they choose among the many life paths they may travel—single or married life, religious life, or ordained ministry. This course examines themes common to all these paths with an emphasis on the *universal call to holiness*. To prepare for this course, your summer reading assignment & project will serve to critically analyze your own views, and American culture in contrast to the teachings of Christ.

Part 1: Bucket List Project (50 points)

Before you need the short story, you will create your own personal and unique bucket list. See the attachment for guidelines.

Part 2: Read the short story

Read the short story and annotate as you read.

The book is yours, you may underline or annotate directly in the book.

You will be assessed on the reading.

Life's Greatest Lesson by Allen R. Hunt

Something is missing. You are not whole just yet. What if you had a need in your life that turned out to be the greatest need of all? A need that you unexpectedly discovered, almost by accident? What if that need, when satisfied, grew into the most deeply rewarding aspect of your life?

You do have such a need. And when you satisfy this need, your life will be transformed in ways you could never imagine. You will never have to worry about ending your life like Ebenezer Scrooge, full of bitterness and regret. Because you will have found the cure for selfishness, for anxiety, for sluggishness, and even for anger.

That transformation will propel you toward becoming the-best-version-of-yourself. Best of all, you will lead a life full of love. You will have discovered life's greatest lesson.

This book, and the parable Allen Hunt shares in it, will show you how to get the most out of your life—how to return to the grace of who you really are.

Questions to consider while reading:

- Death is part of the natural course of life, many of us have experienced the loss of a loved one and realize how much thinking about death can make us think about the way we live our lives. How does our culture view or respond to death? How does your own family view or respond to death?
- Sacrifice is a central theme of Christianity. In what ways have you seen the sacrifices Grandma Lavish makes in your own personal life?
- Meaning/Purpose in Life is essential; how is this evident in the legacy Grandma Lavish left her grandson?

Part 3: "LEGS" vs. American Society (50 points)

The acronym LEGS represents core values Grandma Lavish lived by. She chose to live life guided by these values to fulfill her vocation as a Christian woman. How are the values presented in LEGS evident in American society? How are these values rejected in American society?

Assignment:

Choose 1 value of the LEGS acronym.

Then, find evidence in American culture of this *valued being lived out*.

- Provide 4 example to demonstrate this value as Grandma Lavish explained in current TV, movies, music, literature, etc.

Next, using the same value, find evidence of the *opposite value being promoted or expressed* in American society.

- Provide 4 example which contradict the value as Grandma Lavish explained in current TV, movies, music, literature, etc.
- ❖ Create a poster to display these examples. Make sure your poster has a title. You may create a digital poster to submit OR a physical project on poster board.

Important note:

Please utilize proper judgment for these projects, keeping in mind this is for Religion class and therefore should demonstrate a clear understanding of Christian morality.

- ❖ When in doubt ask yourself: does this break the Ten Commandments? What does the Church teach about this?

Your religion assignment is due the first class meeting.

The project assignments are worth **100 points** combined and will be added to your first marking period grade.

Failure to complete this assignment or turn it in late will jeopardize your overall grade for the semester.

Bucket List Project

A "Bucket List" is a list that someone creates based on things they want to do/accomplish before they "kick the bucket." These types of lists have become very popular in recent years, they can be found online and in social media posts. Maybe you have started one, maybe you've never really considered doing so.

Thinking about the end of our life can be helpful in guiding how we live in the present moment. Seriously consider the things that you would like to do/accomplish before you die. Most importantly the items on the list should be significant to your life's journey and where you see yourself heading.

You may have to do a little research on the Internet. This is not a simple 10 minute assignment...I want you to reflect on your life so far and then reflect on what you want your life to be like in the future and make a list of things that you would like to accomplish before you leave this world. Think about your immediate future and then work your way in to your eighties and nineties.

Here are some questions to think about when creating your Bucket List:

- What have you always wanted to do but have not done yet?
- What would you do if you had unlimited time, money and resources?
- Any countries, places or locations you want to visit? What do you want to see in person?
- Are there any special moments you want to witness?
- What activities or skills do you want to learn or try out?
- What would you like to do together with other people? Family? Friends?
- Are there any specific people you want to meet in person?
- What do you want to achieve in the different areas: Relationships, Family, Career, Finance, Faith
- What do you need to do to lead a life of the greatest meaning?

Project: Create a bucket list with **25** items.

- ❖ Each item will be written in a complete sentence and no two sentences can start the same.
- ❖ Vary the length and type of sentences.
- ❖ Use photos/graphics to highlight 10 items.
- ❖ Use a 12 font and double space.
- ❖ Organize your list into categories: immediate, short term and long term.
- ❖ You may create a digital list to submit OR a physical list on poster board.