

Title: Little Pieces of Light, Darkness & Personal Growth	Author: Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.
Media type: (check one) X Book <input type="checkbox"/> CD/Audio book <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	Call Number: 248.8 RUP
Review submitted by: Sharon Krieg	Date: 11/22/2014
Subject (e.g. Prayer, Family Life, Sacraments, Saints, Bible Study, Moral Conduct, Social Justice) Faith Building	
<p>1. What is this book about? (describe briefly) The author explains how God responds to people's needs when they are feeling most abandoned by everyone including God. However this sorrow can become an opportunity for spiritual growth and healing.</p>	
<p>2. What main message does the author convey? Sometimes a person is in deep despair and believes that no one cares about them or their problem. Sorrow is a natural part of life, but that perspective is lost on the suffering person. Depression from various sources is intense and faith in God seems pointless. Ms. Rupp points out that hope in God's compassion can be found when one calls out for help. Whether literally or figuratively crying out, God hears us, cares about us, and in His time shows us a positive way out of our problem. Fear is something to be faced not run away from, despite the apprehension one may have. Trust in God's love helps us to face whatever is bothering us. We then can make whatever changes are needed in our lives so that we may obtain comfort, strength and courage to go on. God's help, like little pieces of light, can be perceived and acted upon once we see the light of God's love for us. Our spiritual life will be fortified once we come out of the darkness and into God's light. It only requires the tiniest bit of belief in God, a willingness to say "yes" to Him.</p>	
<p>3. What inspired you the most about this book, and why would you recommend it? With the holiday season upon us, depression can loom. This book would be a help to those who are caught up in despair. Also for those who grieve for the loss of a loved one, this book can help to ease their heartache. For people who have lost their job and feel the pain of that problem, this book offers hope. Despair in life comes from all reasons, but with faith in God and the least bit of willingness to let God help us with our problems, life will eventually get better. That is very hard to believe when we are struggling, but God gives us a lifeline when we least expect it. We need to be willing to accept it once it is offered.</p>	
<p>4. Who would benefit from reading this book? Anyone.</p>	
<p>5. Any other impressions: Ms. Rupp has written several touching poems that are appropriate to the points she offers the reader. I don't usually like poetry, but hers are worth reading for the elucidation they give.</p>	