

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR CATECHISTS AND YOUTH

The words listed in this glossary do not necessarily provide an all-inclusive list of faith formation terms. The words here are listed as vocabulary word throughout the curriculum and also important terms that will assist catechists and youth in their knowledge of the faith. For a definition or explanation of words not included here and perhaps for a fuller understanding of the words that are here, catechists and youth should refer to a Catholic dictionary.

A

Abortifacients	A drug or device causing or inducing an abortion.
Abortion	The deliberate ending of a pregnancy by killing the unborn child. Such an act is gravely contrary to the moral law and the will of the Creator.
Abraham	Abram (his original name) was called by God to be head of God's Chosen People. (Gn. 12:1-7) Father of Ishmael and Issac (Gn. 16:15; Gn. 21:3) Forefather in faith of Christians, Jews, and Muslims.
Absolution	An essential part of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in which the priest or bishop, using the power entrusted to the Church by Christ, pardons the sin(s) of the penitent.
Acedia	Laziness or inactivity in the practice of virtue.
Acts of the Apostles	A book of the New Testament. Written by St. Luke (author of the <i>Gospel According to Luke</i>), telling of the early work of the apostles and the growth of the Christian community.
Adoration	Prayerful acknowledgment of God as God, the Lord and Master of everything that exists. Through worship and prayer, we give to God the adoration which is the first act of the virtue of religion. Christians reserve the act of adoration exclusively for God.
Advent	The liturgical season of four weeks immediately before Christmas, during which the faithful prepare themselves spiritually to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. This period is penitential in nature; hence the liturgical color is purple.
Age of Reason (discretion)	The time of life (the person's age) when a person is assumed to be morally responsible on their own and fully able to distinguish between right and wrong. It is generally held by the Church to be "the end of the seventh year," i.e., when a child becomes seven years old. In individual cases, it could be earlier or later.

All Saints Day	A Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on November 1 in honor of all persons who lived exceptionally virtuous lives and whose souls are now in heaven where they participate in the heavenly liturgy.
Alms	Money or material goods that are freely given for those in need. It may be an act of penance or of Christian charity.
Altar	The sacred table used only for offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Before new altars are used, they are typically dedicated for their special purpose by a bishop. One or more relics of saints are commonly set into the altar.
Anger	An emotion, not in itself wrong, but when not controlled by reason hardens into resentment or hate and becomes one of the capital sins. It is a sin against the fifth commandment.
Annunciation	A solemnity observed annually on March 25, when the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.
Anointing of the Sick	A sacrament of healing. One of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament is administered by a priest or bishop (not by a deacon) to a baptized Catholic person who is seriously ill or in danger of death due to sickness or old age. Elderly people may be anointed if they are in a weak condition though no dangerous illness is present.
Apocalypse	Another name for the Book of Revelation. It is also used to refer to the end times when the forces of good permanently triumph over the forces of evil.
Apocalyptic	Relating to or resembling an apocalypse. A style of literature found in Scripture.
Apocrypha	The term used by Protestants for the books of the Bible accepted by Catholics as divinely inspired which they do not believe are part of Sacred Scripture. They are: 1 & 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Sirach, Wisdom, and Baruch, and parts of Daniel and Esther.
Apostasy	The abandoning of the Christian faith by a baptized person.
Apostles	Specifically refers to the original twelve men chosen by Jesus. They were ordained priests by Jesus at the Last Supper and sent by him to preach the Gospel. The word "apostle" literally means "one who is sent." After Pentecost, the apostles taught others what Jesus had taught them and were the early leaders of the Church (Mt. 28:19-20). The names of the Twelve are Peter, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew (or Nathaniel), Matthew, Simon, Jude (or Thaddeus), and Matthias (who replaced Judas Iscariot after he betrayed Jesus). St. Paul, though not one of the Twelve, was also called later by the Lord to be an Apostle (Acts 9:1-19). It also broadly refers to followers of Jesus who spread his message.

Apostolate	The work of all the faithful who carry on the original mission entrusted to the Twelve “to go make disciples”. Its purpose is to bring people to the love and knowledge of Christ, through obedience to his teaching, and help them to attain life everlasting.
Apostolic Succession	The uninterrupted handing on of the office of bishop from the Apostles to their successors and from them to other bishops through the laying on of hands at their episcopal ordination. This office includes the sanctifying, teaching, and governing roles within the Church.
Apostolic Tradition	Jesus entrusted his revelation and teaching to his Apostles. They passed it on by their preaching and witness. They and others also wrote the message down in what became the New Testament.
Apparition	A supernatural vision of Christ, Mary, angels or saints. There are many examples in Scripture such as the angel Gabriel to Zechariah and to Mary. When an apparition is reported to the Church they use a lengthy process to determine the validity of the reported apparition.
Archdiocese	A territorial division of the church governed by an archbishop and serving as the principal see of a province.
Ascension	Christ's going up to heaven forty days after his Resurrection from the dead. (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6-11)
Asceticism	Spiritual effort or practice to live a life of virtue so as to grow in Christian perfection.
Assumption (of the Blessed Virgin Mary)	As defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, this dogma declares that "Mary, the immaculate perpetually Virgin Mother of God, after the completion of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven."

B

Babylonian Exile	The period in the sixth century when part of the Judean population was exiled to Babylonia. It is also referred to as the “captivity”.
Baptism	The first of the seven sacraments; the first Sacrament of Initiation. It is the basis of the whole Christian life and is necessary for the other sacraments. Through this sacrament, administered by a bishop, priest, or deacon, the recipient is cleansed of all sin, including original sin; reborn and sanctified in Christ to everlasting life. Baptism is a rebirth in the Spirit, by water and the word of God.

Beatific Vision	In Heaven, when the blessed will see God face-to-face and contemplate him in the fullness of heavenly glory.
Beatification	The last step before one of the deceased faithful who lived a holy life is declared a saint. It requires a careful examination of their life and an approved miracle due to their intercession be affirmed by the Holy See. Beatified persons are called "Blessed".
Beatitudes	In a general sense, beatitude is a state of blessedness or happiness. In particular, beatitude refers to any of the declarations made by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5:3-12) beginning "Blessed are...." These are Jesus' teachings on the meaning of and way to true happiness.
Benediction	In general, it is another name for a prayer of blessing. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a Eucharistic devotion. It includes a period of praise, meditation, and adoration by everyone present. The priest or deacon blesses the people in the form of a cross with the raised monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament; hence Benediction is truly a blessing by our Lord Jesus Christ himself.
Bible	The collection of Sacred Scriptures of Christians comprising the Old and New Testaments. It is believed to be the authentic, inspired record of the revelation made to mankind by God about himself and his will for men. The Council of Hippo in 393 A.D. first determined which books were to be included in the Bible. The Council of Trent in 1546 formally canonized (listed) the books of the Old and New Testament. It is a matter of faith for all Catholics to believe that all passages of all books of the Bible are equally inspired by God.
Bishop	A successor of the Apostles who has received the fullness of Christ's priesthood. Bishops are appointed by the Holy See and consecrated by another bishop by the imposition of hands.
Blessed Mother	The title given to Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ. She stood beneath the cross on Calvary and was placed in the care of the Apostle John, being told, "Behold your son." She is our spiritual Mother and Mother of the Church.
Blessed Sacrament	Another name for the consecrated bread and wine when they become the Body and Blood of Christ. It is perpetually reserved in the tabernacle for adoration and for distribution to the sick and marked by a burning sanctuary lamp.
Blessing	Blessings are signs that have God's word as their basis and that are celebrated from motives of faith. They are signs perceptible to the senses and are intended to foster an increase in human sanctification. The outward signs or gestures typically employed with a blessing are one or more of the following: outstretching of arms; raising or joining of the hands; the laying on of hands; the sign of the cross; sprinkling with holy water; and incensation.
Blood of Christ	The human blood which Jesus had on earth and which is sacramentally present in the Eucharist under the appearance of wine.

Body of Christ (1) The human body which Jesus had on earth and which is now glorified in heaven. (2) This same Body and Blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ are sacramentally present in the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine. (3) The Church is called the (mystical) Body of Christ.

C

Canon (1) The official list of the inspired books of the Bible. (2) The law of the Church. The entire body of Church law is known as Canon law. (3) What is now Eucharistic Prayer I in the Roman Missal, was formerly referred to as the Roman Canon.

Canonization The solemn declaration by the Holy Father that a deceased member of the faithful is a model and intercessor to the Christian faithful and is worthy of public veneration as a saint based on the fact that they lived a life of heroic virtue or remained faithful to God through martyrdom.

Capital Punishment The intentional killing by the state of a person convicted of a serious crime.

Cardinal A bishop appointed by the Pope. As a member of the College of Cardinals they assist and advise the pope in the government of the Church. Cardinals wear a red hat and cassock. Cardinals rank next to the pope in terms of hierarchy. It is the College of Cardinals that elects a new pope when necessary.

Carroll, John A priest born in Maryland who was ordained as the first Bishop of the United States in 1790. For twenty-five years he set the direction for the Catholic Church in this country.

Catechism A summary of Catholic doctrine about faith and morals to be used when passing on the faith. The official and most authoritative is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992). Two other well-known catechisms are: the *Roman Catechism* (1566), the universal catechism until 1992 and the *Baltimore Catechism*, published in the late 19th century for use in the United States.

Catholic (1) A member of the Roman Catholic Church, as distinct from a member of a Protestant church. (2) When used as an adjective, the word Catholic serves as a pointer to the Roman Catholic Church. (For example, "The author of this book has a clear Catholic message.") (3) When written with a small 'c' the word catholic means universal. Thus being catholic is one of the marks of the Church, taken from the Nicene Creed. The Church is catholic both because she possesses the fullness of Christ's presence, and because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole human race.

Chaplet	As a physical thing, a chaplet is literally “a string of beads.” Rosary beads, for instance, are a form of chaplet. As a devotion or prayer, the chaplet is an intercessory prayer or set of prayers.
Charism	A special gift or grace of the Holy Spirit given to an individual Christian or a community, commonly for the benefit and building up of the entire Church.
Charity (Love)	The infused supernatural, theological virtue by which a person loves God above all things for his own sake, and loves others for God's sake. It is a virtue based on divine faith or in belief in God's revealed truth. It is not acquired by mere human effort; it is infused by God.
Chastity	(1) The moral virtue which provides for the successful and healthy integration of sexuality within the total person. It involves self-discipline and control of passions, and it includes purity in conduct and intention. To understand offenses against chastity, refer to the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , 2351–59. (2) A fruit of the Holy Spirit. (3) One of the Evangelical counsels, that is one of the vows taken by those entering the religious life.
Chosen People	The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are referred to as the Chosen People. These descendants are the people whom God led out of slavery in Egypt during the Exodus and to whom he gave the Promised Land. They became the 'Israelites,' named after 'Israel,' the name God gave to Jacob. (Gn. 32:29) God intended that the Chosen People act as his first-born, to be an example to all the other nations (peoples) of the world.
Chrism, Sacred	Usually olive oil perfumed with balsam that is consecrated by the bishop annually at the Chrism Mass. Chrism signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used in those sacraments which confer a permanent mark or character – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
Christ	The "anointed one of God." The word Christ is not Jesus' last name but a title indicating he was God's anointed or chosen one. It comes from the Greek word <i>Christos</i> meaning the Messiah.
Christian	Any person who has been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Christians are followers of Christ, members of the Christian Church. Conversely, a person who has not been validly baptized is not a Christian.
Christmas	The feast of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus. Celebrated each year on December 25 th .
Christological	Relating to the study of the person of Jesus.
Christology	The study of the person of Jesus, particularly in the mystical union of his human and divine natures.

Church	(1) Church, with a capital 'C', is the people that God gathers (assembles) in the whole world through Christ. As a group, all Christians comprise the universal community of believers and are the Church in the largest sense. (2) The diocese, which is also known as the local church. (3) The building in which we worship is called a church (small 'c').
Church Glorified	Members of the Communion of Saints who are in heaven; also known as Church triumphant. Sometimes referred to as Church in Glory.
Church Suffering	Members of the Communion of Saints who are in purgatory.
Church, Pilgrim	Members of the Communion of Saints who are on earth. Sometimes referred to as Church Militant.
Clergy	Those men who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders as deacons, priests, or bishops.
Commandment	A norm or guide for moral and/or religious behavior. Any of the Ten Commandments (laws) given to Moses by God. Jesus summarized all of the commandments in the twofold command to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.
Communal Prayer	A group prayer, particularly a liturgical prayer such as the Mass or Liturgy of the Hours prayed in common by several people.
Communion	Our fellowship and union with Jesus and other baptized Christians in the Church, which has its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist.
Communion of Saints	The spiritual union of all the members of the Church through all time—the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful on earth. This doctrine was affirmed by the Second Council of Nicea, the Council of Florence, and the Council of Trent
Communion, Holy	(1)The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. (2) The reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (3) One of the Sacraments of Initiation.
Confession	Telling one's sins to a priest. It is an essential element of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Often times this term is used as another name for the Sacrament.
Confirmation	The second Sacrament of Initiation. One of the Seven Sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament, conferred by the bishop or a delegated priest, through the anointing with Chrism on the forehead which is done by the laying on of the hand with the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which "confirm" the baptized in union with Christ.
Congregation for the Causes of Saints	A department of the Roman Curia, (those offices and agencies which assist the Pope in governing the Universal Church) that oversees the process of the canonization of saints.

Conjugal Act	Sexual intercourse between a man and a woman who are married to each other.
Conscience	The interior voice of a human being that, when formed through prayer, study of Church teachings, reflection, and humility, is capable of discerning moral good. Conscience is an operation of the intellect, which applies its knowledge to a specific moral situation. In other words, we know something is right or wrong not because we feel that it is or that we want it to be right or wrong. Our minds objectively recognize right or wrong because our inner voice gives us the criteria for discerning.
Consecrated life	A permanent state of life dedicated to the service of God by public profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience.
Consecration	(1) Any formal designation of a person, place, or thing for the service of God. (2) That part of the Eucharistic prayer during which the words of institution and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass.
Constantine	The emperor of the Holy Roman Empire that issued the Edict of Milan (313) which made Christianity an approved religion thus officially ending the Roman persecutions of Christians.
Consubstantial	The term used by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to teach that Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity while distinct and separate, share one and the same substance. With the new translation of the Roman Missal this word has been restored to the Nicene Creed, which we profess every Sunday at Mass.
Contraception	The use of mechanical, chemical, or medical procedures to prevent conception from taking place as a result of sexual intercourse.
Contrition	The act or virtue of sorrow for one's sins. There must also be a determination not to sin again and to take action to overcome sin. This is a necessary part of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
Council of Trent	An ecumenical council of the Church that took place in the 16 th century. It responded to the challenges faced by the Church due to the Reformation. Through careful doctrinal decrees, rooted in Scripture and Tradition, it summarized Church teachings on a number of fundamental issues, such as the role of Scripture, original sin, and the sacraments. It also resulted in the reform of the liturgy providing the Latin Church with a uniform liturgical practice that was not significantly changed until Vatican II.
Courtship	An extended period of exclusive dating with the intention of marriage.
Covenant	A solemn agreement made between people or between God and a human being. In the Old Testament, God established covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. The Prophets prepared people for the new and eternal covenant established by Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Marriage is also a covenant of life and love.

Covetousness (Greed)	The sinful desire for the possessions another or pleasure. It is one of the capital sins. It is a sin against the tenth commandment.
Creed	A brief, normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith. A statement of belief. Examples: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
Creed, Apostles'	A formula statement of belief developed in the early centuries of the Church which contains the fundamental doctrines of Christianity expressing the faith passed down to us from the apostles. It begins, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ..."
Creed, Nicene-Constantinople	A statement of Christian beliefs used as the Profession of Faith in the Mass. It was first formulated by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. and was put in its present form at the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. It is usually called the Nicene Creed.
Curia	The administrative and judicial departments involved in the governance of the Church. This can be used to describe those in a diocesan church and the universal church. When referring to the universal church is often called the Roman Curia.

D

Dating	A social relationship between an unmarried man and unmarried woman.
Deacon	A man ordained by the bishop to the diaconate. His duties may include preaching, the conferral of baptism, witness of marriage, administration of parishes, service to the community, etc. Transitional deacons are unmarried men preparing to become priests. Permanent deacons may be married or unmarried men, with no intention of becoming priests.
Death	The cessation of bodily functions of a human being through the departure of the soul. Only the body dies when separated from the soul. Death is also the end of the time of human probation or testing of one's loyalty to God. After the moment of death, there is no further possibility of merit or demerit.
Decalogue	From the Greek meaning "ten words." Another name for the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20)
Deuterocanonical	The books of the Bible found in the early Greek version of the Old Testament. They were affirmed as part of the Old Testament at the Council of Trent in response to Martin Luther's rejection of them. They are: 1 & 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, Sirach, Wisdom, and Baruch, and parts of Daniel and Esther.

Deuteronomy	The fifth book of the Bible and the final book of the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy is written as a series of discourses by Moses near the end of his life in which he exhorts, corrects, and threatens his people. He partially repeats, completes, and explains the Law proclaimed forty years previous on Mount Sinai. Moses' intention is to enforce among the Israelites the Lord's claim to their obedience, loyalty, and love.
Devil	A fallen angel who sinned against God by refusing to accept his reign. The chief of the fallen angels is Satan, or simply "the devil." The other fallen angels may be referred to as devils or demons. They tempt human beings to sin.
Devotion(s)	A pious practice or exercise other than the Mass. With Mass as the regular form of worship for Catholics, praying the Stations of the Cross together at church, for example, would be a devotion. Similarly, a group of the faithful praying the Rosary together would be a Marian devotion.
Diaconate	The degree of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordered to service in the Church.
Diocese	All Catholics living in a particular geographical area under the pastoral care and authority of a bishop. All of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, for example, comprises the Diocese of Marquette.
Divine	Of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God. Directed toward God, as in "divine worship."
Divine Office	Another term for Liturgy of the Hours.
Divine Wisdom	The name for the personification of God's wise dealings and plan for the world and the human race.
Doctor of the Church	A person from any era in Church history whose sanctity and writings have had a profound influence on theological and spiritual thought. A person is declared a Doctor of the Church by the Pope. Doctors of the Church include such figures as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Teresa of Ávila, St. John of the Cross, St. Robert Bellarmine, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
Doctrine	Teachings of the Church regarding faith and morals. "Doctrine" means the contents of Divine Revelation as well as each specific tenet of the faith. There are various levels of doctrine.
Dogma	A teaching of the Church, held as revealed by God and therefore binding on the faithful, that is revealed implicitly or explicitly by solemn definition or by the Church's ordinary Magisterium.

E

Easter	The greatest and oldest Christian feast, which celebrates Christ's Resurrection from the dead. It is the "Great Sunday." It is celebrated with great joy and solemnity.
Easter Vigil	The Easter Vigil is the Mass on Holy Saturday night before Easter Sunday. It is the "mother of all vigils", (GIRM, 21) with a new fire, candles, and nine readings. It is celebrated with the greatest solemnity possible. Catechumens who have completed the R.C.I.A. process receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion) and become members of the Church.
Ecclesial Communities	Christian communities, separated due to the protestant reformation. They remain separated because of lack of apostolic succession, differences in doctrine and invalid ordination.
Ecumenical Council	An official gathering of all the bishops of the world, that when summoned by the Pope constitutes the highest teaching authority in the Church. They are usually convoked at pivotal moments in the life of the Church. Some examples are Nicaea I (325), Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451), Trent (1545-1563), Vatican II (1962-1965).
Ecumenism	The movement, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit to restore unity among all Christian Churches, and eventually to all peoples throughout the world.
Edict of Milan	The decree Constantine issued in 313 which made Christianity an approved religion in the Holy Roman Empire, thus officially ending the Roman persecutions of Christians.
Encyclical	A pastoral letter written by the Pope about some important Church teaching and circulated throughout the Church in the entire world.
Envy	Jealously, resentment, or sadness because of another person's good fortune and the desire to have it for one's self. It is one of the capital sins and a sin against the tenth commandment.
Episcopate	The state of being a bishop. The office, dignity, and sacramental powers bestowed on a bishop at ordination.
Epistle	One of the thirteen letters included as a book in the New Testament written to a particular church or individual for example, <i>The Letter to the Ephesians</i> . These letters are all attributed to Saint Paul. There are seven other letters identified by the author's name, which were written to general audiences, for example, <i>The Letter of James</i> . One epistle is by an unknown author and is addressed to <i>the Hebrews</i> . The Book of Revelation (Rv 1:4-3:22) contains "Letters to the Churches of Asia," but the overall book is not generally thought of as an epistle in the same way as are Paul's letters.

Eucharist	(1) The source and summit of Christian life, it is one of the Sacraments of Initiation. (2) The primary act of worship in the Catholic Church commemorating the Last Supper at which Christ gave us his Body and Blood in the form of bread and wine. This sacrament makes Jesus, truly and substantially present-Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. (3) From the Greek <i>eucharistia</i> meaning thanksgiving.
Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which entails spending time in prayer, either kneeling or sitting, in front of the tabernacle or in front of a monstrance containing the Body of Christ (the consecrated host) and being present to Jesus, physically, mentally, and spiritually.
Euthanasia	The deliberate killing, by action or omission, of a dying, disabled, or chronically ill person in order to end his or her suffering. It is always immoral and a serious violation of the Fifth Commandment as only God has the power to give and take life.
Evangelical Counsels	Public vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience taken by those in consecrated life.
Evangelist	(1) In particular, the term "Evangelist" is used to designate a writer of any of the four Gospels. (2) In current Protestant usage especially, anyone who proclaims the Gospel.
Evangelization	The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and deed in fulfillment of Christ's command to go and make disciples. Evangelization is the primary mission of the Church.
Evil	The opposite or absence of good. Moral evil results from the free choice to sin, an ability given to both mankind and angels.
Examination of Conscience	A person's self-reflection and mental review of his/her words and deeds to see how they might have offended God with the purpose of amending one's life. This examination should be conducted prayerfully and carefully. An examination of conscience should precede every celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
Exegesis	It is the study or explanation of a biblical book or passage.
Exodus	(1) The departure of the Israelites from Egypt. (2) The second book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Exodus tells of the oppression of the Israelites in Egypt and their deliverance by God through Moses who lead them through the wilderness and to Mt. Sinai where they entered into a covenant with God.

F

Faith	(1) The first of the theological virtues. (2) A personal act by which we give personal adherence to God. Through faith we freely assent to the whole truth God has revealed.
Faithful	The baptized people, members of the Church.
Fast, Eucharistic	To refrain from eating or drinking for at least one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. Water and medicine do not break this fast. A person who has not kept this fast should not receive Holy Communion.
Fathers of the Church	A title given to writers of the early Church, many of whom were also bishops, who were noted for the orthodoxy of their doctrine and defended the faith by their writing, preaching and holy lives. Also referred to as Church Fathers.
Fiat	Latin word meaning "let it be done". In the Church, it is used to refer to the Blessed Mother's assent to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation.
Form	In terms of the Sacraments it is the words and signs that must be present for a sacrament to be valid, such as the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" during the celebration of Baptism.
Fortitude	One of the cardinal virtues and a gift of the Holy Spirit by which one courageously and firmly chooses the good despite difficulty and also perseveres in doing what is right despite temptation, fear, or persecution.
Free Will	The God-given freedom of humans to make choices. These choices are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention. It is the basis for moral responsibility.
Fruits of the Holy Spirit	The virtues put into action through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The tradition of the Church identifies twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.
Full Communion	Those Rites that express unity with the Catholic Church through the same faith and sacraments, recognizing the primacy of the pope and equally belonging to the one, holy, apostolic church.

G

Genesis	The first book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Genesis tells the stories of creation (Adam and Eve), Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Esau, Jacob, Jacob's (Israel's) twelve sons (who become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel), Joseph's being sold into slavery and rising to power in Egypt, and the migration of Jacob's (Israel's) entire family to Egypt.
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Permanent dispositions received by being baptized and confirmed in the Holy Spirit. These gifts enable us to be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (Awe)
Glorified Body	The human body after its resurrection from the dead and reunion with the soul, which beholds the vision of God. This vision is the source of the body's glorification. (1 Cor. 15:42-44)
Gluttony	Overindulgence in food or drink. It is one of the capital sins and a sin against the fifth commandment.
God	The supreme being who is, was, and always will be. The creator of all things, both visible and invisible. One in being yet three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The source of our salvation and loving Father of all people.
God the Father	The first Person of the Holy Trinity; creator of all things
God the Holy Spirit	The third Person of the Holy Trinity; the personal love of the Father and Son for each other. Also called the Paraclete (Advocate). See "Holy Spirit".
God the Son	The second Person of the Holy Trinity—Jesus. Word of God incarnate. Messiah, Redeemer, and Savior of all.
Gospel	The proclamation of the entire message of faith revealed in and through Jesus. The word Gospel also refers to one of the four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—that contain a record of the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
Gossip	Idle talk, especially about others. The morality of gossip is determined by the degree to which time is wasted in useless conversation, by the failure in justice or charity committed against others, and by the damage done to people's reputation by those who gossip.
Grace	God's free and undeserved gift to us that enables us to respond to our calling (vocation) by him to be his adopted children. It allows us to share in God's divine life. See also "sanctifying grace" and "actual grace" in this glossary.

Grace, Actual	Temporary supernatural intervention in our lives which helps people choose the good and conform their lives to God's will. When a person receives actual grace, they have a sense that God is truly intervening and helping them through some challenge.
Grace, Sacramental	A sanctifying grace that is proper to and signifies the sacraments.
Grace, Sanctifying	The supernatural gift infused in us by God at baptism. God's sharing of his divine life and friendship with us, making us more perfect, holy, and Christ-like.
Great Commandment	In Jesus' own words, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22:37-39)

H

Healing, Sacraments of	A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and of Penance and Reconciliation.
Heaven	Eternal life with God. Heaven is the state of supreme and definitive happiness. The Apostles' Creed professes that God is "Creator of heaven and earth." This profession includes all that is visible and invisible. Heaven can designate both the firmament and God's own "place" — "Our Father, who art in heaven," It is not a physical place, as we think of places on earth.
Hell	Eternal life without God. The state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed; the state of being reserved for those who refuse by their own choice to believe in God and to be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives.
Heresy	The obstinate denial after Baptism of a truth which must be believed with divine and Catholic faith, i.e., a conscious and deliberate rejection of a dogma of the Church.
Holiness	Sanctity attained by self-dedication to God and conformity to Christ. All Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." The lives of saints show us lives of holiness.
Holy Days of Obligation	Feast days which are of such importance that Catholics are obliged by Church law to attend Mass and rest as far as possible from unnecessary work. It is one of the precepts of the Church.

Holy Oils	Holy oils are the three oils blessed and consecrated by the bishop at the Chrism Mass, then distributed to each parish and mission in the diocese for sacramental use by the local pastor throughout the year. The three holy oils are the Oil of Catechumens, Oil of the Infirm, and Sacred Chrism. As appropriate to the particular rite, the oils are used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. A bishop also uses Sacred Chrism in dedicating a church or a new altar.
Holy Orders	The sacrament of apostolic ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church by the laying on of hands. The three distinct orders are deacon, priest, and bishop. All three confer a permanent, sacramental character on the man called to receive this sacrament. Only a bishop can administer (confer) this sacrament. It is one of the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
Holy Spirit	The third person of the Blessed Trinity, who is distinct from the Father and the Son but one in being, coequal, and coeternal with them because, like them, he is in the fullest sense God. He is symbolized by a dove, because it was in this form that he descended visibly upon Christ in the Jordan. (Mark 1:10)
Holy Thursday	The Thursday of Holy Week. The Chrism Mass is traditionally celebrated at the cathedral in the morning by the bishop with his priests concelebrating as a sign of their unity in the priestly service of God's people. Also on this day, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated remembering when Christ instituted the Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass, and the sacrament of the priesthood. The Easter Triduum, the most solemn time of the entire Church year begins at this Mass.
Holy Water	A sacramental, blessed by a priest or deacon, invoking God's blessing on all who use it. Holy water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing, and its use is advised in moments of physical danger or temptation.
Hope	The theological virtue through which a person both desires and expects the fulfillment of God's promises of things to come.
Humility	The moral virtue by which one attains the correct perception of one's relationship with God. Humility counters pride and seeks to serve God and others as Mary did.
Hypostatic Union	The unity of the divine and human natures in the one divine person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. This doctrine was proclaimed at the Council of Chalcedon (451).

I

Icon	A form of sacred art developed in the Eastern churches that are a representation of Our Lord, the Virgin Mary, or a saint. The artists consider their call a sacred vocation. Their works have a mystical impact meant to draw the one praying beyond the picture into the realm of the divine.
Image of God	The creation account (Gn. 1:26 ff.) states that God made man in his own image and likeness. By doing so God gave us the capacity for intelligence, love, freedom, and conscience. The idea of man as the image of God is developed in the Pauline writings.
Immaculate Conception	Church doctrine affirming that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without the stain of original sin. A Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on December 8.
Immanent	A philosophical term used to describe God's indwelling (presence). In reference to the Blessed Trinity, it is his being within it that contributes to the existence of it.
Imperfect Communion	A term that describes the relationship between the Catholic Church and those Christian communities whose doctrine, ordinations or recognition of papal authority present obstacles to unity.
Incarnation (incarnate)	The fact that God the Son assumed a human nature in the person of Jesus Christ in order to redeem us. His divine and human natures were substantially united.
Indelible Spiritual Mark	The permanent and unrepeatable spiritual quality imprinted upon the soul by the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
Indulgence	The remission of temporal punishment due to sin. It is granted to those who recite specified prayers, visit a specified place of pilgrimage, or engage in a specified act of charity. Punishment is remitted through the power of the Church.
Inerrancy	This term refers to the absence of error. It is usually applied to the Bible as the revealed Word of God which teaches "firmly, faithfully and without error...that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures." (DV, 11)
Infallibility (Infallible)	The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church—the pope, and bishops in communion with him—can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith and morals, which is divinely revealed for the belief of the faithful. The pope teaches infallibly when he declares that his teaching is <i>ex cathedra</i> ("from the throne"), i.e. he teaches as supreme pastor of the Church.

Initiation, Sacraments of	A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. By means of these three sacraments, a person becomes fully initiated in the faith of the Catholic Church.
Inspiration	The supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit whereby the writers of the books of the Bible were supernaturally moved to write what God wished to be written. Thus, God is the principal author of all the books of the Bible.
Intellect	One of the two powers of the soul (intellect and will). The power by which we think, judge, and understand. The intellect informs the will.
Intercession	A form of the prayer of petition on behalf of others. The prayer of intercession leads us to pray as Christ, our unique Intercessor, prayed. The Blessed Virgin (mediatrix of all graces), angels, saints in heaven, and the faithful on earth intercede for mankind by their merits and prayers.
Islam	Founded by Mohammad, one of the three great religions of the Western world. It has a shared connection with Christianity and Judaism through Abraham.

J

Jerusalem	Ancient city in Palestine, the religious and political center of the Jewish people, situated on the crest of a chain of mountains that cross Palestine from north to south. Originally called Salem, it was the capitol of Melchizedek from 2100 B.C. (Gn. 14:18) Its most famous rulers were King David, who brought the Ark of the Covenant into the city, and his son Solomon, who built the first Temple.
Jesus	The name of Our Lord, the Son of God and son of Mary. It is the Latin form of the Greek <i>Iesous</i> . Derived from the Hebrew name Jeshua or Joshua, meaning Yahweh is salvation.
John	Son of Zebedee, the "beloved disciple"; the fourth gospel is attributed to him.
Judgment, Last	The judgment of the human race, both living and the dead, by Jesus at his Second Coming.
Judgment, Particular	An individual's judgment immediately after death, when Christ will judge one's eternal destiny to be spent in Heaven (after purification in Purgatory if needed) or in hell.
Justice	The cardinal virtue that is the constant and permanent determination to give God and their neighbor what is due to them.

K

Kingdom of God The reign of God over the hearts of people, leading them to the goal of eternal life with him.

L

Laity The faithful who through their baptism are the people of God. They are distinguished from clergy (those who have received Holy Orders) and those in consecrated life.

Last Supper The meal Our Lord shared with the Apostles the night before his passion and death. At that time he instituted the Eucharist and commanded the apostles to perpetuate the rite. (Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Latin/Roman Rite The portion of the Catholic Church that follows the disciplines and teachings of the Diocese of Rome, especially regarding the liturgy. It is called "Latin" because that has been its official language since the fourth century. Most of the world's Catholics belong to the Latin Rite, which is headed by the pope. It is also referred to as the Roman Rite.

Law, Mosaic The revelation to Moses on Mt. Sinai of a code of civil, moral, and religious legislation including the Ten Commandments. It is known for its emphasis on love of God and neighbor.

Law, Mosaic (1)The ancient law of the Hebrews, ascribed to Moses.
(2)The part of the Scripture containing this law; the Pentateuch.

Law, Natural The law that expresses the original moral sense, inscribed on the human heart which enables man to discern by reason the good and the evil. Its basis is our participation in God's wisdom and goodness.

Law, Revealed The law revealed to us by God. It is found in the Old Law of the Old Testament and finds its fulfillment in the New Law. It is the law that we need to follow to live a life in Christ.

Lectio Divina Reading, slowly and thoughtfully, either alone or with others, a more or less lengthy passage of Scripture, being careful to perceive the passage as the Word of God and allowing this Word to lead us, at the prompting of the Spirit, to meditation, prayer, and contemplation.

Lectionary	The sacred book containing the designated scripture readings for each Mass. It contains a three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and solemn feasts, a two-year cycle for weekdays, and a one-year cycle for the feasts of saints. Moreover, it contains readings for a large variety of other optional Masses.
Lent	The season of prayer and penance before Easter. Its purpose is to better prepare the faithful for the feast of the Resurrection, and to dispose them for a more fruitful reception of the graces that Christ merited by his Passion and death.
Leviticus	The third book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Leviticus primarily provides the sacrificial and ritual laws prescribed for the Levite priests. It is a book of legislation.
Liturgy	The official public worship of the Church and is thus distinguished from private devotion. Through the liturgy Christ our high priest continues the work of our redemption through the Church's celebration of the Paschal mystery.
Liturgy of the Hours	The public prayer of the Church for praising God and sanctifying the day. It is also known as the Divine Office. Clergy are obliged to pray the Divine Office. Members of the laity are encouraged to do so. Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers) are the two principal prayers each day, along with prayer at five other hours: office of readings, mid-morning, mid-day, mid-afternoon, and night.
Lord's Prayer	The prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Mt 6:9-13), which is used during the Mass and prayed daily by the faithful throughout the world.
Love	(1) A devotion to a person or object. According to Greek philosophy, there are four types of love: <i>storge</i> ("I like you"), <i>philia</i> ("You are my good friend," trust), <i>eros</i> ("I want you," passion, romance, love of a spiritual nature), and <i>agape</i> ("I love you unconditionally," a total self-giving to another). (2) Christian charity is love which is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.
Luke	An evangelist, author of the <i>Gospel According to Luke</i> and the <i>Acts of the Apostles</i> . Luke was a Gentile by birth and a physician. He accompanied Saint Paul on parts of his second and third missionary journeys.
Lust	Intense and uncontrolled desire for sexual pleasure. It is one of the capital sins and a sin against the sixth commandment.
Luther, Martin	A Catholic priest from Germany who was the first to protest against perceived abuses in the Church in the sixteenth century. He is credited with beginning the Protestant Reformation by the posting of his 95 theses rejecting the validity of some of the Church's teachings on such topics as absolution and indulgences.

M

Magisterium	The sacred teaching authority of the Church. The Magisterium is comprised of all the bishops with the pope at the head. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals.
Magnificat	Mary's prayer of praise when she visited her cousin Elizabeth (Lk. 1:46-55). It is a part of Evening Prayer in the Divine Office.
Mark	An evangelist and author of a Gospel around 65 A.D.
Marks of the Church	Four properties or characteristics of the Church. The Church is <i>one, holy, catholic, and apostolic</i> , as found in the creed.
Marquette	Diocese of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Named after Fr. Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit and explorer in the 17 th century.
Martyr	A person who gives up his/her life rather than deny Christ and the Gospel or any of the teachings of the Church. A martyr is a "witness" for Christ.
Mary	The name of any of several women in the Bible, e.g., Miriam, sister of Moses; Mary Magdalene; Mary the sister of Lazarus and Martha; and the mother of John Mark, a Christian woman of Rome. Young woman of Nazareth betrothed to a carpenter named Joseph, and visited by the angel Gabriel who announced to her that she was chosen by God to be the Mother of his Only-begotten Son, to be named Jesus, the Christ, or Messiah.
Mass	The un-bloody re-presentation of Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary established at the Last Supper, and the principal celebration of the Church's public worship. It is called "Mass" (from the Latin <i>missa</i>) because of the "mission" or "sending" with which the liturgical celebration concludes. For example, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."
Masturbation	Self-manipulation of one's sexual organs for the purpose of sexual pleasure. It is considered a sin because it is self-centered and because it cannot result in a new life.
Matrimony	A sacrament at the Service at the Communion. One of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ. Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly celebrated before a bishop, priest, or deacon, marriage is a sacrament and is indissoluble.
Matter	The tangible part of sacrament which is used to perform the sacramental rite. It is that part of a sacrament with which or to which something is done in order to confer grace, e.g., water in baptism, chrism in confirmation.
Matthew	An Evangelist and one of the twelve Apostles—the tax collector. Authorship of one of the four Gospels is attributed to Matthew.

Mercy	Kind or compassionate treatment of someone who has offended us. When we ask forgiveness, God treats us with mercy. We pray, "Lord, have mercy on us."
Messiah	The Anointed One of God; someone expected to come to free a group of people. Jesus is the Messiah/Savior of the world.
Modesty	A virtue rooted in temperance that directs a person to speak, dress and conduct one's self in a way that acknowledges their own dignity.
Monasticism	The form of communal life followed by those who withdraw from society in order to devote themselves totally to God through prayer, penance, and solitude.
Morality	Refers to the good or evil of human acts. Human freedom makes a person an agent able to judge the goodness or evil of the acts which are chosen. The morality of human acts depends on the object (or nature) of the action, the intention or end foreseen, and the circumstances of the action. Actions done with knowledge and free consent may be morally good or evil.
Morals	Rules or habits of conduct, especially sexual conduct, with reference to standards of right and wrong. A habit of doing good acts is considered a virtue which helps us do good with ease.
Mortal Sin	A grave breaking of the Law of God that destroys the divine life in the sinner, constituting a turn away from God. For a sin to be a mortal sin, three conditions must be present: (1) the action must be a serious/grave matter, (2) the person must have full knowledge of the evilness of the act, and (3) the person must give full consent of the will (must want and choose to do it anyway).
Mortification	The voluntary practice of self-denial, resulting in a freedom from sinful inclinations and a closer conformity to the suffering Christ. It promotes penance and enables one to become detached from material pleasures, so as to focus on the spiritual realm.
Moses	The Hebrew man called by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. He was the leader of the Exodus. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai while the Israelites lived in the desert.
Mother of God	Mary is the mother of Jesus, who is both God and man. Mary is the mother of the whole Jesus, God and man; therefore she is the Mother of God or Theotokos (God-bearer).
Mother of the Church	Mary is the mother of Jesus, the Christ, who is head of the Church, the Body of Christ. Mary is therefore also known as the Mother of the Church.

Muslim	Muslims are people who practice the religion of Islam, which was founded by the prophet Muhammad in 622 A.D. and which traces its roots to our forefather Abram through his son Ishmael. (Genesis 16:1-16) Their scripture is called the Koran. Islam has five Pillars: (1) belief in Allah (God) and his prophet Muhammad, (2) prayers are to be offered at five certain times of the day while facing their holy city Mecca, (3) alms are to be given often, (4) fasting is to be observed, and (5) all Muslims are to go to Mecca on pilgrimage. (For further reference, see the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 841.)
Mystery	Any reality that cannot be explained by reason but must be accepted from the standpoint of supernatural faith. God is a mystery, the Trinity is a mystery, and so is the entire plan of God through which he saves us.

N

New Testament	The second section of the Bible, which consists of 27 books containing the life of Christ, his teachings, and the story of the early Christian Church. See Appendix K1 on Scripture in this curriculum.
Novena	A public or private prayer repeated nine successive times. The succession may be continuous days, specific weekdays, or specific days of the month.
Numbers	The fourth book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Numbers continues the narrative story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. It begins where Exodus leaves off, with the Israelites still encamped at Sinai. Named because it contains the results of two different censuses taken of the people. Because the people did not trust in the Lord, they wandered in the desert for forty years.

O

Obedience	The moral virtue that inclines the will to comply with the will of another who has the right to command. As a virtue, it is pleasing to God because it is the sacrifice of one's will out of love for God.
Occasion of Sin	Any person, place, or thing that can lead one to do wrong, thereby committing sin. People should avoid occasions of sin.

Old Testament	The first part of the Bible containing the 46 books of Sacred Scripture written prior to the time of Christ. It reveals the history of salvation, from God's creation through his early covenants with mankind, and through the prophets and events that prepared the way for the appearance of Jesus Christ as savior of the world. See the Appendix K1 on Scripture in this curriculum.
Original Sin	The sin by which Adam and Eve, the first human beings, disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own wills rather than God's will. Adam and Eve's sin was personal and grave, and it affected the whole human race, i.e., it is passed on to every human being with the exception of Christ and his Mother. We, as descendants of Adam and Eve, are restored to sanctifying grace through the Sacrament of Baptism.

P

Parable	Simple images or comparisons which confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice about his invitation to enter the Kingdom. Jesus explains why he teaches in parables in Matthew 13:10-11.
Paschal Mystery	Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension whereby he destroys death and restores life.
Passion (Jesus')	The events surrounding the suffering and death of Jesus Christ; part of the religious rite of Holy Week in the Catholic Church.
Passover	The Jewish feast celebrated annually as commanded by God (Ex. 12:17 and Ex. 12:24) to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. Jesus' last celebration of the Passover was the occasion for instituting the Eucharist and the priesthood of the New Law.
Pastoral Letter	An official letter from a bishop to all the clergy and/or members of the diocese on a matter of importance to the local Church.
Patriarch	(1) A title given to the leaders of the Israelite tribes and heads of prominent families who appear in Genesis, especially Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (2) Also in the hierarchy of the Eastern Church it is the title given to the senior bishop who has jurisdiction over a group of particular churches of a certain rite or region or liturgical tradition.
Patristic Writings	Those writings of the Fathers of the Church, who are privileged witnesses of the apostolic tradition.
Patron Saint	A saint who has been chosen as a special intercessor for a particular person, place, community, or organization.

Paul	The "Apostle of the Gentiles" and perhaps the greatest missionary of the early Church while referred to as an Apostle was not one of the original Twelve. He and his students wrote most of the letters found in the New Testament. Saul (Paul) was a Jew born in Tarsus, and he was originally a Pharisee. (Acts 22:3) The travels of Paul are covered in Acts 15 - 19. During Nero's persecution of Christians, Paul was decapitated in about 67 A.D.
Penance	(1) The virtue or disposition of heart by which one repents of one's own sins and is converted to God. This is <i>interior penance</i> . (2) The punishment by which one atones for sins committed, either by oneself or by others. (Mt. 16:24; 1 Cor. 9:27; Col. 3:5; Gal. 5:24.)
Penance and Reconciliation	A sacrament of healing. One of the Seven Sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament is administered by a priest or bishop (not by a deacon) to a baptized Catholic person for the forgiveness of sins of the penitent (the person making his/her confession).
Pentateuch	The first five books of the Bible of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Written from about 1400 to 1300 B.C. These books contain the old Law.
Pentecost	Feast commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It takes its name from the fact that it comes <i>fifty days</i> after Passover (Easter in the Christian tradition). With the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Luke makes Pentecost "the birthday of the universal Church."
Peter	Leader of the Apostles, hence the first pope. His original name was Simon, but Jesus gave him the name "Peter" (Greek) or "Cephas" (Aramaic), which means "rock." (John 1:42) "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." (Mt 16:18)
Petition	A form of prayer. The voluntary response to the awareness of God's presence during which we ask of God the blessings we and others need.
Piety	(1) One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which leads one to devotion to God. (2) The religious sense of people and its expression in popular devotions
Pilgrimage	A trip to a holy place. It may be to venerate a sacred object or religious relic, to be in the presence of a holy person, to do penance, or to offer thanksgiving in return for graces received.
Plenary Council	In the Catholic Church, it is a meeting or session attended by all bishops of a particular national conference of bishops or the universal college of bishops.
Pope	The Bishop of Rome who, as the Vicar of Christ and the legitimate successor of St. Peter, is the visible head of the Church. The title, pope, is derived from the Greek word <i>papas</i> , meaning <i>father</i> . The pope is elected for life by the College of Cardinals.
Praise	A form of prayer. The voluntary response to the awareness of God's presence during which we offer adoration for his greatness and goodness.

Prayer	The elevation of the mind and heart to God in adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition. Through prayer the Christian experiences a communion with God through Christ in his Church.
Prayer, Contemplative	Wordless prayer in which one is fully focused in loving adoration on God and his very presence.
Prayer, Meditative	A form of prayer in the mind and heart in which we try to understand; what God wants of us, a point of faith, or a truth we believe. In this prayer, we talk to God and listen to what he is telling us as we think about a passage of Scripture.
Prayer, Vocal	Lifting our hearts, minds, and voices to God in adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. Oftentimes accompanied by bodily gestures such as the Sign of the Cross. Jesus gave us the "Our Father" which is a vocal prayer.
Precepts of the Church	Commandments of a moral and ecclesiastical nature prescribed by the Church for obligatory observance by all Catholics. The precepts of the Church are (1) attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; (2) confess your sins at least once a year; (3) receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season; (4) observe the days of fast and abstinence established by the Church; and (5) help to provide for the needs of the Church.
Presbyterate	The state of being a priest. Communally refers to a group of priests.
Priest	One of the three degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. They are co-workers with their bishops to serve the People of God by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding them in the very person of Jesus Christ, the Head of his Body, the Church. It is through the ministry of priests, the unique sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church.
Prophet	The biblical term " <i>nabi</i> " which means one who spoke, acted, or wrote under the extraordinary influence of God to make known the divine counsels and will. A person sent by God to form the people of the Old Covenant in the hope of salvation. They are often the authors of the Old Testament books which make up the prophetic books.
Protestant	A member of one of the Christian churches deriving from the Reformation begun in the 16 th century. A Christian not of a Catholic or Orthodox church.
Province	A grouping of two or more dioceses in the United States with a metropolitan archbishop as the head.
Prudence	(1) The virtue which disposes a person to discern the good and choose the correct means to accomplish it. (2) One of the cardinal virtues that dispose the Christian to live according to the law of Christ and provide the proximate guidance for the judgment of conscience.

Psalm A prayer, in the form of hymns or poetry, from the Book of Psalms of the Old Testament. They have been used since the time of Jesus in the public prayer of the Church. It is the scripture that is sung or chanted after the first reading at Mass.

Purgatory The state or condition in which the souls of the just are purified after death and before they can enter heaven. (2 Mc 12:38-46; Mt 12:32)

R

R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The process and set of rites for bringing unbaptized adults (catechumens) into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Baptized but previously uncatechized adults (candidates) also participate in R.C.I.A. The goal for each participant is to grow in their faith and to eventually receive the appropriate Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Communion) and become fully participating members in the Body of Christ, the Church.

Real Presence The reality that Jesus Christ is present at and in the Eucharist, body, blood, soul, and divinity under the form of bread and wine.

Reason The power of the intellect to think, understand, and form judgments logically based on what is right, practical, or possible.

Redemption The salvation of humanity by Jesus Christ. Humanity was held captive in that it was enslaved by sin. Jesus ransomed humanity by his death and resurrection.

Reformation (1) Generally refers to the period in the 16th and 17th centuries that divided Christians into two distinct groups: Catholics and Protestants. (2) The Catholic Church's response to Martin Luther's call for changes, addressed at the Council of Trent.

Region A geographical division of the Church in the United States made up of at least two provinces.

Relic An item associated with a saint. It may be a part of their body (first class relic); something used by a saint (second class relic) or an object touched to a first class relic (third class relic).

Religious	(1) When used as an adjective, "religious" means having or demonstrating a faithful devotion to God. For example, we could say that someone who goes to Mass every weekend prays frequently, and lives according to God's laws is a religious person. (2) When used as a noun in the Catholic tradition, a "religious" would be a person who has taken vows in a religious order and is consecrated to God. A Catholic sister, nun, or brother, monk, or a priest in a religious order (e.g., Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit) is a religious.
Resurrection	(1) The bodily rising of Jesus from the dead on the third day after his death on the cross and burial in the tomb. It is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ. (2) Resurrection of the dead is the raising of the righteous, who will live forever with the risen Christ. Three of the miracles of Jesus are classified as resurrections. (Mt. 9:18-26; Mk. 5:21-42; Lk. 8:40-56)
Revelation	(1) Information given to us by God about himself and his divine plan through Christ, the prophets, and his Apostles. (2) "Revelation" also refers to the Book of Revelation in the Bible.
Revelation, Divine	God's way of revealing himself to man in deed and word so that we may be saved and sharers in his divine life. The fullness of Divine Revelation is the life, person, and mission of Jesus Christ.
Revelation, Natural	This is the way God makes himself known to humans throughout the created world.
Revelation, Private	This comes from apparitions that though approved by Church authority as "worthy of belief" does not require the acceptance of the faithful. It can never be in contradiction to public revelation which must be accepted.
Revelation, Public	Another name for Divine Revelation. It must be accepted with the assent of faith as part of the Deposit of Faith.
Reverence	The virtue that inclines a person to show honor and respect for any person, place, or object related to God.
Rite	(1) A particular division within the Catholic Church with liturgical traditions in which the catholic and apostolic faith is expressed and celebrated in various geographical areas and cultures, e.g, Chaldean Rite, the Roman Rite, etc. (2) Ceremonies surrounding the Sacred Liturgy and the Sacraments.
Roman Missal	The liturgical book at Mass that contains the prayer texts for the celebration of Mass according to the Roman Rite. Previously it was known in the United States and Canada as the Sacramentary. A new translation was put into use beginning Advent of 2011 and is now entitled the Roman Missal.

Rosary (1) A devotional prayer, mental and vocal, focused on Christ and honoring his Blessed Mother. It involves a collection of prayers: mainly the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. (2)The physical rosary is a circlet of beads (chaplet) devised to help us count and pray without distraction. Each decade (ten Hail Marys) is devoted to meditating on one of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, or Glorious Mysteries which commemorate an event in the life of Jesus or of his Blessed Mother.

S

Sabbath The seventh day of the Jewish week (i.e., Saturday). On the Sabbath no work is to be done according to early biblical laws.

Sacrament “An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us.” (CCC, 1131) One of the seven principal liturgical rites of the Church through which participants experience and receive the love and power of God (God’s grace). A sacrament is a physical expression of a spiritual reality, a physical sign which communicates something of the mystery of God, an efficacious expression of the mystery it symbolizes, and an event where humanity and divinity embrace.

Sacramental(s) Sacred signs, objects, actions, and blessings that help people grow in faith and holiness. Examples of sacramentals are holy water, the Sign of the Cross, medals, scapulars, and rosary beads.

Sacred Scripture The written, authoritative word of God. All the books of the Bible comprise Sacred Scripture.

Sacrifice A ritual offering made to God by a priest on behalf of the people as a sign of adoration, gratitude, supplication, and communion. The perfect sacrifice was Christ’s death on the cross.

Saint (1) A person officially recognized by the Church as having lived a holy life and who may be publicly venerated by the people. (2) Any holy person who leads a life in union with God and receives the reward of eternal life.

Salvation The ultimate restoration and healing of humanity’s relationship with God.

Salvation History The pattern of events in human history that reveal and realize God’s saving activity.

Sanctity Sacred state of blessedness, holiness, or sainthood.

Satan A fallen angel, a devil; the Evil One. Chief of the fallen angels. The devil.

Satisfaction A grace-filled action that repairs the damage caused by sin. It can be prayers, actions or offerings.

Savior	One who saves; Jesus (which means "God saves" in Hebrew).
Schism	The formal and deliberate break of Church unity. It shows itself clearly by a group refusing to submit to the Supreme Pontiff, or communion with members of the Church subject to him.
Scholastics	A group of students of medieval philosophy, most often associated with St. Thomas Aquinas.
See	Another name for a diocese or archdiocese.
Service, Sacraments of	A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. These two sacraments are also sometimes called Sacraments of Vocation. Formally they are called the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.
Sin	An intentional offense against God and his laws.
Sinai	The sacred place (Mount Sinai, Ex. 19) where the covenant between God and the Israelites took place during their exodus from Egypt. God delivered the Ten Commandments at Sinai.
Sins, Capital	Those evils that are the causes of other sins and are sins in themselves. There are traditionally: pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth (laziness).
Sloth	See Acedia.
Social Justice	The respect for the human person and the rights which flow from human dignity and guarantee it. It is the Church's commitment and mandate to engage in conscious efforts to fight against social sin.
Social Teachings	A body of teachings based on numerous papal and bishops' writings reinforcing the sacredness of human life and the dignity of every individual.
Solidarity	A Christian virtue of charity and friendship that unites one's heart and mind with those who are poor or powerless. It is often lived out through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice.
Soul	The principle life in a human being that survives after death. Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God.
Spirit	That which is completely without matter. A spirit has no dependence on matter either for its existence or for any of its activities.
Spiritual Works of Mercy	Acts of love by which we come to the aid of our neighbor for their spiritual needs. The seven spiritual works of mercy are to admonish sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead.
Stations of the Cross	A Catholic devotion which focuses prayer on fourteen events of Christ's Passion and death.

Subsidiarity	A principal of Catholic Social Doctrine that says that no higher authority should do what can be done equally well or better by a lower authority.
Suicide	The intentional taking of one's own life that is a serious violation of God's law. Often the person who commits suicide has serious mental illness or extreme emotional anguish and in such cases this act is not considered free and deliberate thereby not meeting the criteria for mortal sin.
Sunday	The Lord's Day. Since the time of the Church, after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, Sunday has for Christians replaced the Jewish Sabbath.
Synoptic Gospels	The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called "synoptic gospels" because of their similarity—they "look alike" (synoptic). The authors of Matthew and Luke apparently had access to the Gospel of Mark and used much of it in their texts. The Gospel of John is notably different in arrangement and content.

T

Temperance	The cardinal virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasure and provides balance in the use of created goods.
Temporal	Pertaining to or concerned with the present life or this world; worldly.
Temptation	An attraction to act contrary to God's laws, i.e. to sin.
Ten Commandments	The ten laws given to Moses on Mount Sinai by God that tell us what is required for the love of God and the love of neighbor. Also called the Decalogue (ten laws).
Thanksgiving	An expression of gratitude to God; a form of prayer.
Theotokos	Greek word for God-bearer. It is the title given to the Blessed Mother at the Council of Ephesus which affirmed her as mother of the human Jesus and the mother of God.
Torah	The body of Jewish wisdom and law contained in Scripture and tradition. A term often seen as synonymous with the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.
Tradition	The process and content of the transmission of beliefs, doctrines, rituals, Scriptures, and life of the Church (capital 'T' Tradition). Different than small 't' traditions, which are more like customs.
Transubstantiation	The term used to describe the change of the substance of the bread and wine offered at the Eucharist into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Trinity	The mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
True (Real) Presence	The reality that Jesus Christ is present at and in the Eucharist; body, blood, soul, and divinity under the form of bread and wine.

U

Universal	Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of all or the whole. In terms of the Church it means present everywhere.
USCCB	The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is the public policy agency of the hierarchy in the United States.

V

Vatican	An independent city-state in Italy where the Bishop of Rome (the pope) resides. Also used to describe the central authority of the Catholic Church.
Vatican Council II	The twenty-first ecumenical council of the Catholic Church in which 2500 bishops participated over a three year period (1962-1965). The mandate given to the Council from the pope, consisted of renewal, modernization, and ecumenism. From it, sixteen documents were promulgated.
Venerate	To regard or treat with reverence. To show devotion and respect to someone or something. To venerate is distinct from and is a lesser regard than to adore or worship. Adoration and worship are reserved only for God. Veneration applies to Mary, the apostles, and the martyrs.
Venial Sins	A moral transgression not serious enough to destroy a person's relationship with God but which <i>does</i> diminish and wound it.
Vernacular	The common, everyday language of a group of people.
Viaticum	The Eucharist received by a dying person. It is the spiritual food for one's "passing over" to the Father from this world. With Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, reception of Holy Communion as Viaticum makes up the "last sacraments" of the Christian.
Vicariate	A defined area of a diocese. In the Diocese of Marquette, there are seven: Holy Name of Mary, St. Joseph & St. Patrick, St. Peter Cathedral, St. Mary-Norway, Holy Name of Jesus, St. John Neumann, and St. Mary-Rockland. Each are named after the oldest church in their area.

Vice	A habit acquired by repeated sin. They are often linked with the seven capital sins.
Virgin Mary	The Mother of Jesus, who is honored as “ever-virgin” for her perpetual virginity.
Virtue	A habitual and firm disposition to do good.
Virtue, Theological	The theological virtues are faith, hope, and charity (love). These are infused in a person by God and may be strengthened through practice.
Virtues, Cardinal	Four human virtues that play a pivotal role in the lives of the faithful. Because of their importance among all other virtues, they are called Cardinal Virtues. The Cardinal Virtues are fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance.
Vocation	The call of Christ to all the baptized to follow him by embracing a life of holiness and participating in the mission of the Church. Each person responds to this call: as a priest or deacon, as a vowed religious (sister or brother), to married life, or to single life. “Each leads to a manner of life and specific tasks that are essential to building up the Body of Christ and the reign of God.” (Catholic Encyclopedia, OSV, 1319)
Vulgate	The Latin translation of the Bible from Hebrew and Greek by St. Jerome. It was declared the official edition of the Bible for the Latin Church.

W

Well-formed conscience	(See conscience.) A person’s conscience is well-formed if he/she has made a serious, deliberate effort over much time, with prayer and reflection, to study the life and words of Jesus in the Gospels and the moral teachings of the Church. By these means, one acquires a fuller understanding of the inner laws inscribed by God in his/her heart.
Will	One of the two powers of the soul (intellect and will). The will is the power by which we choose good or evil, which is recognized by the intellect. The will in effect is an appetite which enables us to intend, choose, desire, hope, consent, hate, love, and enjoy.
Wisdom	(1) A spiritual gift which enables one to know the purpose and plan of God. (2) One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. (3) The name of one of the books of the Old Testament. (4) Wisdom is also a genre of Old Testament books about wisdom. These wisdom books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, and Sirach.
Word of God	Scripture texts in the Bible are the Word of God. Jesus is also “the Word” made flesh.

Works of Mercy,
Corporal

The seven practices of charity based on Christ's prediction of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:35-36) that will determine each person's final destiny. They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead.

Works of Mercy,
Spiritual

Charitable acts by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their spiritual need. They are: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish the sinner, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead.

Worship

To give praise, honor, glory, reverence, and thanksgiving to God. Catholics and all other Christians worship the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Public worship is given to God in the Church by the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the liturgy. We do *not* worship Mary, saints, or any other being. We venerate Mary. When we pray to Mary and the saints, we are asking them to pray to God for us. We worship God alone.