

## A

**Abbot (8):** The historical term abbot (father) is used to denote the head of a religious community of men. Most abbots are not bishops, but over the century's canon law and tradition have accorded them several quasi-episcopal powers, especially in matters of governance and worship within their community.

**Abortion:** The sin of abortion refers to the directly intended termination of pregnancy before viability or the directly intended destruction of a viable fetus. Medically, the term includes those pregnancies that end prematurely where a child may be aborted involuntarily or as the indirect effect of an otherwise "morally good action." However it is more popularly used to describe a directly intended action that is always wrong. "Abortion is the deliberate and direct killing... of a human being in the initial phase of his or her existence, extending from conception to birth" (Evangelium Vitae, 58). CCC 2270, 2275

**Absolution:** Absolution is a prayer spoken by the priest within the Sacrament of Penance. Through the Church the priest has the power to absolve (forgive) sin through a special prayer, along with the Sign of the Cross which is part of the rite of this sacrament. CCC 1424, 1442, 1449, 1453, 1461, 1480

**Acts of the Apostles:** The Acts of the Apostles, written by St. Luke tells important stories of the early Church beginning with Pentecost. It contains accounts of the Apostles initiating the early beginnings of Christianity. It is the fifth book of the New Testament. CCC 134, 135

**Adoration:** Adoration is the act of giving worship. The Bible tells us that adoration is due to God alone. During the Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament a person uses bodily gestures to display adoration by bowing or genuflection. The mind and heart must be united to the actions of the body. CCC 2096, 2628

**Adultery (4):** Those who are married vow themselves to one another for life. This special mutual love is exclusive, meaning it can only exist between the married couple. If either spouse is unfaithful they have committed adultery. The Sixth Commandment forbids adultery. CCC 2380, 2381

**Advent (K):** Advent begins each new liturgical year. This season lasts about four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The liturgical color is purple. CCC 524

**Advocate:** Advocate refers to two things:

1. Jesus is our advocate to God the Father; He prays and intercedes on our behalf. CCC 519
2. The Holy Spirit is also our advocate. He comes to our side and assists us through His prayers and intercessions, on our behalf, to God the Father and God the Son. CCC 692

### Age of Reason (See Enlightenment)

**All Saints' Day:** All Saints' Day is a liturgical celebration of the Church which is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> each year. This feast honors all those who have died in union with God. On this day the Church recognizes and celebrates all saints, those who have been officially canonized and those whose names are unknown to us. CCC 957

**All Souls' Day:** All Souls' Day is a liturgical celebration of the Church which is celebrated on November 2<sup>nd</sup> each year. In this celebration the living members of the Catholic Church pray for all souls that have died. We pray in the hope that they will one day be in heaven with God. CCC 958

**Allegorical Sense (6):** A method of interpreting sacred literature in pre-New Testament Judaism, the new Testament Church, and among Eastern and Western Fathers of the Church. The texts of Sacred Scripture are read at the literary and spiritual levels. Literary references to persons, places, events, and things are interpreted as signifying other persons, places, events, and things.

**Almsgiving (1):** Money or goods given to the poor as an act of penance or fraternal charity. Almsgiving together with prayer and fasting are traditionally recommended to foster the state of interior penance. CCC 1434; 2447

**Altar:** A sacred table where the bread and wine are changed into Body and Blood of Jesus, and where Jesus is offered to the Father. CCC 1182, 1383

**Ambo:** A podium or stand from which the readings of Sacred Scripture are proclaimed. Other uses may include the giving of the homily, the general intercessions, and announcements. CCC 1184

**Ambry:** A cabinet used to hold holy oils.

**Amen (K):** This Hebrew word which means “truly” or “so be it.” We often end our prayers with “Amen.” CCC 1061, 1064, 1348, 2856, 2865

**Anagogical Sense (6):** The adjective is from the Greek word *anago*, which means ‘I raise or lead up.’ It refers to that aspect of the spiritual sense in Scripture which foreshadows or in other ways anticipates what the Church will be / is now like in heaven.

**Angel (K):** Created by God, angels are pure spirits. They are without bodies, have minds and wills. Each person has a guardian angel. CCC 328, 336

**Angel Gabriel (K):** (See **Annunciation**)

**Anger:** One of the seven capital sins. The sin of anger is when one has a desire for revenge in reaction to a wrong done. It is not necessarily sinful to feel angry, anger becomes sinful when it desires the harm of another or disturbs one’s living a healthy life. CCC 1866, 2302

**Annunciation (K):** The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary telling her that she would become the mother of the Son of God. Mary accepted God’s will and said, “Yes (Mary’s Fiat).” This feast is celebrated on March 25. CCC 484, 494

**Anoint (4):** To anoint is a religious practice of using oil to bless a person, place or thing which calls forth God’s blessing on that which is anointed. Anointing is used during the following Sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Anointing of the Sick
4. Holy Orders

The oils for anointing are blessed by the Bishop once a year at the Mass of Chrism during Holy Week. CCC 1241, 1242, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1300, 1499, 1525, 1574

**Anointing of the Sick (5):** One of the seven sacraments. This sacrament is administered by a priest, who anoints those who are ill on the forehead and hands with the Oil of Sick. The special grace of this sacrament unites the ill person’s sufferings with the sufferings of Christ on the Cross and gives them strength and peace to endure those sufferings in a Christlike manner. If the ill person is unable to receive the Sacrament of Penance, this anointing also forgives their sins. Sometimes God wills them to be physically healed of their illness through this sacrament. CCC 1499, 1525

**Anointing with Oil:** This is an ancient practice. Anointing a person with oil signifies that one is “sealed” and made sacred through the rituals used in the Sacraments. The Bishop blesses the oils used each year during Holy Week at a celebration called the Chrism Mass. CCC 1183, 1241, 1289, 1293, 1297

**Anti-popes (8):** Since about the third century, the Church has been harassed by pretenders to the papal throne, although the term 'antipope' was not used until the twelfth century. Some of the thirty-seven antipopes were merely cranks, while others garnered considerable ecclesiastical and / or political strength in their day. By the fifteenth century, however, the possibility of setting up an interloper in the See of Rome ceased to be a practical reality.

**Apologist:** The word apologist is a title to describe anyone who clearly and effectively defends and explains Christian beliefs through their spoken words and/or writings.

**Apostles (1):** The twelve apostles were chosen by Jesus and sent forth to preach the Gospel to all people. CCC 3, 76, 81, 96, 857, 869, 2032

**Apostles' Creed:** The Apostles' Creed is a profession of belief. It is inspired by the teaching of the apostles and contains the fundamental twelve statements of Catholic belief. We profess:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. CCC 194

**Apostolic (6):** Apostolic refers to anything that has its beginning from the time of the Apostles. An apostolic blessing would be given by a Pope or Bishop who are both successors of St. Peter. CCC 857; 865; 863, 869

**Apostolic Fathers:** The Apostolic Fathers were a group of distinguished Church leaders who wrote important letters and teachings during the late first and early second centuries. A few of these men are: St. Polycarp of Smyrna, St. Clement of Rome, and St. Ignatius of Antioch.

**Apostolic Orders:** Religious orders can either be an apostolic order or a contemplative order. Apostolic orders live out their commitment to Christ by living an active life dedicated to prayer and service of the Church. Many active religious orders serve the Church by teaching, others preach, and still others care for the sick and dying. Apostolic orders are founded to meet a particular need of their time. A new apostolic order that has been recently founded are the Sisters for Life in New York, their purpose is to strengthen the culture of life. Another example of an apostolic order is the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. CCC 914

**Apostolic Succession:** Apostolic Succession is the passing on of the mission and authority granted to the apostles by Jesus Christ to later generations through, primarily, the laying on of hands. The first apostles passed on their authority to the first bishops of the Church who have, in an unbroken chain, passed on their authority to the next generation of bishops. CCC 77, 861, 1087

**Apparition (8):** An appearance to people on earth of a heavenly being, such as Christ, Mary, an angel, or a saint. The apparitions of Jesus in His Risen Body to His disciples occurred between Easter and His Ascension into heaven. CCC 641, 659

**Ark of the Covenant (6):** A chest which contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments given to Moses, which was a symbol of the Old Covenant. The Israelites carried the Ark with them on their journeys, and it was eventually brought to the temple in Jerusalem by King David. After this first temple was destroyed, the whereabouts of the Ark became unknown. CCC 2058

**Arianism (8):** Arianism was a major heresy in the fourth century which had as its origins the teachings of Arius, an Alexandrian priest. Arius taught that Jesus was not fully divine. In 325, the Council of Nicaea affirmed the full divinity of Jesus in teaching that the Son and the Father share the same nature. CCC 24, 465

**Ascension:** This event took place forty days after Christ's Resurrection. It is Jesus' ascent into heaven. CCC 659, 663, 665, 668

**Ash Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday is a liturgical celebration beginning the Season of Lent in which Christians remember our mortality, our eventual end in death, and promise to turn back to the Lord. CCC 540, 1095, 1438

**Assembly:** An assembly is a gathering of people. In Church, God's people gathered for Mass or other liturgical celebrations are often referred to as the "assembly." CCC 751, 752, 777, 778, 1098

**Assumption (Feast of) (4):** The Catholic dogma which teaches that Mary, free from the stain of Original Sin, was taken up to Heaven, body and soul, when her earthly life was completed. The Church celebrates this feast of Mary on August 15. CCC 966

**Atonement:** The restoration of friendship between humanity and God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ atoned for our sins. CCC 604, 606, 619

**Authority:** A person with authority has the power to make decisions and govern those entrusted to their care. All people who have positions of authority have the responsibility to justly use their power. CCC 875

**Avarice:** Avarice or Greed is one of the seven deadly, or Capital Sins. It is an excessive desire for the things of this world and what can be gained rather than the concerns of others or God. CCC 1866

## B

**Babylonian Exile (6):** Refers to the years (70 or so) that the Israelites were taken into captivity by the king of Babylon. This national tragedy was prophesized in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah.

**Baptism (P):** Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation. Through this sacrament, by either the pouring on of water or immersion in water, with the proper use of the ritual one is freed from Original Sin. A person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and becomes an adopted child of God. The person becomes united to Christ through grace and becomes a member of the community of believers. Baptism is only received once. CCC 977, 979, 985, 1213, 1216, 1226, 1228, 1253, 1262, 1262, 1272, 1284

**Baptistry (K):** (See **Baptismal Font**)

**Baptismal Font (P):** Every church has a special area where Baptism takes place. A font contains the blessed water to be used for Baptism. There are different types of fonts. Some are at the entrance of Church. Others are shaped like basins placed to the side of the front of the Church. Some churches have pools for Baptism by immersion. CCC 1238

**Beatitudes (4):** The beatitudes bring special happiness. Jesus spoke of these blessings during the Sermon on the Mount, according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. The blessings are:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward is great in heaven. CCC 1716, 1718

**Bethlehem (3):** Bethlehem is a town in Palestine, ten miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was there that Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. CCC 437

**Bible (P):** The bible is a very special book that contains in writing God's Word. Because it contains many smaller books it is like a small library. It is divided into the Old Testament (46 books) and the New Testament (27 books). In the Old Testament are the stories of Creation and Covenant. The Ten Commandments can be found in either the Book of Exodus (Ex 20:217) or the Book of Deuteronomy (Deut 5:621). There is also the Book of Psalms, prayer poems prayed by Christ and still used today. The New Testament has the four Gospels that tell about the life and work of Jesus. There is also the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke. It also has many epistles (letters), some of which are written by the apostle Paul and the Book of Revelation. CCC 105, 108, 120, 130, 140

**Bishop (K):** Appointed by the Pope, a bishop is a successor of the Apostles. He is placed in charge of a diocese. He is called by God to teach and be a shepherd of the people in his care. CCC 77, 861, 862, 869, 886, 894, 896, 1555, 1561, 1594

**Black Death:** In 1347, one of the deadliest diseases to inflict Europe called the Black Death entered Europe.

**Blasphemy:** The improper use of God's name, the name of Mary and the Saints, and utterances against the Church. All instances where the use of God's name, the name of Mary, the Saints, and the Church are used in a hateful or disrespectful way constitute the sin of blasphemy. CCC 2148, 2162

**Blessed Sacrament:** The Blessed Sacrament, also known as the Eucharist, is Christ really and substantially present. By the power of God and the consecration of the priest, the bread and wine at Mass are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Blessed Sacrament is the most important sacrament of the Church because it is Jesus Himself, from whom all sacraments draw their power and to which all the other sacraments are ultimately directed. God, in His wisdom and love, provides the Blessed Sacrament for us as a way for us to be really and truly in the presence of Jesus. When we receive the Blessed Sacrament in communion, Jesus lives in us in a special way, and remains in us as long as the appearances of the bread and wine remain in us. We must receive the Blessed Sacrament at least once a year during the Easter Season, but we are encouraged to receive Jesus more frequently, even at daily Mass. We must not receive the Blessed Sacrament while we have any mortal sins which have not been forgiven. CCC 1084, 1116, 1123, 1131, 1330, 1374, 1381, 1389, 1415, 1417

**Blessed Trinity (K):** (See Trinity)

**Blessing (K):** A ritual where God is asked to show special favor to something or someone. Objects which are blessed are considered holy and are to be treated reverently. Blessings are given by the Bishop, priests, or deacons. Parents may bless their children. You "bless yourself" when you make the Sign of the Cross. CCC 1078, 1671, 1672, 2626, 2645

**Blood of Christ:** At Mass the wine becomes truly the Blood of Christ after being consecrated by the priest. While it still has the appearance of wine, we know that it is truly the Blood of Christ. CCC 1376, 1396

**Body of Christ:** The Body of Christ may mean two things:

1. The Church is the Body of Christ, and all of Her members are parts of that body, and Christ is the head. We become members of this body when we are baptized. CCC 787, 791
2. A host becomes the Body of Christ after being consecrated by a priest. CCC 1374, 1375, 1396, 1411, 1412

## C

**Canaan:** Canaan refers to two things:

1. Canaan was the grandson of Noah, the son of Ham
2. The land that was promised to Abraham. Abraham was called out of his native land in Ur to go to Canaan. God then promised Abraham that this would be the land of his descendants. After the Israelites escape Egypt in the Exodus they head for Canaan. After forty years of wandering they finally conquer the peoples of this land and settle in Canaan. The land of Canaan is roughly the nation we now call Israel.

**Canaanites:** The Canaanites are the people that settled in the land of Canaan. They were continually a problem for the Israelites because they worshiped pagan gods which led the Israelites away from God.

**Canon of Scripture (6):** The official list of all the books in the Sacred Scripture. The Canon of Scripture contains 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. CCC 120

**Canonize:** The declaration made by the Pope that a deceased person is to be venerated as a Saint. This usually takes place after a lengthy and thorough investigation by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Two miracles through the intercession of the deceased are usually required before canonization. CCC 828

**Capital Sins:** Sins which engender other and vices. They are traditionally numbered at seven: pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. CCC 1866

**Cardinal:** A Cardinal is a bishop who has been appointed by the Pope to assist him. He belongs to the College of Cardinals. Only these men can vote for a new Pope. A Cardinal wears red.

**Cardinal Virtues (3):** The four most central virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. "Cardinal" comes from the Latin word "cardo" which means hinge, and the other virtues depend on the cardinal virtues as a door depends on its hinges. CCC 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1833, 1834, 1835

- Prudence is the habit of choosing wisely that which should be done or not done. CCC 1835
- Justice is the habit of giving each person their rightful due. CCC 1836
- Fortitude is the habit of proper bravery or courage in the face of fear. CCC 1837
- Temperance is the habit of controlling our desire for pleasure. CCC 1838

**Catacombs (8):** In the first centuries, Christians used underground tombs or catacombs to bury those who had entered into eternal life. Wall niches held the remains, and the tombs of the martyrs developed over time into places of veneration for the faithful. CCC 1368

**Catechism of the Catholic Church:** A book that contains the faith and truths of the Catholic Church. This was the result of a proposal at a Synod of Bishops in 1985. It was commissioned by Pope John Paul II to replace the Roman Catechism of 1566. The first edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church was published in 1992, and the second edition was published in 1997.

**Catechumen (7):** An unbaptized person who has entered the Order of Catechumens in the Church through celebration of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. Catechumens are preparing for full initiation at the Easter Vigil through baptism, confirmation, Eucharist.

**Catechumenate:** The second period of Christian Initiation of Adults, which involves intense preparation in Word, Worship, community life, and apostolic works.

**Catholic:** Catholics are people who follow faithfully the teachings of Jesus Christ. They are also called Christians. Catholic Christians believe that the Pope is the Vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter who was appointed by Christ. As vicar he acts in the person of Jesus Christ. CCC 830, 831

**Catholic Christians (1):** (See **Catholic**)

**Catholic Church (K):** The Church established by Christ on the foundation of the Apostles, professing the fullness of the means of salvation which he has willed: correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession. CCC 830

**Catholic Epistles (7):** In this phrase the term 'catholic' means universal. The 'catholic epistles' were written to the universal Church as a whole as distinct from a letter to a particular Church in a particular region. The letters that are commonly accepted as 'catholic epistles' are James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude.

**Catholic Social Teaching:** The teachings of the Catholic Church which safeguard the dignity of the human person, especially in regard to justice and fair treatment in the modern secular world. Catholic social justice became an important issue in the 1800's when new social and economic issues arose due to the industrialization of the Christian west. CCC 2422

**Chalice:** A chalice is a sacred vessel used at Mass. It is used to contain the Blood of Christ. CCC 1334, 1335, 1339, 1365, 1396, 1412

**Charity (See Love) (3):** Charity, also called love, is one of the theological virtues. The virtue of charity, the greatest of the virtues, allows us to love God and our neighbor out of love of God. CCC 1822

**Chastity:** Chastity means living in a way that respects God's plan for sexuality. All people are called to live chastity in their vocation in different ways. God wants the love between a man and a woman in marriage to be the place where new human life comes into the world. The love between a husband and a wife is meant to be a reflection of the life of the Holy Trinity, in which the love between God the Father and God the Son is so real that it is actually another person – the Holy Spirit. In a similar way, God has made it possible for the love between a husband and wife to be so real that it also becomes another person – their child. Chastity is the virtue which ensures that our thoughts, words, attitudes and actions respect this beautiful gift of sexuality. CCC 2337

**Chosen People (6):** A reference to the Israelites of the Old Testament, based upon God's special election of Abraham and his descendents to receive His favor, His protection, and His revelation through the prophets. "For you are a people sacred to the Lord, your God, who has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own (Deuteronomy 14:2)." CCC 59, 64, 72

**Chrism (5):** Chrism is one of the holy oils used by the Church. It is a mixture of olive oil and balsam (a sweet smelling tree sap). Anointing a person with chrism is necessary to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Chrism is also used to anoint the newly baptized and newly ordained priests and bishops. In addition to anointing people, chrism is used to anoint and consecrate sacred objects such as churches, chalices, and altars. CCC 1241, 1289, 1291, 1294, 1297, 1300, 1320

**Christ (K):** From the Greek "Christos" which means "anointed one." The Old Testament provided that prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil as a sign of the dignity of their office and favor from God. Jesus is THE Christ, or Anointed One, because he perfectly embodied these three offices of prophet, priest, and king. CCC 436, 453, 727, 745, 783, 786

**Christian:** Christians are people who believe in Jesus Christ. They follow His teachings because they believe He is the Son of God and the savior of humankind. CCC 942, 1289, 1816

**Christian Initiation:** When one becomes a Catholic Christian they are baptized. This is the first sacrament which frees us from original sin and united us to Christ. The Sacrament of Confirmation seals and strengthens our commitment to Christ and His Church. The Sacrament of the Eucharist nourishes us with the very Body and Blood of Christ. These three are the Sacraments which are also called Christian Initiation. CCC 1211, 1213, 1229, 1230, 1285, 1322

**Christmas (P):** The liturgical celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ which is celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> each year. The celebration of Christmas is preceded by a period of reflection and penance known as Advent. The

liturgical season of Christmas extends from the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve until the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. CCC 525, 563, 1171

**Church (P):** Church has two meanings the building and the community:

1. The building where the people gather to worship God. A church is a holy place, set aside for a sacred purpose. The church is where the sacraments are usually celebrated.
2. Church is the People of God who believe in the Trinity. Church is also called the Body of Christ. People believe the Holy Spirit guides the Church. People become members of the Church when they receive the Sacrament of Baptism and are united to Christ in a divine relationship. CCC 688, 752, 798, 1416

**Ciborium:** A sacred vessel used to contain consecrated hosts. Usually it is shaped like a chalice, but with a removable cover.

**Cluniac Reform:** The Cluniac Reform is considered to be one of the most significant monastic movements of the Middle-Ages. The reform was centered in one place: Cluny, a Benedictine monastery, and was inspired by the Rule of St. Benedict. The primary activity of the monks at Cluny is prayer.

**College of Cardinals:** The College of Cardinals is body that elects, with guidance of the Holy Spirit, the next pope.

**Commandment:** A norm of moral and / or religious actions; above all the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses. Jesus summarized all the commandments in the twofold command of love of God and love of neighbor. CCC 2052

**Common Good:** Common Good is one of the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It means that each person's dignity and rights are respected and the dignity and rights of the entire world are at the same time respected. When making decisions each person is responsible for thinking about the common good. One must not commit an act that is good for themselves or for their group but neglects the good of others. The government is particularly responsible for ensuring that the laws of the nation protect the good of their own people and all the people of the world. CCC 1905, 1912

**Communal Monasticism:** The term communal monasticism came about through St. Pachomius. He established a community of monks by gathering various hermits in the area. Pachomius is the founder of Christian Communal monasticism. He created a rule for the monks that called for a life of work and prayer. It was the first rule in the history of monasticism.

**Communal Prayer:** A person can either pray with others in communal prayer or by themselves in private (personal) prayer. In communal prayer each person in the group unites their hearts and minds in prayer. Public recitation of the Mass and the Rosary are both examples of communal prayer.

**Communion (P):** Communion has two meanings:

1. Communion refers to a closeness or unity, and in this sense we speak of the Communion of Saints since they are united in Christ.
2. Holy Communion refers to the reception of the Eucharist and the resulting moral and spiritual union of the soul with Christ. The worthy reception of Holy Communion requires one to be in the state of grace and free from mortal sin. CCC 950, 960, 1331, 1385, 1387, 1415, 1457

**Communion of Saints (3):** The belief of the Catholic Church that there is a spiritual union between the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory and the faithful living on earth. This belief is expressed in the Apostles Creed.

CCC 946, 953, 957, 959, 962

**Community (P):** Those who believe in Christ are joined to Him through the life of grace. Through Christ they become members of his Mystical Body. They are members of a parish community, a diocese or other groups gathered in fidelity to Christ. CCC 779, 1102, 2179

**Compassion:** One who feels compassion for another is keenly aware of, and in a sense shares in, the other's suffering. Compassion ought to move one to mercy, which would mean acting to relieve the suffering if possible. CCC 2447

**Conclave:** The name given to the enclosed meeting where the Cardinals of the Church gather to elect a pope.

**Concordant of 1801:** The signing of the Concordant of 1801, by Napoleon, the head of the government in France, and Pope Pius VII, was an important event in the Catholic Church as it was the first time a secular leader had publicly acknowledged and proclaimed that the pope alone was head of the Catholic Church. Napoleon signed the Concordat not because he was a religious person but because he understood that in order to 'win over' French Catholics he would need to win the support of the pope.

**Concupiscence:** Because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, there is a moral feebleness and inclination towards sins which is common to all fallen humanity. Thus, this disordered desire to choose to disobey God has been inherited by all since the fall of Adam and Eve. Concupiscence can be a daily experience each time we are tempted to do wrong. CCC 400, 405, 2515

**Confession:** Confession takes place during the Sacrament of Penance. A person confesses his or her sins to the priest who represents Christ. If the person is truly sorry for his or her sins, the priest grants absolution and sin is forgiven. CCC 1446, 1455, 1548

**Confirmation:** At the Sacrament of Confirmation the person receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit that "seals" and strengthens the baptized person to take on the full responsibilities of the Church. CCC 698, 900, 941, 1121, 1285, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1316

**Conscience:** Conscience is that natural "awareness" each person has to recognize whether they are doing right or wrong. The teachings of the Church inform a person's conscience. Conscience formation is a lifelong task. God's grace strengthens the conscience to choose rightly. CCC 1776-78, 1783-85, 1795, 1798, 1802

**Consecrate / Consecration (K):** Consecrate has two meanings:

1. The blessing of a person or thing to set them apart for God. Priests are consecrated to their office and agree to set themselves apart so that they can serve God and the Church. The church building is also consecrated to God and set apart to be a place of prayer and worship. CCC 1672
2. The bread and wine at Mass are consecrated and blessed so that they will become the Body and the Blood of Christ. CCC 1352, 1353

**Consecrated Life (3):** The consecrated life is one of the ways people live out their vocation in life. The vocations to priesthood, marriage, and single life are the other main three. The consecrated life is a way of greater intimacy with Christ. It is rooted in Baptism and the consecrated person pledges to live totally for God, growing in charity, serving the Church in special ways and being a significant sign of the life to come, eternal life with God. There are various forms of consecrated life. See CCC 917, 933. The three calls within Holy Orders are called the clerical state. Marriage and the single life are called the lay state (laity). Canon Law 588 identifies that "the state of consecrated life by its very nature is neither clerical nor lay." See CCC 914, 933 for the various forms of consecrated life.

-Some men consecrate their life to the service of God and are part of a Religious Institute. Some Religious Institutes are for brothers only, and some have both priests and brothers. Brothers do not

receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Some Religious Institutes who have priests, brothers, and sisters are the Congregation of the Holy Cross and the Franciscans.

-Women who have consecrated their life to the service of God, but do not take 'solemn vows', are referred to as sisters and are part of a Religious Institute. A 'nun' is a woman who has been consecrated to God by the diocesan bishop and does profess solemn vows. She may live in community or as a solitary person in the world.

**Consecrated Virgin:** Consecrated Virgins are consecrated by their bishop through a solemn rite in which they become spiritually espoused to Christ. They serve the Church through prayer, penance and service to the Church. These women have committed their lives totally to Christ and vowed to live as perpetual virgins. CCC 922, 924, 1618, 1620

**Consubstantial:** To exist with, to be equal to, to be one. The Holy Spirit is consubstantial with the Father and the Son. The Son is consubstantial with the Father. CCC 685, 703, 242, 262

**Contemplative Orders:** Religious orders can either be a contemplative order or an apostolic order. Contemplative orders live out their commitment to Christ through a life dedicated to prayer and contemplation. These orders, which are also known as cloistered orders, remain in their monasteries and their prayers for the Church bring many blessings. One example of a contemplative order is the Poor Clares.

**Contemplative Prayer:** Contemplative Prayer is the highest form of prayer in which a person quiets their heart and spends time just being in the presence of God. Words are no longer necessary in contemplative prayer because a person is so comfortable and familiar with God that they no longer need to use words; they can just rest in God's peaceful presence. Contemplative Prayer is a gift given by God to a person who chooses to be with Him through a loving personal relationship. CCC 2709, 2719

**Contrition:** Contrition is that sorrow and repentance for having offended God by sinning. It recognizes God's mercy and at the same time calls the person to make the determination to not sin again. CCC 1451

**Conversion:** Conversion describes a change in our minds and hearts that causes us to more closely follow Christ and to love him more. Everyone is called to ongoing conversion throughout their life. Conversion begins at baptism, or if someone is not yet baptized, when they first come to believe in Jesus. Conversion continues as we grow closer to Christ and receive the sacraments. CCC 160, 1229, 1427-28, 1430-33, 2608-09

**Corporal Works of Mercy (8):** Corporal comes from the Latin word 'corpus' which means body. The first six Corporal Works of Mercy are taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25: 34 – 40). CCC 2447 The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- feeding the hungry
- giving drink to the thirsty
- sheltering the homeless
- clothing the naked
- visiting the sick
- visiting those in prison
- burying the dead

**Council of Chalcedon:** The fourth ecumenical council was held in 451. The council completed the work began at the Council of Ephesus by answering the question regarding the nature of Christ by saying: Christ is one Person with two complete and distinct natures divine and human.

**Council of Constantinople I:** The second ecumenical council was held in 381. The Council wanted to bring unity back to the Eastern Church after the Arian heresy (see Arianism). The Council reaffirmed the faith professed by the Council of Nicaea and accepted the Nicene Creed.

**Council of Ephesus:** The third ecumenical council was held in 431. The Council condemned the teaching of Nestorianism which taught that Jesus was two persons. The Church Fathers explained that Jesus was one Person with two natures, divine and human.

**Council of Jerusalem:** A council held circa 50 A.D. described in Acts of the Apostles 15:135. The Apostles met in Jerusalem when questions were arising as to what it meant to be Christian. Two speeches were given: one by Peter and one by James. It was decided by the end of the council that Gentiles did not have to become Jews in order to be a Christian.

**Council of Nicaea:** The first ecumenical council was held in 325. The Council condemned Arius (see Arianism) who taught that Christ was not one with the Father.

**Council of Trent:** The Council of Trent, held during the mid-sixteenth century, was the nineteenth Ecumenical Council. It was called in response to the Protestant Reformation and the abuses in the Church. The council hoped to give a clarification to Catholic doctrine, and direction for a reform of the Church. The work of the Council was summarized in the publication of the first universal catechism, the Catechism of the Council of Trent (sometimes called the Roman Catechism). The effects of the Council of Trent lasted into the twentieth century.

**Counsel:** Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects the ability to respond prudently in the light of truth. A person who possesses the gift of counsel is able to see clearly right from wrong and choose that which is good and right. CCC 1303, 1831

**Courage:** (See **Fortitude**)

**Covenant (3):** A covenant is an agreement that exists between two parties. God established different covenants with His people in the Old Testament. One example is the love and partnership God made with Moses and His people. In the New Testament Christ's life, death and Resurrection began the New Covenant. The people who follow Jesus Christ believe in God's loving fidelity, His steadfast love. Each baptized person who obeys God's laws keeps this covenant relationship. God is eternally faithful. People, who have free will, can break this covenant with God by not obeying God's will. CCC 56, 62, 73, 203, 204, 357, 577, 781, 839, 1102, 1612, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1972, 2056, 2058, 2810

**Covenant Relationship:** In the Old Testament God formed a relationship with the Fathers of the Faith and the Israelites through covenants. God continues to desire a personal covenant relationship with each person. A covenant relationship has two commitments. The first commitment is God's commitment to us. God comes to each person with His steadfast love and offers a relationship. The second commitment is a commitment that each person must make for themselves to follow God and to enter into a personal relationship with Him through prayer and in their life. This is a free choice that each person must make for themselves.

**Covet (4):** To covet is to have an inordinate attachment or desire for something. Covetousness is known more widely as avarice or greed. CCC 1866

**Create / Created / Creation (P):** To create is to make something out of nothing. Creation is the way in which God brought all things into existence. God is called Creator because He alone keeps the whole universe in existence. CCC 290, 296, 298, 317, 320

**Creator (K):** One of the many attributes of God is that He is the Creator of life in all its many forms: humans, animals, land, sea, and sky. CCC 279, 290, 317

**Crèche:** From the Old French for manager, the term crèche is used more specifically as the manger in which Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Creed:** Creeds are summaries of the faith. They are called creeds because they often start with the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” Two of the most important creeds are the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. CCC 187, 194, 196

**Crib (See Crèche)**

**Cross (K):** As the instrument of Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf, the cross is the principal symbol of the Christian faith.

**Crucifix (K):** A crucifix is the image of Christ on the cross. The cross and the crucifix are very important Christian symbols.

**Crucifixion:** Crucifixion was a form of punishment used at the time of Christ’s life on earth. When Christ was condemned to die for our sins His hands and feet were nailed to a cross until He died. CCC 615, 619

**Cruets:** Cruets are vessels used at Mass. One cruet is used to contain the wine that will be poured into the chalice and will then become the Blood of Christ. Another cruet is used to contain the water that will be added to the wine, as well as used to purify (wash) the priest’s hands and other vessels.

**Crusades:** The title ‘crusades’ is given as an overall title to the holy wars that were undertaken during the Middle Ages to regain the Holy Land. Crusades were also undertaken as a way to defend Christianity from attacks which occurred both inside and outside the faith.

**Cult of the Saints:** The practices that have developed to honor a saint, such as: chaplets prayed to a certain saint or prayers to a certain saint.

**Culture of Death (8):** Term first used by Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*. Advocates of a ‘culture of life’ argue that a ‘culture of death’ results in political, economic, or eugenic murder.

## D

**Deacon:** A deacon is a man who is ordained to minister in the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word that means “servant.” The deacon represents Jesus Christ as the servant to the poor and needy. Deacons are to assist the Bishop and his priests. Their ministry includes assisting the priest at Mass in ways such as proclaiming the Gospel and delivering the homily, celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, witnessing marriages, bring viaticum to the dying, presiding over funerals, administering blessings and also can administer the Church sacramentals. Deacons cannot celebrate Mass, hear confession, or anoint the sick. Among other responsibilities within their parish, the deacon also serves in charitable ministries such as reaching out to those in prisons, the homeless and the homebound or elderly. Deacons may be transitional or permanent. Deacons who will continue on to the priesthood are called ‘transitional deacons’. The call to diaconate continues for transitional deacons even after their ordination to the priesthood. Men who are married can only be ordained as ‘permanent deacons’ and do not continue on to the priesthood. A single man who is ordained as a permanent deacon makes the commitment to celibacy. CCC 1569, 1571, 1588, 1596

**Decalogue:** The Ten Commandments (literally “ten words” given by God to Moses on Sinai. In order to be faithful to the teaching of Jesus, the Decalogue must be interpreted in the light of the great commandment of love of God and neighbor. CCC 2055, 2056

**Death:** Death is the end of one’s earthly life. At each person’s death their body is separated from their soul. The soul does not cease to exist after death but rather lives on forever. After each person’s death they will be judged based upon the way they lived their life and will be sent to Heaven to be with God forever, or to purgatory to be cleansed before being sent to Heaven, or sent to Hell which is eternal separation from God. All humankind will experience the reuniting of their body and soul at the end of time. CCC 1005, 1014, 1018

**Deism:** A philosophical view that God exists, created the world, and established the laws to which humanity follows. Deism holds that after creating God left his creation to function without His interference. Deists tend to dispute many of the events remembered in Sacred Scriptures.

**Deposit of Faith (6):** The one source of truth divinely revealed by God which is contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The Deposit of Faith has been faithfully guarded and preserved by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church so that none of what has been revealed to us by God has been lost. CCC 84, 97

**Devotion (8):** Readiness and willingness to dedicate oneself to the service of God. Devotion, essential to inner devotion, is abandonment to God in prayer and openness to His call. Devotion is the very heart and vitality of religion and promoting it is the aim of liturgy, morality, and preaching.

**Devotions (8):** Catholic devotions are external practices of piety that are not part of the liturgy of the Church but are part of the spiritual practices of Catholics. The Congregation for Divine Worship publishes a Directory of Devotions and Pious Practices.

**Didache (8):** A short but important early Christian work by an unknown author, written probably in Syria around A.D. 60, presenting in sixteen chapters a summary of Christian moral teaching framed in terms of the two ways of life and death, instructions concerning liturgical practice, and a set of disciplinary norms. The final chapter contains a prophecy of the approaching end of the world and mentions the Antichrist. Perhaps the chief interest of the work lies in the picture it presents of the life of the early Christian community.

**Dignity of the Human Person:** Dignity is a word used to describe the life of each person who is made in God's image. The Church recognizes that each person has a right to freedom of belief in God. CCC 364, 1004, 1700

**Diligence:** Is a virtue related to fortitude. It is the steadfast acceptance and completion of one's duties and goals. As the counter for slothfulness, it practices faithfulness to both worldly and spiritual duties despite the lack of desire or depression.

**Diocese (K):** A geographic territory or division which marks the boundaries of the jurisdiction of the Bishop. All Catholics in a diocese are under the authority and pastoral care of the Bishop who resides there. CCC 833

**Discernment:** Discernment is the grace to choose the good for one's life. St. Paul shows in 1 Corinthians 12:10 that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognize the good we should follow. CCC 1729

**Disciples:** Disciples are those who follow a leader or teacher. At the time of Christ's life on earth he had many disciples who came to believe in Him as the One sent by God. All baptized people are disciples of Christ. As disciples they are called to take "on the mind of Christ" and to witness to others the beauty of being one with Christ. CCC 787, 1693, 1816, 2427

**Discriminate:** A person discriminates against another person or group or persons when they exclude from an activity or deprive them of a right on the basis of their race, gender, age, educational level, etc. It is wrong to discriminate against another person. All people are made in the image of God and should be treated fairly and with respect. CCC 1935, 2433

**Divine:** Divine expresses that which is of God. Divine is in the spiritual realm and comes about through God's grace. Jesus Christ is fully human and divine. We take on divine life at Baptism. Divine life and grace are synonymous. CCC 254, 255, 256, 466, 468

**Divine Providence:** Divine Providence refers to how God makes all things good due to His love for humanity. There are many instances in Sacred Scripture where we see God's divine providence where God, in wake of evil committed by humans, is still powerful enough to achieve His purpose. As humans we can cooperate with God's divine providence by trusting in Him. CCC 302, 305

**Doctors of the Church:** Throughout the history of the Church men and women of wisdom and holiness have been distinguished by the title of Doctor of the Church. St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure are three of many holy men. There are, as yet, only three women given the title of Doctor of the Church: St. Teresa of Ávila, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

**Dogma:** A teaching given to the Church by Christ and defined by the Magisterium. Catholics are bound to believe and follow all teachings which are dogmatically defined by the Church. CCC 88, 89, 90

**Domestic Church (4):** The family – mother, father and children – are sometimes called the ‘domestic church.’ CCC 1656, 1666, 2204, 2685

## E

**Easter Sunday (P):** Easter Sunday celebrates the day Christ rose from the dead. This event is called the Resurrection. It is the most special feast of the liturgical year. Each Sunday reminds us of Christ’s Resurrection. CCC 640, 647, 1169

**Ecclesiastes:** A book in the Old Testament which instructs its readers in the ways of wisdom. CCC 120

**Ecumenical council:** An assembly of the bishops of the whole world, under the authority of the Pope. The decrees of an ecumenical council, when approved and ratified by the Pope, are the highest teaching authority in the Church and are binding on all of the Catholic faithful. There have been twenty-one Ecumenical or General Councils to date, the most recent being the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). CCC 884, 891

**Edict of Milan:** The law that brought official Roman persecution of Christians to an end and allowed Christians to openly practice their faith. This marked a new era for the Church and would lead to the eventual supremacy of Christian belief in the Roman Empire.

**Elect (7):** The name given to catechumens who celebrate the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent, signifying their being chosen by God for the initiation Sacraments.

**Emmanuel:** Emmanuel means “God with us.” From the time of the Old Testament the people waited for God to come and dwell with them. We call Christ Emmanuel because He is the fulfillment of all their wishes.

**Encyclical (8):** A pastoral letter written by the Pope and sent to the whole Church and even to the whole world, to express Church teaching on some important matter. Encyclicals are expressions of the ordinary papal Magisterium.

**Enlightenment (8):** A movement which arose during the seventeenth century whose origins were rooted in the scientific revolution, and which taught that knowledge was not based in faith or authority but solely on human reason.

**Envy:** One of the seven Capital Vices or “seven deadly sins.” Envy is the disordered sorrow felt in face of the good fortune of another, and implies that one feels deprived of the same good fortune. CCC 2538-40, 2553-54

**Epiclesis (K):** Epiclesis is the action of the priest when he extends his hands before the Consecration in the Eucharistic Prayer, calling down the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine at Mass. CCC 1105-06, 1109

**Epistles (7):** These were letters written by Paul after he left a community of people to whom he preached the Gospel of Christ. An example is Romans.

**Epiphany (3):** Epiphany is a special feast after Christmas on January 6. It is in memory of the visit of the Magi from the East. Their coming to see Jesus signifies that Jesus came to manifest Himself to save the whole world. CCC 528, 1171

**Eternal Life (1):** Life on earth is a preparation for eternal life. On earth a person lives in time, measured by years, days and hours. Eternity has no time. People who die enter into eternal life. (CCC 679, 1020) Catholics believe after death there are the four last things:

- Judgment CCC 1021-22
- Purgatory CCC 1031
- Heaven CCC 1023
- Hell CCC 1033

**Eucharist (K):** At the Last Supper Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” Through the reception of this Sacrament a person receives the very Body and Blood of Christ. Christ is truly present under the appearance of Bread and Wine. This, the greatest of the Sacraments, bestowing divine life (grace). The Sacrament of the Eucharist is divided into two parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They form “one single act of worship,” because the Eucharist Liturgy is “the center of the Church’s life.” CCC 1323, 1343, 1346

**Eucharistic Prayer:** The Eucharistic Prayer is the most important and central prayer of the entire Mass. It is a long prayer during which the Church asks God the Father to accept our offerings, to bless the living and the dead, and most importantly to look upon the sacrifice of Christ, His Son. Through this prayer and the action of the Holy Spirit, Christ is made present on the altar through a miraculous change of the bread and wine into His body and blood. CCC 1352, 1354

**Euthanasia:** Is an action or omission which of itself or by intention causes death. Often, the sick, the aged, those with serious disabilities, the depressed or the dying are targeted for this "misguided mercy." However, euthanasia is always morally wrong and is a violation of the Fifth Commandment. Assisted suicide is likewise always wrong and an offense against God as the Lord of Life. CCC 2277

**Evangelist:** The four Evangelists who wrote the Gospels are: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Evangelize (8):** To evangelize is to give witness to the spirit of Christ through one’s life by acting in his name and helping others to conversion and belief in Christ. CCC 905, 1122, 2044, 2472

**Evil (4):** Evil describes the lack of good. There are two kinds of evil: physical and moral.

1. Physical evil describes an absence of a due physical good – a destructive tornado would be a physical evil. CCC 310
2. Moral evil is possible only for rational creatures with free will – humans and angels – since it describes the lack of acting in accordance with the moral law. CCC 311

**Examination of Conscience:** To make an examination of conscience means to look inside our own heart and ask for the grace to see our thoughts, words, and actions as Christ sees them. We do this to discover where we have not lived up to our responsibilities, where we have not been virtuous, and where we may have sinned. An examination of conscience ought to be followed by sorrow for sin and a promise to avoid sin in the future. We must examine our conscience often, but especially before the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. CCC 1454, 1456, 1779

**Exile:** The major event in Jewish history when the northern tribes, Israel, were taken from the Promised Land by the Assyrians and the southern tribes, Judah, were taken from the Promised Land by the Babylonians and spread to all corners of the earth. For the Jewish people the exile is an event of great significance because they recognize that they have turned away from the worship of the true God and now they must turn back to Him with their whole hearts. Eventually, some of Judah is returned to the Promised Land but it is not until Christ that their hope for a new kingdom is fulfilled. CCC 710, 1081, 1093

**Exorcisms (7):** The term refers to the practice (sometimes by ritual) in which demons or evil spirits are expelled from persons or things.

**Exodus:** The word “exodus” comes from the Greek meaning “to go out” or “to leave”; and the book is so named because it describes the Jews release from captivity in Egypt and their subsequent wanderings in the desert, during which time they received the Ten Commandments of the Law. CCC 62, 130, 2057

## F

**Faith:** In response to God’s revelation of Himself, faith is believing in a God who cannot be seen with human eyes. God has revealed Himself through all the works of creation, to Abraham, Moses, and the People of Israel, but most especially through his Son, Jesus Christ, as handed on in the Scriptures and the Living Tradition of the Church. Through faith a person accepts the message of Jesus and entrusts themselves to Christ in a personal relationship which is nurtured through grace. CCC 26, 142, 143, 144, 151, 153, 178, 182, 1814, 1816

**Faithfulness: (See Fidelity)**

**Fall, The:** Adam and Eve were given free will. They chose to disobey God. This sin caused Adam and Eve and all their descendants to fall from their original state to one with weakened will, intellect, and bodies subjected to illness and death. Because of this Christ came to earth to save humanity. CCC 55, 70, 215, 289, 385, 390, 410

**False Witness (4):** To bear false witness against someone is to make a public statement knowingly against the truth. This is forbidden by the Eighth Commandment, and is an offense against justice. CCC 2464, 2476

**Fasting (1):** A form of bodily penance and discipline where one voluntarily limits the amount or kind of food or drink taken. To fast is to imitate Christ who fasted for forty days before beginning his public ministry. The Church prescribes fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as requires an absolute fast from all but water and necessary medications for at least one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. CCC 538, 1387, 1438, 2043

**Father (K):** One who generates another in His own image. God the Father is one of the Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity. He is truly Father because God the Son was begotten from Him from all eternity. In a more limited way, men are fathers of their own children. We apply the term father to priests, as they are our spiritual fathers in the faith. Jesus taught us to call God our Father in the sense that we have become His children through adoption. CCC 198, 238, 240

**Fathers of the Church:** The authors of the Gospels and the Apostles were followed by Fathers of the Church. They were holy men who defended the teachings of the Church in the early centuries. CCC 11, 688

**Fear of the Lord:** Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which is a healthy fear of separation from God and offending Him. The name of this gift of the Holy Spirit comes from a Latin word which means “I fear/stand in awe.” Fear in this sense does not mean to be afraid; rather one who fears the Lord stands in awe of Him and shows reverence to the Lord in worship and praise. CCC 1303, 1831, 2144

**Feast Day:** A special day set apart in the liturgical year dedicated to the honor of God, a sacred mystery, Mary, the angels, or the saints. CCC 1169, 1172, 1173

**Fidelity:** Faithfulness or adherence to someone or something. Thus, fidelity to one’s spouse means being faithful to him or her and adhering to one’s marriage vows. Fidelity to the Church means adhering to laws, precepts, and teachings given to the faithful. Fidelity to God CCC 1502, 2101 means loving Him and obeying His commandments. CCC 1117, 1342

**First Vatican Council:** The twentieth ecumenical council was opened in December 1869 by Pope Pius IX. At the First Vatican Council the Council Fathers explained how faith and religion are interrelated and defined the dogma of the infallibility of the pope.

**Forgive / Forgiveness (K):** To forgive means to pardon someone for an offense. Jesus taught that all people must forgive others who hurt or offend them. Catholics have a special sacrament called Reconciliation or Penance. Through this sacrament they receive Christ's forgiveness when they confess their sins to a priest. CCC 976, 979, 981, 986-87, 1421, 1441, 1486, 1496

**Fortitude (3):** Fortitude is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Fortitude is a firmness of will to do what is right despite the circumstances. It is the habit of proper bravery or courage in the face of fear. CCC 1808, 1837

**Free Will (6):** Free will is the capacity of a person to choose either what is right or wrong. God has given each person a free will and reason. God invites each person to be united with Him. People have the moral responsibility to learn to know what is right and wrong. CCC 1704, 1711, 1853

**French Revolution:** The French Revolution occurred between 1789 and 1814. During this time this Church and many of Her religious suffered persecution.

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit:** The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are virtues that the Holy Spirit inspires in each person. There are twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, chastity, and self control. CCC 1832

## G

**Galileo:** Galileo was an astronomer and scientist. The Church condemned his teaching that the earth moved around the sun. Pope John Paul II clarified that Church authorities of Galileo's time were in error and exonerated Galileo.

**Generosity:** Is a virtue. Someone who is generous gives of themselves or material possessions out of genuine care or love for another and God.

**Genesis:** Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. This book begins with the creation of the earth and ends with the death of Joseph in Egypt. It includes the story of creation, the creation of Adam and Eve, Original Sin and the fall, the story of Noah, the call to Abraham and the covenant with him, and the origin of the Jewish people. CCC 289

**Gentile:** A term used to designate a non-Jew. Christ came to give the good news of God's Kingdom to both Jew and Gentile.

**Genuflect (1):** To genuflect is to bend the right knee to the floor and then return to a standing position. Before the Blessed Sacrament it is an act of adoration. During the Mass the priest genuflects on three occasions. CCC 1378

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit (5):** These are received through the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. CCC 1831, 1845. There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

**Glorious Mysteries:** The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption, and the Crowning of Mary as the Queen of Heaven. CCC 2678

**Gluttony:** One of the Capital Sins, it is the excessive desire for the pleasurable experience of food or drink. Eating beyond one's need or to a known detriment to health. Excessive use of alcohol to the loss of full control of reason is a gluttonous abuse of drink. CCC 1866

**Gnosticism (8):** The term stems from the Greek word meaning that salvation comes through knowledge. Gnostics believed that what was flesh was evil and what was spiritual was holy. CCC 285

**God (P):** Through Divine Revelation we know that God is the Blessed Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is a personal God whom each person can know and love. God has no beginning and no end; He never changes. God knows all things. He created the entire world and everything continues to exist because of Him. CCC 203, 204, 232, 235, 301

**God, Father:** One who generates another in His own image. God the Father is one of the Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity. He is truly Father because God the Son was begotten from Him from all eternity. In a more limited way, men are fathers of their own children. We apply the term father to priests, as they are our spiritual fathers in the Faith. Jesus taught us to call God Father in the sense that we have become His children through adoption. CCC 198, 238-40

**God, Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Trinity (CCC 245). The Holy Spirit is spoken of as the Comforter or Paraclete (CCC 243); the Promise of God (CCC 693); the Spirit of God (CCC 693); or the Holy Ghost. Symbolically and in art, the Holy Spirit is often represented in the form of a dove (CCC 701), or as flame or fire (CCC 696). CCC 152

**God, Son of God:** God the Son is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. God the Son became man and took on a human nature. Jesus Christ is therefore truly the Son of God. When this title is applied to Jesus it recognizes and acknowledges His Divine Nature. CCC 468, 470

**Godparents (K):** Godparents are those who act as sponsors for people at the time of their Baptism. They are expected to have a certain amount of responsibility for the growth of the Catholic faith in the lives of their godchildren. CCC 1255

**Good Friday:** Good Friday is the name given to the day when Christ was crucified on the Cross for our salvation. It is followed by Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, the day Christ arose from the dead. CCC 1168

**Good News (7):** The "good news" of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. It is this Gospel or good news that the Apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the entire world. The Gospel is handed on in the apostolic tradition of the Church as the source of all-saving truth and moral discipline. CCC 75

**Good Shepherd:** The Good Shepherd (Christ) leads and protects his faithful (the lambs) by his authority.

**Gospel (7):** A Gospel tells the story of Jesus Christ: His life, passion, death, and Resurrection. The New Testament has four Gospels written by the four Evangelists. Each time the Mass is celebrated there is a Gospel reading. CCC 124, 125-27, 139

**Gossip (4):** Gossip is idle conversation about others. Gossip may offend against the virtue of justice if false rumors are spread or against the virtue of charity if it violates Christ's command to love our neighbor.

**Grace (K):** Grace is a divine life, within, which strengthens us to do the good and be like Christ. At Baptism we begin a new relationship with Jesus Christ. This new life is called grace. By doing what God wants, each of us can grow stronger in the life of grace. CCC 1266, 1272, 2008, 2017

**Great Commandment (P):** In the Old Testament, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. However the Great Commandment condenses the ten into simply to love God with all one's being and to love one's neighbor as oneself. This is called the Great, or Greatest Commandment. CCC 2063, 2067

**Great Schism of the Eastern and Western Church (8):** The word "schism" means division. The Great Schism of the Eastern and Western Church occurred in 1054 when multiple disagreements between the pope and the patriarch of Constantinople (the bishop) led to the Church in the Eastern and Western empires becoming two distinct churches. CCC 2089

**Greed:** Greed is another word for avarice or covetousness, one of the Capital Vices or "seven deadly sins." See Covet.

**Gregorian Reform (8):** A reform during the eleventh century which addressed moral abuses occurring within the Church.

**Guardian Angel (K):** Each person has a guardian angel. They protect us from harm and help us to be good. Each person should pray to his or her guardian angel. CCC 336

## H

**Hail Mary (K):** The Hail Mary is a very special prayer which honors Mary. The first half of the prayer states the Church's belief about Mary. In the second half of the prayer the Church asks for Mary's intercession. The Hail Mary is an ancient prayer, with Biblical origins (see Luke 1:28, 42), which is prayed during the Rosary and many other devotions of the Church. CCC 2676, 2677

**Heaven (K):** Life on earth is a preparation for eternal life with God. Heaven is that spiritual "being with God" forever for those who have been faithful to the teachings of Christ. CCC 1023, 1025, 1029

**Hell:** Hell is a state of eternal separation from God, and the primary punishment of hell is the pain of loss of friendship with God. It is freely chosen by those who persist in serious sin until the moment of death, and reject God's mercy. Hell is the dwelling of Satan and the other fallen angels. CCC 1033, 1035, 1057

**Heresy:** Heresy is the distortion or denial of Catholic truth by a baptized person. CCC 2089

**Hermits:** Hermits are men and women who have been approved by the Church to live a life of strict separation from the world. They live alone in silence and solitude, praising God through prayer and penance for the salvation of the world. CCC 920, 921

**Historical Books:** Are a group of books in the Old Testament. These books tell the story of the History of the people of Israel after the Exodus from Egypt. The Historical books are: 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith, and Esther.

**Holy (1):** That which is holy is Godlike. From Baptism we are called to holiness of life, living in the Spirit of the Beatitudes. Objects and places which receive a special blessing through a ritual are also considered a holy place or holy object such as a rosary or medal.

**Holy Communion:** In the Sacrament of the Eucharist Jesus Christ becomes fully present, "Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity." The receiving of Christ under the appearances of "bread and wine" is called Holy Communion. CCC 1323, 1343, 1346

**Holy Days (of Obligation):** Holy Days of Obligation are very special feast days throughout the liturgical year. On these days people are obligated to attend Mass. In addition to each and every Sunday, in the United States the Holy Days are: CCC 2042, 2177, 2180, 2185

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)
- Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)
- Solemnity of All Saints (November 1)
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8)
- Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (December 25)

**Holy Family (P):** The Holy Family is Jesus, his mother Mary, the Blessed Virgin, and her spouse St. Joseph. They lived their earthly life in Nazareth.

**Holy Father:** The Pope, successor of St. Peter, who leads the Church, is sometimes called the Holy Father. CCC 882

**Holy of Holies:** The inner most room in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem that contained the Ark of the Covenant. The Holy of Holies was considered so special to the Jews, because it contained the presence of God, that only the High Priest could enter once a year.

**Holy Orders:** Holy Orders is a sacrament, or more informally ordination. In this sacrament a bishop, through the laying on of hands, imparts grace to a man elevating him to the office of deacon, priest, or bishop. The sacrament imparts a spiritual and eternal character to the man, who henceforth is empowered to act as a minister of God. CCC 1121, 1536, 1576, 1582, 1583

**Holy Spirit (P):** The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as the Comforter or Paraclete; the Promise of God; the Spirit of God; or the Holy Ghost. Symbolically and in art, the Holy Spirit is often represented in the form of a dove, or as flame or fire. CCC 152, 243, 245, 693, 696, 701

**Holy Thursday:** Holy Thursday is the liturgical celebration, during the Triduum, which commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with His apostles. At the Chrism Mass the bishop presides with his priests and blesses the oil that will be used for the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick throughout the coming year. At the evening Mass on Holy Thursday the Church celebrates the institution of the Sacraments of Eucharist and the Priesthood. At this celebration the priest washes the feet of some of the people in the parish to remind us that Jesus was a servant to all and He washed the feet of His apostles. CCC 1297

**Holy Tradition:** The transmission of all the practices and teachings of the Catholic Church as given to us by the Sacred Scriptures and the apostles. Sacred Tradition is preserved by the bishops of the Church and protected from loss. CCC 78, 80, 82 174

**Holy Water:** Holy Water is water that has been blessed by a priest, who asks God to bless it and anyone who uses it. Holy Water is used to bless people and objects. The faithful use holy water to bless themselves at home or when entering a church. Holy Water is used during the Sacrament of Baptism. The water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing. Holy Water is a sacramental. CCC 694, 1668

**Holy Week:** Lent closes with a very special time called Holy Week. The special days of Holy Week are the last three – called the 'Triduum' which is a Latin word for 'three days.' This solemnity is the most special time of the Liturgical Year. Beginning with the Mass on Thursday commemorating Christ's Last supper on Holy Thursday it concludes with Evening Prayer (Vespers) on Easter Sunday, which recalls Christ's passion, death, and Resurrection. CCC 1169

**Homily:** During the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, Sacred Scripture is read. The last reading is the Gospel. The homily then takes place. In the homily the priest explains the meaning of the Gospel, helping people to apply it to their lives. CCC 1100, 1154, 1349

**Honor (4):** To honor someone or something means to give them respect and cooperation. First and foremost, it is God that deserves honor. Each person is also called to honor those in leadership positions such as; the police, government officials, and parents. All children are called to honor their parents by obeying them, loving them, and caring for them in their old age. CCC 1900, 2132, 2197, 2200

**Hope:** Hope is one of the Theological Virtues. The virtue of hope allows us to trust that we will have eternal life because God wills it. CCC 1817, 1843

**Host:** The host is a small, circular breadlike wafer consecrated by the priest at Mass. Through the consecration the host becomes the Body of Jesus Christ and is distributed as Holy Communion during Mass and other times such as visits to the sick and homebound. CCC 1378

**Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life) (8):** A letter written by Pope Paul VI on July 29, 1968. It addresses in modern times the unchanging belief of the Church regarding contraception, abortion, and sterilization.

**Humanism (False Humanism vs. Authentic) (8):** A historical movement among nobility of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries to justify the Renaissance. This movement generated a scholarly and religiously neutral approach to ancient culture, an approach that was independent to Scholasticism. Petrarch, its founder, sought to 'humanize' the virtues of the ancient Romans. The humanist views came to dominate the private culture of the aristocratic and ecclesiastical courts in the fifteenth century, and by the time of Erasmus it dominated European culture.

Christian humanism asserts that true human existence involves the eschatological transformation of humanity by God. It does not see Christianity itself as an alien force imposed on humanity, and it regards its own development as the authentic development of humanity. Christian humanism regards Jesus Christ as essential for full human flourishing because of His historical and interpersonal character.

**Humility:** The virtue by which one has the proper perception of one's relationship with God. It acknowledges the eternal debt owed to God for His mercy and love in the gift of salvation. Mary is the prime example of humility in her constant surrender in service to God. CCC 2546, 2559, 2631, 2713

## I

**Idolatry:** Idolatry is the worship of creature rather than the Creator who made it. Formal idolatry would be adoration given to the image or likeness of various "gods." Practical idolatry is the elevation of any created good above God, such as an excessive love of money, honor, or fame. CCC 1723, 2112, 2114, 2424

### **Illumination (7) (See Catechumenate)**

**Image of God:** Each human being is created in the image of God Himself. Humankind is the only creature who has been created to "know and love his creator," the "only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake" (Gaudium et Spes 3). Because each person is created in God's image each person has the highest dignity and must be protected from the moment of conception until their natural death. CCC 356, 357

**Immaculate Conception (5):** When Mary was conceived in her mother's womb, because of a special grace from God, she was free from the stain of Original Sin. Because she was to become the Mother of Jesus, who would come to save all people from sin, it was right that she have the privilege of being without Original Sin. This special feast of the Immaculate Conception occurs during the season of Advent on December 8. CCC 491

**Imposition of Hands (5):** The action of the imposition of hands is a practice since the early Church which conveys the action of God's power to bless or consecrate. Christ imposed hands when curing the sick (Mk 6:5; Lk 4:40). The Sacrament of Holy Orders has the laying on of hands as the Bishop ordains priests. The laying on of hands occurs in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and at the 'epiclesis' of the Mass. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest extends his hands when giving absolution. CCC 699, 1504, 1519, 1556, 1558, 1573,

**Incarnation (4):** The eternal Son of God, without the loss of His divinity, took upon Himself a complete human nature and was incarnate (enfleshed) as the child of Mary at a particular moment in human history. He lived and grew up in Israel. His public life of ministry began when He was 30. CCC 464, 479, 483

**Incense:** Incense is dried tree sap that gives off a pleasing scent when burned. The smoke that rises from burned incense is a symbol of our prayers rising to God. Incense is sometimes used during the Mass for the altar, the book of the Gospels, the people and the priests or deacons, as well as the offering of bread and wine before consecration. CCC 1154

**Inculturation (8):** A term used in Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church referring to the adaptation of the way Church teachings are presented to non-Christian cultures, and to the influence of those cultures to the evolution of these teachings.

**Indulgence (8):** An indulgence is a remission of some or all temporal punishment due to sin, granted by the Church, drawing upon the bountiful merits won by Christ and the Saints. A Plenary Indulgence remits all temporal punishment due, whereas a Partial Indulgence remits only a portion. Temporal punishment due to sin is that required restitution owed to God for sin, even after the guilt from sin is forgiven through absolution. This punishment or debt must be paid either in this life or in purgatory. The benefit of indulgences may therefore generally be applied to oneself or to the Holy Souls in Purgatory as aid. There are many indulgenced acts, ranging from making the sign of the cross to devoutly visiting a cemetery to pray for the departed. CCC 1471

**Inerrancy:** Inerrancy means to be without error. Catholics believe Sacred Scripture is truly God's Revelation and all that is taught as necessary for our salvation is preserved from error. CCC 107

**Infallibility:** To be infallible means to be incapable of error. Through a special gift of the Holy Spirit, the pope in union with his bishops, teach and proclaim the teachings of the Catholic Church without error. Because of this gift of the Holy Spirit each person can trust what the pope and the bishops say about the Catholic Faith and morals. The most recent infallible statement was the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. CCC 888, 889, 2035, 2051

**Inquiry (7) (See Pre-catechuminate)**

**Inquisition (8):** The tribunal established by Pope Sixtus IV in 1478 at the request of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain in order to preserve religious unity and doctrinal orthodoxy within their realm.

**Inspiration:** The action and influence of the Holy Spirit upon the human writers of Sacred Scripture. The writers cooperated with God. Therefore all that God wishes to reveal through the Scriptures for our salvation is without error. CCC 76, 81, 105, 107, 108, 135-36

**Institution (7):** The act of founding or establishing. Also that which is established, as a practice or custom. An institution is likewise an organization for the promotion of public welfare, such as a church, school, hospital, or place of residence for the aged or handicapped. Canonical institution is the act by which an ecclesiastical authority confers on someone a benefice presented by a third person who has the right of presentation, and also a bishop's approbation granted to a beneficiary for the exercise of his ministerial functions.

**Intellect (6):** In the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, the intellect in its operation of abstracting from the imagination to produce intelligible ideas. The power possessed by person by which they can know beings in their essence.

**Intemperance:** Intemperance is a capital sin. It is also known as gluttony. The sin of intemperance is an unhealthy or excessive use of food and drink. CCC 1866

**Intercession (4):** Prayers said on the behalf of another. Christ is the primary intercessor. Mary, the angels, and the saints intercede before God on our behalf. We may say prayers of intercession on the behalf of the living or the dead. CCC 1354, 1509, 2634, 2734

**Intercessory Prayer:** Intercessory prayer is a special kind of prayer in which you pray for others to God. When you intercede for someone it is a selfless act because you are considering the needs of another person. CCC 2634, 2636

**Introductory Rites (5):** The Introductory Rites are a way for the community gathered together to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Introductory Rites are:

- Entrance Procession
- Entrance Song
- Veneration of the Altar
- Sign of the Cross; Greeting and Introduction
- Act of Penitence
- Sunday Renewal of Baptism (Rite of Sprinkling)
- Kyrie (“Lord have mercy”)
- Gloria (“Glory to God”) Collect The Liturgy of the Word begins with the first reading.

**Isaiah:** An Old Testament prophet who called the people of his time to repent and return to God giving up their evil ways.

**Israel:** The new name given by God to Jacob after he wrested with an angel of God. See Genesis 32:25-32.

**Israelites:** Used more or less interchangeable with “Hebrews” to denote the Jewish people. The descendants of Israel (Jacob), at one time divided into Twelve Tribes.

## J

**Jerusalem:** An ancient city in the Palestine region, and which eventually became ruled by King David, who brought the Ark of the Covenant there. King Solomon, David’s son, built the First Temple. Christ entered the city of Jerusalem triumphantly, and it was there that He suffered His passion and death, and it was there that He rose again.

**Jesus (P):** Jesus is the incarnate Son of God; He is the second person in the Trinity. He was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and died for the sins of humankind, arose on the third day, and will come again in glory. The name Jesus means “God Saves.” To Christians Jesus is the Savior who redeems all mankind from sin through His sacrifice on the cross. CCC 430, 629

**Jewish:** The Jewish people, originally those descended from the tribe of Judah, one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, but by the time of the New Testament used to denote all those who by descent or religion were part of the covenant people who adhered to the law given by Moses. CCC 839

**Job:** The book of Job is found in the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament. This book chronicles a man who trusts deeply in God even to the point of losing everything he owns and all the people he loves. Although his friends and family tell him to lose faith in God, he continues worshipping God and God rewards him for his fidelity.

**John the Baptist (1):** The cousin of Jesus who was a prophet and foretold the coming of the Messiah. He is called "the Baptist" because he baptized people in the Jordan River and called them to repentance. He was the one who baptized Jesus Christ. CCC 523

**Jordan River:** The Jordan River is an important river that runs through the Holy Land. Many of the stories in the Sacred Scriptures take place on the banks of the Jordan River. For example, Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist happened in the Jordan River.

**Joseph (K):** There are two important Josephs in Sacred Scripture:

1. Joseph was the son of Jacob who was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt. While in Egypt he became the prime minister to the Pharaoh. Joseph had a special gift from God called prophecy and he was able to tell the Pharaoh to save up grain for a coming famine. When the famine struck the land Egypt was the only place which still had food. Joseph's brothers came to buy food from Egypt and were reunited with their brother. The whole family then moved to Egypt and lived there for 400 years.
2. Joseph is the foster father of Jesus Christ. He was scared to take Mary into his home until the angel of God told him that it was okay. Like a good father, Joseph cared for Jesus as his own son and Jesus obeyed him like a good son. CCC 497, 1846

**Joyful Mysteries:** The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Birth of Christ, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and the Finding of Christ in the Temple. CCC 971, 2678, 2708

**Judah:** Judah has two meanings:

1. Judah is one of Jacob's twelve sons.
2. When the united kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms the southern two tribes united and were called Judah. It is the kingdom of Judah that carried on the family line of David, the family line of Jesus.

**Judges:** Judges has two meanings:

1. Temporary rulers of Israel, prior to God's election of King David as king uniting the Twelve Tribes.
2. The seventh book of the Old Testament describing this period.

**Judgment:** Judgment has two meanings:

1. The particular judgment is God's determination (or ratification) of a person's eternal destiny immediately after their death, either to heaven or hell, based upon his or her acceptance of God's law and love. CCC 1021, 1022
2. The general judgment is the collective judgment of the entire human race at the end of time, inaugurated by Christ's Second Coming, and incorporating the prior particular judgment of individuals who had already died. After this judgment each person will once again possess their own bodies, which are forevermore immortal. Those in hell will be separated from God forever, unlike those in heaven who will have glorified bodies and eternal union with God. CCC 677, 679, 681, 682, 1038

**Justice (3):** Justice is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Justice is the habit of giving each person their rightful due. CCC 1807, 1836, 2411

## K

**Kneel / Kneeling (1):** To go down or rest on one or both knees. Typically used as a sign of reverence or submission.

**Kerygma:** The preaching of the Good News, as distinct from formal teaching or explanation of the truths of the faith. Kerygma excites the initial faith of the believer. Kerygma is Greek for 'proclamation.' CCC 6, 174, 900, 2044, 2763

**Kingdom of God:** The Kingdom of God is the glorious reign of God over heaven and earth that will bring love, peace, and justice to all. Jesus came to begin the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. He often preached about the Kingdom of God and its fulfillment in Heaven through the parables. All Christians are called to live a life that builds up the Kingdom of God on earth. At the end of time, the Kingdom will be realized in its fullness, and all God's faithful will dwell together in union with Him. The celebration of the Eucharist is a way we participate in the Kingdom of God. CCC 763, 2816

**Knowledge:** Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects a person's practical reason in making judgments. A person who possesses the gift of knowledge is able to know God's Revelation even without extensive study. This enables a person to better follow God's will. CCC 1303, 1831

## L

**Laity (3):** The laity are those who live out their baptismal vocation through the lay state. The laity is called to sanctify the secular, meaning that in their homes and work place they live in Christlike ways, growing in holiness of life. CCC 897, 901, 905, 2442

**Last Judgment:** This is the judgment that will be given by God at the end of the world after Christ's Second Coming. Christ's coming in glory will signify the final triumph of good over evil. The living and the dead will be judged according to how they have been either faithful or unfaithful to the will of God as taught through Christ's life on earth. CCC 677, 679, 900, 681, 682, 1038

**Last Supper (K):** This was the Passover meal that Jesus had with His Apostles the night before His passion and death. At this supper Christ instituted the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Priesthood. CCC 1323, 1329, 1337, 1366

**Last Things:** Traditionally referring to death, judgment, heaven and hell, this term refers to each person's particular judgment at the end of their earthly life. CCC 677, 679, 681, 682, 1021, 1060

**Lateran Treaty:** On February 11, 1929 the Lateran Treaty was signed between the Holy See and the Italian government making Vatican City an independent state.

**Lay Investiture (8):** Lay investiture was an erroneous practice in which the laity elected or chose bishops in exchange for money. Because bishops have a special grace from their ordination they are responsible for the appointments of bishops and the pope.

**Law of Love:** The Law of Love is described in the first two commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart..." and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37-39). CCC 2055

**Lectio Divina (7):** *Lectio Divina* is a Latin phrase meaning 'holy reading.' It is a very special method of praying using the Bible which has been practiced since the fourth century. It began in the early monasteries found by St. Benedict. There are four steps to Lectio Divina. In the first step, known as Lectio, a person slowly reads a

Scripture (Bible) passage. In the second step, known as *Meditatio*, a person meditates on what the passage is trying to teach them. In the third step, known as *Oratio*, a person talks to God about the Scripture passage and ask for a deeper understanding. In the fourth step, known as *Contemplatio*, a person sits in God's presence. CCC 1177

**Lectionary (5):** A book used during Mass that contains all of the Scripture readings for weekdays and Sundays. CCC 1154

**Lector:** A lector is a layperson who has been trained to properly proclaim the Word of God at liturgical celebrations.

**Lent (K):** Lent is a liturgical season of forty days, a time of preparation for Easter, the greatest feast of the liturgical year. During Lent the pain and sufferings Jesus endured for each person are remembered by acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are the days of the Paschal Mystery of Christ and are part of the Triduum. CCC 540

**Leviticus:** The third book of the Old Testament which gives the laws and provisions for the liturgical duties of the Levites (the Old Testament priests) and the laws regarding Temple worship.

**Lineage (6):** Direct descent from a particular ancestor or ancestry. A person's lineage is the series of families from which they are directly descended.

**Liturgical Color (K):** Each liturgical season in the Church has a special color. During Advent and Lent the priest's vestments and the church's decorations are violet. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter the liturgical color is white. In Ordinary Time the priest's vestments and the church's decorations are green. On feasts of martyrs and feasts of the Holy Spirit the liturgical color is often red.

**Liturgical Year (K):** The Liturgical Year is the year of the Church focused on the person of Jesus Christ. The Liturgical Year has five seasons:

1. The first is Advent, four weeks prior to Christmas Day.
2. The next season is Christmas which lasts until Baptism of our Lord.
3. The Season of Ordinary Time occurs twice.
4. The Lenten Season is six weeks leading up to the death of Christ.
5. Easter season begins with the Resurrection of Christ and culminates on the evening of Pentecost Sunday. CCC 1168 1171

**Liturgy (8):** Liturgy, the public worship of the Church (and the "work" of the people), happens when God's people gather together to pray publicly. The Mass, the Rites of the individual sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours are examples of liturgy. The Church differentiates between liturgy and private devotions. Private devotions, while good in themselves, can never become "liturgy." An example of a private devotion is the praying of the rosary or making novenas. CCC 1069

**Liturgy of the Eucharist:** The Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual treasure...Christ Himself. At the Last Supper Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Through the reception of this Sacrament a person receives the very Body and Blood of Christ. Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. This, the greatest of the Sacraments, bestows divine life (grace). CCC 1348, 1355

Order:

- Preparation of the altar and gifts – presentation of offerings at altar (bread, wine, collection); preparation

- of altar; prayer during preparation of gifts; prayer over gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer – four prayers for general use; two forms for Masses of Reconciliation; three prayers for Masses with children -Preface -First acclamation – Sanctus or “Holy, Holy, Holy” (usually sung)
- Invocation of the Holy Spirit (Epiclesis) -Institution narrative and Consecration -Second acclamation – The Memorial (four prayers, usually sung) -Memorial Prayer (Anamnesis) and Offering -Intercessions of priests -Third acclamation – the Doxology and the Great Amen (usually sung)
- Rite of Communion -The Lord’s Prayer -The Sign of Peace -The Fraction Rite (breaking of the bread) with Lamb of God
- (Agnus Dei) - Reception of Holy Communion (procession, song, meditation)
- Prayer after Communion

**Liturgy of the Word:** The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old and New Testaments. The Liturgy of the Word is an encounter with the Word of God proclaimed. CCC 1103, 1154, 1155, 1346, 1349

Order – The Scripture readings for Mass are organized according to a three year Sunday cycle and a two-year weekday cycle:

- First readings: Sundays – Old Testament (Acts of the Apostles during Easter);
  - Weekday – Old Testament or New Testament
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second reading: Sundays, solemnities, and major feasts – New Testament
- Gospel verse this is omitted if not sung
- Gospel reading
- Homily
- Profession of Faith
- General intercessions
- Offering of Gifts

**Longing for God:** God has placed in each person a longing and a desire to know and love Him. A great saint who lived hundreds of years ago, St. Augustine, explains, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” The longing and desire for God can only be satisfied through a personal relationship with God. Many people try to fill this desire with other things such as money or fame but they can never be truly happy until they come to know God. CCC 2730

**Lord:** Originally used in the Old Testament as a title for God because the divine name “Yahweh” could not be said. In the New Testament this name is used for both God the Father and God the Son. CCC 446

**Lord’s Prayer (See Our Father):**

**Love (K):** To love means to will the good of another. Love may be for the sake of the lover’s own self interest, or it may be for the sake of the loved ones, the latter being what we normally think of as “true” love. Both types are merely natural. Supernatural love, or the infused virtue of charity, is love of God for His own sake, and love of others out of love of God. CCC 1822, 1823

**Luminous Mysteries:** The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: Christ’s Baptism in the River Jordan, the Wedding Feast at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist.

**Lust:** Is an inordinate desire for sexual pleasure that does not respect the gift of the body or sexuality. One of the Capital Sins, it views others as merely objects to be used to the end of personal gratification. CCC 1866

## M

**Magisterium (6):** The teaching authority of the Church, given by Christ to the Apostles and their successors the bishops, under the authority of and in union with the Pope. The word Magisterium derives from the Latin word for “teacher.” CCC 85, 890, 2033

**Magnificat (7):** Mary’s joyful song agreeing to be the Mother of God. This can be found in Luke 1:46 - 55. CCC 2097, 2619

**Manna (6):** Food of miraculous origin provided by God for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert after their escape from the slavery of Egypt. It can be seen as a type or prefigurement of the Eucharistic food that God provides for us today and which provides spiritual nourishment in our journey towards Heaven. CCC 1094

**Marian Age (8):** Based on St. Louis de Montfort’s *True Devotion to Mary* the term Marian Age refers to a period of time in the Church marked by Popes who were outstanding in their love for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Marks of the Church (3):** The four marks of the Church are: one, holy; catholic and apostolic. CCC 811

1. One means the Church is united in the Trinity and with Her head, Jesus Christ. People of all ages and cultures are united as one in the Church.
2. The Church is holy because Jesus Christ is holy and calls all people to be holy in their lives.
3. Catholic is a word that means universal. The Church began at Pentecost and will exist for all time reaching out to all people and bringing them to Christ.
4. Apostolic means the Church was founded on the apostles; it is guided by the Holy Spirit and contains the truth Jesus came to reveal.

**Marriage (5):** The Sacrament of Marriage is the professed union of one man and one woman, who pledge themselves in love to one another for mutual help and the raising of children. It involves a free, mutual gift of self that is faithful and ordered to the procreation and education of children. Christ elevated the natural institution of marriage to one of the seven sacraments, and thus as a sacrament it imparts grace to assists spouses to grow in love of one another and of Christ in whom they are joined. Marriage is lifelong and exclusive – the two spouses remain united to each other exclusively for as long as the both shall live. CCC 1638, 1639, 1641

**Martin Luther:** A German Augustinian monk who, was a very spiritual man but struggled with the abuse of indulgences. He was in dialogue with the pope. When Pope Leo X sent a letter that pointed out some of the errors of Luther’s thinking he burned the letter. This act of rebellion led him to break away from the Church. This breaking away from the one true Church led to the Protestant Reformation.

**Matrimony (See Marriage) (5)**

**Martyr (4):** To be a martyr is to be a witness. A martyr is a person who chooses to die rather than in any way to deny Christ. There have been many martyrs throughout the history of the Church. CCC 2474

**Martyrdom (8):** Sometimes called baptism of blood. It is the patient endurance of fatal torture inflicted out of hatred for Christ or the Christian faith or Christian virtue.

**Mary (K):** Mary became the Mother of Jesus Christ. Her earthly parents were Joachim and Anne. She grew up in Nazareth. At the Annunciation the Angel Gabriel told her she would become the Mother of God. Mary was conceived without original sin. CCC 488, 490, 491

**Mary Magdalene:** She was a faithful follower of Christ and was one of the few present with Him at the cross. Mary Magdalene was the first to see Christ after the Resurrection and was one of the first messengers of the Resurrection to the twelve apostles (John. 20:18).

**Mass (P):** This is another name for the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It comes from the Latin word “Missa” and refers to the “mission” or “sending” which concludes this ritual. CCC 1332

**Mediator / Mediatrix (7):** One who links or reconciles separate or opposing parties. Thus Jesus Christ is the ‘one mediator between God and the human race’ (1Timothy 2:5). Through his sacrificial offering he has become high priest and unique mediator who has gained for us access to God’s saving grace for humanity. Moreover, Mary too is sometimes called Mediatrix in virtue of her cooperation in the saving mission of Christ, who alone is the unique mediator between God and humanity. CCC 618, 1544

**Meditative Prayer:** Meditative Prayer is a form of prayer in which a person thinks about the truths of God. God is present to each person who is meditating on His truths. Through meditation a person talks to God in silence. Meditation can be a very difficult form a prayer because it requires great attention. We can gain help in meditation from Scripture, books, icons, etc. *Lectio Divina* has includes mediation as one of its steps. This form of prayer is extremely fruitful because it helps us to think about how we are living in accord with God’s truth and goodness. It stirs the heart to a great desire to love. Meditation also uses the imagination and the emotions. These strengthen a person’s desire for God. CCC 2705, 2708

**Meek (4):** Meekness is a virtue of appropriate self control. In the case of anger a meek person does not become very angry but expresses their feelings appropriately. The meek are those referred to in the Beatitudes, who will “inherit the land.” CCC 716, 1716, 2219

**Memorial:** The word memorial has two meanings:

1. A memorial is something done to remember a person or event. In this sense the liturgical year has “memorials” of certain saints, days set apart to remember them.
2. In another sense, a memorial is more than remembering an event; it is participating in the event that is made real. The Mass is a memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, and so that one sacrifice is made present again for us and through it we are saved from our sin. CCC 1099, 1341

**Mendicant (8):** The term refers to those communities who take a vow of poverty and beg for food and their needs.

**Mendicant Orders (See Mendicant)**

**Mercy:** Mercy is based on compassion. It is the loving forgiveness of another. God is merciful. We are called to be merciful in imitation of Christ. CCC 1472, 2447

**Messiah (6):** Hebrew for “Anointed One.” The Messiah was foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament as one who would usher in the Kingdom of God and conquer evil, and was long awaited by the Jews. The Church recognized Jesus as the foretold Messiah, who conquered evil through His passion, death, and Resurrection. CCC 436

**Ministry:** Ministry is the activity of giving service to others in the name of Christ and through the life of the Church. CCC 875

**Miracles:** A miracle is an extraordinary manifestation of God’s intervention. Some examples are: the raising of Lazarus, curing of the blind man, Jesus walking on water, etc. CCC 548

**Miraculous Medal (8):** It was on November 27, 1830, that the Blessed Mother appeared to a young sister, St. Catherine Laboure, in the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris. At this time Mary asked the Vincentian Sister to have a medal struck in honor of her Immaculate Conception, following the model she would show her.

**Missal (7):** (See **Roman Missal**)

**Mission (P):** The Church has a missionary mandate to bring all people to the way and love of Jesus Christ. Each person in the Church has a mission to spread the Gospel of Christ. CCC 849

**Missionaries (K):** Missionaries are people who devote their lives to bringing the Gospel to places where it is not known. A person can be a missionary to a foreign country or in their own community by teaching about Christ and caring for people's physical, spiritual and emotional needs. Many Religious Orders dedicate their lives to the missions.

**Modernism:** A series of mistaken beliefs which place too much of an emphasis on human experience as the source of Divine Revelation at the expense Church doctrine. This is closely related to the mistake of Relativism.

**Modest / Modesty / Modestly (4):** The virtue, related to the virtue of temperance, and which helps us moderate our behavior and appearance appropriately. Modesty takes into account the intrinsic human dignity of self and others. Therefore modesty in speech and dress avoids what may be offensive to others, as well as protecting one's own dignity. CCC 2521-24

**Monasteries / Monastery (8):** A monastery is the dwelling place of monks and consecrated women who live apart from the world.

**Monastic / Monastic Life (8):** Consecrated life marked by the public profession of religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and by a stable community life (in a monastery) with the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours in choir.

**Monastic Rule (8):** (See **Rule, Religious**)

**Monasticism (8):** Monasticism was the movement in the early Church bringing together, in community, those men and women who dedicated their lives to prayer.

**Monstrance:** A sacred vessel used to display the consecrated host for viewing by the faithful for purposes of adoration of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. A monstrance is used during the Rite of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, during Eucharistic exposition, and during Eucharistic processions. The word "monstrance" derives from the Latin "to show."

**Morality (8):** Morality describes the system of principles by which our conduct or actions are judged to be either good or evil. These principles are identified through our own natural reason, through the revelation of God, and through the teachings of the Church. CCC 1749, 1750

**Mortal Sin:** Mortal sin is a very serious offence against the law of God. It totally destroys the relationship with God. Grace is no longer a part of life. For a sin to be mortal three things are necessary – grave matter, full knowledge of the evil of the act and full consent of will. CCC 1855, 1857

**Mother of the Church:** Mary is the mother of Jesus Christ and is inseparable from Him. As the mother of Jesus, she has become the Mother of the Church and she intercedes for each person before her Son. She is a powerful intercessor for each person to turn to in time of need. During her earthly life she assisted Jesus and interceded on other's behalf to Him. At the Wedding Feast of Cana she pleaded with Jesus to assist the newly married couple so that they would avoid the embarrassment of running out of wine. Jesus, granting the request of His mother, helped the newly married couple by turning water into wine. Just as Jesus listened to Mary at the Wedding Feast of Cana so He hears her prayers today as she pleads for her children, the members of the Church. CCC 963, 970

**Mount Sinai:** The Mountain in modern day South Sinai (near Egypt) where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

**Mourn (4):** In reference to the Beatitudes, those who mourn "will be comforted." Mourning is commonly associated with the sorrow one feels at the death of a loved one or one who is greatly esteemed. CCC 1716

**Mystagogy (7):** The fourth and final period of Christian Initiation of Adults, which is from Easter to Pentecost.

**Mystery:** Mystery has two meanings:

1. A mystery is a truth that we wouldn't have been able to know unless God had revealed it. Even after God has revealed a mystery we cannot fully understand it, although we can learn to understand parts of it. The truth of the Trinity is the greatest revealed mystery. The Eucharist and the Incarnation are also mysteries. CCC 770
2. The Rosary is a prayer that reflects upon certain events in the Life of Christ. These events are called "mysteries" because we can always find something new to learn in them although we can never fully comprehend the mystery of God.

**Mystical Communion (8):** An immediate consciousness of the transcendent or ultimate reality of God. This experience is often described by mystics.

**Mystical Spirituality:** A mystical spirituality is founded upon the mysteries of the sacraments. Saints who had a mystical spirituality received the sacraments frequently. Through the sacraments and their intimate personal relationship with Christ they had a deep union with God that many people do not achieve until they are in Heaven. Their mystical spirituality was often accompanied by special graces, such as the ability to know and understand God's revelation without study, and extraordinary signs, such as the stigmata. Many of the holy saints of the Church, such as St. Catherine of Siena, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and St. Teresa of Avila, had a mystical spirituality. CCC 2014

## N

**Natural Law / Natural Moral Law:** The natural law is a rational creature's participation in the eternal law of God, in His Divine Wisdom. It can therefore be known through our human reason. This law directs our actions and is the same throughout time and throughout cultures. One example of the natural law is the law against murder; without being told, man should sense that it is wrong to kill another human being. The Ten Commandments are also an example of the natural moral law. CCC 1954, 1960

**Neophytes (7):** One who has been initiated at the Easter Vigil. The term comes from the Greek word meaning new plant, as in a new sprout on a limb / branch.

**Nazareth:** Nazareth is a town in Galilee. It is part of the Holy Land where Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph until He began His public ministry.

**Nestorianism (8):** A fifth century heresy which stated that there were two separate persons in Jesus Christ – one human and one divine. It also denied that the Virgin Mary could be called Mother of God (Theotokos).

**New Covenant (4):** Christ's sacrifice, inaugurated at the Last Supper, is the New Covenant that promises eternal life for those who cooperate with God's grace. CCC 613

**New Evangelization / Evangelization (8):** The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel (Greek: *evangelion*) by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command. CCC 905

**New Jerusalem:** In the Old Testament Jerusalem was the city where the Temple was located, thus it was the place on earth where God dwelt physically. The New Jerusalem is Heaven; it is where God dwells and where all His people gather round Him. We can also say that we are in the New Jerusalem at every Mass because we are at a place where God is dwelling physically and where He is fulfilling all the promises He made to our fathers in faith in the Old Testament.

**New Testament (1<sup>st</sup>):** The New Testament (27 Books) is the second part of the Bible. These books tell of the birth, life, miracles, teaching, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Books of the New Testament are the Four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the many Epistles and the Book of Revelation. CCC 124, 127

**North American Martyrs:** The North American Martyrs were eight members of the Society of Jesus who were martyred between the years 1642-1649. The North American Martyrs were responsible for the conversion of Kateri Tekakwitha, the Lily of the Mohawks. She is the first Native American to be declared Blessed by the Church. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1980.

**Novena:** Novena comes from the Latin word for 'nine.' A novena refers to nine days of prayer for a specific intention. A novena can be said by saying the rosary for nine days or saying any other prayer or group of prayers for nine days. There are hundreds of novenas for various intentions that are recognized by the Church. It is said that the first novena occurred during the nine days between Christ's Ascension into Heaven and the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost when the disciples were gathered praying in the Upper Room.

**Nun (P):** A nun is a woman who makes a solemn profession either alone under the Bishop or within a monastic community. Sisters are religious women who make vows to their Religious Institutes. They are sometimes referred to as nuns even though they are not in the strict sense.

## O

**Obedience:** Obedience as an act is compliance to the will of another with legitimate authority. As a virtue, a habit that helps one readily obey lawful commands. God has all authority (in fact all authority is from God) and so the obedience due to God is without limit. The obedience due to others besides God only extends as far as it does not contradict a greater authority. For example, obedience to the state cannot compel transgression of God's law, and obedience to a superior cannot compel transgression of the state's law. CCC 1269, 1850

**Old Covenant:** The Old Covenant is the special agreement between Moses and God. God revealed to Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of the Old Covenant. CCC 1961

**Old Testament (1<sup>st</sup>):** The Bible begins with the Books of the Old Testament (46 Books). In the Old Testament God's revealing of Himself to fallen humanity begins. The first five Books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The other major categories of Books are the Historical (16), Wisdom (7) and Prophetic (18). Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. CCC 121, 123

**Omission (4):** Not acting when we are morally required to do so would be a sin of omission. CCC 1853

**One (3):** Something that is one is singular and undivided. The Nicene Creed begins with the statement, "I believe in ONE God." We know that our God is the only God, who exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one God. Because we know that God is one, we also know that the Church is one. CCC 200, 813

**Oral Tradition:** The passing on of the stories and traditions of the Church through word of mouth. Oral Tradition was the way in which the stories of Jesus were preserved before the Gospels were written. CCC 126

**Ordained (3):** In Catholicism the vocation to the ordained life is received through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The ordained are men who are called to the diaconate, priesthood, or episcopacy (office of bishop). Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination. CCC 1577

**Ordinary Time (K):** A liturgical season which is broken up into two components: the first follows the Christmas season (from the Baptism of Our Lord) and continues until the Season of Lent (Ash Wednesday); the second follows the Easter Season (Pentecost Monday) and continues until the beginning of Advent. Ordinary time, so called because the weeks are simply numbered "in order", comprises the longest season of the liturgical calendar. There are either thirty three or thirty four Sundays in ordinary time, depending on the year. The vestment color is usually green.

**Original Sin (1):** God created man and woman in His image giving a friendship which was centered in obedience to God. The devil tempted Adam and Eve. They chose to do their own will rather than God's. The grace of original holiness was lost and they became subject to the law of death. Sin then became universally present in the world. CCC 404

**Our Father:** When Jesus' Apostles asked Him to teach them how to pray, He gave them the prayer – "Our Father, who art in heaven...." (Mt 6:9-13). This very special prayer is said everyday in the Church. CCC 2765, - 2766

## P

**Palm Sunday:** Palm Sunday is the liturgical celebration which takes place the Sunday before Easter Sunday. At this liturgical celebration the Church celebrates Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Church also commemorates the Passion of Our Lord which took place just days after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. CCC 560

**Parables (4):** Parables are stories that teach a story. Jesus used many parables during His earthly ministry. A few are the Parable of the Tenants (Mt. 21:33-43), the Parable of the Lamp (Mk. 4:21-25) and the Parable of the Barren Fig (Luke 13:6-9). CCC 546

**Parish (P):** This is a very special place where the priest(s) and God's people come together to worship God and care for one another in community. There are many parishes in a diocese. Each one is named in honor of Christ, Mary, or a saint. CCC 2179

**Participating in Society:** Each person has a responsibility to promote the common good in society. Thus, each person is called, according to their role in life, to be present and active in the community.

**Particular Judgment:** At the end of each person's earthly life they will come before God to be judged upon their actions, both evil they have done and the good they failed to do. Depending upon that judgment, an individual will experience the eternal joy of heaven, the eternal punishment of hell, or the healing power of purgatory. CCC 1021, 1022, 1470

**Paschal Candle (1):** A large candle that is lit during the Easter vigil mass. The name "Paschal" (from the Jewish word for "Passover") refers to the death and Resurrection of Christ. The Paschal Candle represents Christ, who is our light. Because of this, five grains of incense which look like small nails and which represent the five wounds of Christ are solemnly stuck into the Candle. At the Easter Vigil, the Candle is used to light many other small candles and is used in the blessing of the baptismal water. The Candle then remains in the sanctuary during the whole of the Easter Season until Solemnity of Pentecost and is lit during Mass or the celebration of the Sacraments. Afterwards, the Candle is used to light the candles of the newly baptized during the year.

**Paschal Mystery (4):** Refers to the Redemption brought about by Christ's passion, crucifixion, death, burial, descent into hell, Resurrection, and Ascension. This mystery is the source of grace for us, and from which all the sacraments draw their saving power. CCC 571, 1067, 1168, 1169, 1171

**Passion (The Passion of Jesus Christ):** This refers to the suffering of Christ for our Redemption, in particular the intense suffering and pain endured in the Garden of Gethsemane, the cruel torments leading up to the crucifixion, and the crucifixion itself, culminating in his death and the separation of His body from His soul. These events are commemorated during Holy Week. CCC 607

**Passover (1):** In the Old Testament, the Jewish people celebrated each year the feast of the Passover. This recalled their protection by God. The first born of every child was to be killed in Egypt. By placing a portion of the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, the angel of death saw and "passed over" their homes. In the New Testament, Jesus is the Paschal Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Eucharist is the new Passover, in which Jesus "passes over" to His Father by His death and resurrection. CCC 1363, 1364

**Pastor (K):** A pastor is the priest who is asked by the Bishop to be the leader of a parish. CCC 2179

**Pastoral / Pastor / Pastoral Office (8):** The ministry of shepherding the faithful in the name of Christ. The Pope and bishops receive the pastoral office which they are to exercise with Christ the Good Shepherd as their model; they share their pastoral ministry with priests, to whom they give responsibility over a portion of the flock as pastors of parishes. CCC 886, 1560, 2179

**Patriarch:** The special name given to the Old Testament fathers of our faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. CCC 205

**Patron Saint:** Saints are models of holiness. When Catholic parents name their children at the time of Baptism, they should choose one name that is truly a Christian name. As children grow and become aware of the lives of the saints they may choose saints who become their patrons. A patron saint is one who protects the person who intercedes to them. At Confirmation one may choose the name of a saint who is desired as a patron saint.

**Pauline (7):** An adjective referring to writings from St. Paul.

**Peacemaker (4):** The way of Christ is that of love, faith and hope. A peacemaker believes that Christ calls all people to avoid violence and live a life of grace and union with God. CCC 1716, 2306

**Pedagogy (6):** The method and practice of teaching.

**Penance (1):** A penance is a special act that is made to show repentance for sin. Some penances are in the form of special prayers. Others are special acts of kindness and charity towards people. CCC 1422, 1431

**Penance (Sacrament of):** The Sacrament of Penance of Reconciliation is given by Christ through the Church to forgive sin. Sometimes this is called "confession." A person confesses his or her sins to a priest, expresses sorrow for sins and promises not to sin again. A priest gives absolution and a penance to perform. CCC 1422, 1424

**Penitential Rite (5):** Part of the introductory rites of the Mass during which the faithful acknowledge their sin and their faults, and ask the Communion of Saints and the other members present to intercede on their behalf. CCC 1447, 1451

**Pentateuch:** The first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Pentateuch is derived from the Greek word meaning something similar to "five books." Also see Torah. CCC 702

**Pentecost (8):** Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday that occurs fifty days after Easter. The first Pentecost was the day on which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles and disciples in the form of tongues of fire (Acts 2:1-4). It marked the beginning of the Church. CCC 731, 732, 767, 768, 1076

**People of God:** The Church is the Bride of Christ abiding in the mystery of God's love. The 'People of God' is a name for the people who believe that Christ is the Head of the Church. They believe that they are united in the Mystical Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. They recognize that they have a common journey in life, preparing to live eternally with God in Heaven. CCC 761, 762, 781, 786

**Perjury:** When a person offers a promise under oath to do something with no intention of keeping that promise, the person commits perjury. Perjury can also be committed when after a promise is made it is not kept. Perjury is a violation of the Second and Eighth Commandments. CCC 2152, 2476

**Permanent (5):** To be permanent is to last forever without change. The marriage bond is permanent because it commits a man and a woman to each other for the rest of his or her life. A permanent deacon is someone who has chosen to serve the Bishop as a deacon for the rest of their life.

**Personal Prayer:** Daily prayer between each person and God that forms a special relationship. Personal prayer can take many forms such as contemplative prayer or vocal prayer. It is important that each person turn to God many times during their day. CCC 2659

**Personal Relationship:** Each person is called to have a special relationship with God. The relationship must be one in which a person talks to God, listens to God, and puts their trust in God. God is the initiator of the relationship. It is His love and care of each person that draws them to Himself. Each person should cultivate a friendship with God. CCC 357, 362

**Personal Sin:** Personal sin refers to the sins of each person. When receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation one acknowledges and confesses their personal sin. CCC 1868

**Persons of the Trinity:** There are three persons in the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but one God. Each person is distinct yet still fully united to the other persons. The Trinity exists as a relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. CCC 232, 237, 252, 256

**Petition (2):** A special type of prayer in which we pray for our needs and the needs of others as we surrender ourselves to the will of God. CCC 2629

**Pharaoh:** A Pharaoh is an Egyptian king who was thought by his people to be a god. In the Old Testament Moses had to plead with the Pharaoh, who was enslaving the Hebrew people, to let them go.

**Philistines:** Men and women from Philistia are called Philistines. In the Old Testament the Philistines were bitter enemies with the Israelites. During the reign of Saul many battles were fought with the Philistines; one of the most famous battles was the battle between David and the giant.

**Piety:** Is also known as reverence and is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which instigates due honor and respect to God. A person with the gift of piety truly respects God and desires to love Him and worship Him for who He is as God. CCC 1303, 1831

**Plague:** A plague is a disease or disaster that is widespread and affects a large number of people. In the Old Testament God sent ten plagues on the people of Egypt to convince the Pharaoh to let the Israelites out of bondage. In the Middle Ages there was a great plague that swept through Europe.

**Pontiff: (See Pope)**

**Poor in Spirit:** The poor in spirit are those who live a life with appropriate detachment to the things of this world and strive for God's gifts that lead to heaven. CCC 1716, 1729

**Pope (K):** The Pope is the Vicar of Christ on earth. Christ gave St. Peter the "keys to the kingdom" – thus appointing him to be the first Pope. The Pope is in charge of the whole Church. All the Bishops of the world assist the Pope. CCC 880, 881, 882

**Pope Benedict XV:** Pope Benedict XV was elected pope in 1914. Pope Benedict XV worked hard at peace efforts during World War I.

**Pope Benedict XVI:** Pope Benedict XVI was elected pope after Pope John Paul II's death in 2005. He has written three encyclicals, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), *Spe Salvi* (Saved in Hope), and *Caritas In Veritate* (In Charity and Truth); and one PostSynodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (Sacrament of Charity). Pope Benedict XVI continued the tradition of Pope John Paul II and presided over two World Youth Days. Pope Benedict XVI made an Apostolic Journey to the United States in 2008.

**Pope John Paul I:** Pope John Paul I was elected pope after the death of Pope Paul VI. He chose his papal name in honor of the previous two popes; Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI. Pope John Paul I's papacy lasted for only thirty-three days. Despite his short papacy, he is remembered as a gentle, warm and kind man who captivated the world with his 'feel good' presence.

**Pope John Paul II:** Pope John Paul II was elected pope in 1978 after the death of Pope John Paul I. He was the first Polish Pope in the history of the Catholic Church, and the first non-Italian in 455 years. Pope John Paul II established World Youth Day, with the first taking place in Rome on Palm Sunday 1986. During his 27<sup>th</sup> year papacy, Pope John Paul II wrote 14 papal encyclicals, and called for the revision of a universal catechism, which became known as the Catechism of the Catholic Church. On April 2, 2005 Pope John Paul II entered into eternal life. In May 2005 Pope Benedict XVI waived the normal five year waiting period allowing the beatification process to begin for Pope John Paul II.

**Pope John XXIII:** Pope John XXIII was elected to the Pontificate in October 1958. He is remembered for calling the twenty-first Ecumenical Council, the Second Vatican Council. Pope John Paul II beatified Pope John XXIII in September 2000.

**Pope Paul VI:** When Pope John XXIII entered into eternal life, Pope Paul VI was elected. He led the Church in a continuation and completion of the Second Vatican Council. Pope Paul VI authored eight encyclicals during his 15 years as pope, including the publication of *Humanae Vitae* (Of Human Life) in 1968. He is well remembered as a man of inner joy and abandonment while doing the will of God.

**Pope Pius X:** Pope Pius X was elected pope in 1903. He focused his papacy on helping the faithful from becoming estranged from God, and against Modernism. Pope Pius X is especially remembered as the pope who lowered the age of the Sacrament of First Eucharist to age seven. He was canonized in 1954.

**Pope Pius XI:** Pope Pius XI was elected pope in 1922. Because he had just witnessed the horrors of World War I, he became a powerful advocate of peace. In 1929, he signed the Lateran Treaty with Mussolini of Italy which created the Vatican as its own independent nation and recognized Mussolini as the leader of Italy. This was a very important decision because it protected the Vatican from foreign invasion. In order to try to negotiate peace with Hitler he signed a concordat in 1933 which granted the Vatican rights. Unfortunately, Hitler violated the terms of the concordat almost immediately. Pope Pius XI was the first pope to utilize the radio to speak to his flock.

**Pope Pius XII:** Pope Pius XII was elevated to the papacy in 1939. When the threat of World War II emerged, he worked tirelessly as a communicator between the German and Allied forces to prevent the war. Pope Pius XII offered aid to Jews during the war to help them and keep them safe. He died in October 1958.

**Poverty:** One of the “evangelical councils,” in other words an entreaty by Christ to voluntarily give up material goods and wealth in order to more perfectly imitate Him. A vow of poverty (along with vows of chastity and obedience) is common among members of a religious order. Freedom from material goods and from the time spent acquiring and maintaining them, can allow one to more readily serve God. CCC 544, 915, 2544, 2546

**Praise (P):** Praise is a special type of prayer in which man worships God and thanks Him primarily for who He is. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist we praise God. CCC 2639, 2641

**Prayer (P):** Prayer is communication with God. A person prays by lifting up their minds and hearts to God. Prayer may be alone with God or together with many other people in Church assembly. CCC 2559

**Prayer Life (4):** Just as each person has a part of their life devoted to school, each person is called to have a part of their life devoted to prayer and to God. A person’s prayer life should consist of daily prayer, participation in the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church, and other devotions that praise and worship God. CCC 2698

**Pre-Catechumenate:** The first period of the Christian Initiation of Adults, which is the initial introduction of an inquirer into the Christian way of life in the Catholic Tradition. It is also the period of evangelization on the part of the Church.

**Precepts of the Church (8):** A precept is another word for a rule. The Precepts of the Church are five rules which all baptized Catholics must follow. CCC 2041, 2043

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
6. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

**Prefigure:** A sign or symbol that points to a future event or person. There are many people in the Old Testament that prefigure Christ, such as David. David prefigures Christ because he is the king of God’s people. In the New Testament we see that Christ is like a king to the people of the Church. There are also many things in the Old Testament that prefigure the Sacraments. The crossing of Red Sea prefigures Baptism because the Israelites are freed from the slavery of the Egyptians just as Christians are freed from the slavery of sin in the Sacrament of Baptism. CCC 1221

**Pride:** Pride is one of the seven deadly or capital sins. Pride is an unhealthy love of self. CCC 1866

**Priest (P):** Priests receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. This allows them to act ‘in the person of Christ.’ They offer sacrifice to God in order to honor God’s kingship over all things and in order to make up for their own and others’ sin. Jesus, who is both God and man, is the eternal high priest and He offered himself once and for all on the Cross. Jesus renews that one sacrifice on the altar during Mass. Priests have the authority to consecrate the bread and wine at Mass, changing it into the Body and Blood of Christ, and then offer this to God the Father. Ordained priests also have the authority to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Penance. The Apostles were the first ordained priests and every priest and bishop can trace their ordination back to the Apostles. In addition to men who are specially ordained as priests, all baptized Christians share in the priesthood of Christ. We are able to offer ourselves and join our sacrifices to the one sacrifice of Christ during the Mass. CCC 1562, 1568

**Prodigal Son (1):** The Luke 15:11-32 parable which shows God as the loving Father who forgives his children and reconciles with them.

**Profession of Faith:** The Nicene Creed prayed each Sunday during the Mass. CCC 14, 195

**Promised Land (6):** The land promised by God to Moses and the Israelites when they escaped from Egyptian captivity, otherwise known as the region of Palestine. CCC 1222

**Prophecy (6):** The expression and deliverance of a message from God which constitutes a true judgment of the present, in the light of the future, arrived at in obedience to the will and under the authority of God.

**Prophet (6):** A prophet is one who speaks in the name of God. The message is in obedience to God. In the Old Testament there were many prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. John the Baptist is a New Testament prophet. CCC 64, 201, 523

**Prophetic Books:** The books in the Old Testament that tell of the prophecies of the four major and twelve Minor Prophets. A prophet both proclaims and foretells the Kingdom of God. The books include: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Lamentations, Baruch, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. CCC 122

**Protestant Reformation:** The Protestant Reformation began in Europe in the sixteenth century with several reformers who had significant differences with the Catholic Church. Although they began their reforms inside the Catholic Church they eventually abandoned these efforts and began their own communities. CCC 406, 1400

**Proverb:** The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of many short wisdom sayings. The Book of Proverbs has many individual Proverbs. These proverbs are meant to teach a lesson or provide wise guidance for living one's life.

**Prudence (3):** Prudence is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Prudence is the habit of choosing correctly that which should be done or not done in a particular circumstance. CCC 1806

**Psalms:** A psalm is a prayer from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. In this book there are 150 psalms. Some are psalms of praise and thanksgiving. Others are expressing repentance or petition. Christ prayed the psalms during His life on earth. Every day in Her worship the Church prays the psalms. CCC 2585, 2589

**Purgatory:** Purgatory is the experience of purification and healing granted in God's mercy to those who die and who are not yet able to enjoy the fullness of life in heaven. As members of the Communion of Saints we, on earth, pray for the souls in purgatory, that they may be released from this period of purification. November 2 is the Feast of the Holy Souls, a time when the Church reminds us of this need for purification. CCC 1030, 1032, 1472

**Purification and Enlightenment (7):** The third period of the Christian Initiation of Adults, which usually coincides with the Season of Lent. It is the final period of preparation for initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Purification:** In purgatory, we undergo purification so that we can be made worthy to enter into heaven. This purification is something like the pain that comes from all genuine growth in love. As self-love is abandoned Christ heals and purifies the soul. St. Augustine stated that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. This purification process in purgatory removes all 'temporal punishment' of sin from our soul so that we are brought to the holiness which allows us to enter into eternal life with God. CCC 1030, 1031

## Q

## R

**Racism:** The belief that one race or group is better or worse than other races or groups of people. God taught us that each person has dignity because they are created in His image. Racism destroys the dignity due to each person. CCC 1935

**Rationalism:** The philosophical belief that knowledge and truth come from human reason and not faith.

**Real Presence:** The Sacrament of the Eucharist celebrates the memorial of Christ's death on the cross. A priest offers this same sacrifice, joining with Christ in this sacrifice He made to His Father for our salvation. During each Mass, the faithful receive the very Body and Blood of Christ which become present through the actions of the priest. Christ is truly present and this is known as the 'real presence.' Outside of Mass Christ's true presence remains in the Tabernacle under the appearance of bread (host) and as well during Eucharistic Adoration when the host is placed in the monstrance for all to adore. CCC 1378, 1379

**Reason:** Is the mental faculty given to each person. Reason is the ability to judge, discern, ponder, predict, and conclude. CCC 50, 156, 159, 274, 1706, 1730

**Reconcile / Reconciliation (5):** Reconciliation is the act of making right that which has been wrong. In the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation our sins are forgiven and we are reunited in relationship with God if we have committed mortal sin. If we have weakened our relationship with God through venial sin, God's forgiveness strengthens our relationship with Him. CCC 1422, 1468, 1469

**Red Sea:** The great sea that forms a border between in modern day Israel and Jordan which Moses and all the Israelites crossed when they were fleeing from Pharaoh.

**Redeemer:** Jesus Christ is the Redeemer because He suffered and died on the cross for all people. Through His suffering and death all are brought out of the captivity of sin. CCC 571, 601, 605

**Reform (8):** Reform is to make a change for the better. In the Old Testament God often calls for the Israelites to reform their ways and turn back to God.

**Relativism (8):** A broad term designating a wide range of views that have in common the denial of the possibility of determining the truth particularly in matters of philosophy, religion and morals.

**Religious Institutes / Religious Life (5) / Religious Orders:** Religious Institutes in the Church are an ancient form of consecrated life; beginning during the first few centuries of Christianity. All Religious Institutes profess the evangelical counsels (poverty, chastity and obedience), live a life in common embracing a special charism, and are public witnesses of the special union between Christ and His Church. People in Religious Institutes often wear a special habit. Religious Institutes can either be an apostolic order or a contemplative order. Some examples of Religious Institutes are the Benedictines, Dominicans and Franciscans. CCC 925, 927

**Renaissance:** The Renaissance, which began in Italy in the 1300's, was a time of rediscovery of classical learning and great cultural flourishing. Influenced by the Eastern culture, it brought about more intricate paintings, larger church buildings, and more complex musical compositions in the Church.

**Reparation:** Reparation means to repair. If a person sins, the Church, through the Sacrament of Penance asks that they make some form of prayer or penance to repair the damage they have committed. Reparation is necessary for God's forgiveness of sin. CCC 1414, 2412, 2487, 2509

**Repentance:** True sorrow for sins inspired by a love for God and a commitment to turn away from sin. CCC 982, 1492

**Rerum Novarum (8):** An encyclical with the English title *On the Condition of Human Labor*, published by Pope Leo XIII. The Pope wrote that overcoming the poverty he saw around him was the primary reason for its writing, and rather than calling for the overthrow of the capitalist order, he urged its renewal and transformation, so that justice could prevail in it.

**Respect (P):** Special care for people and things around us. When something is respected the good is promoted and it is protected from harm. The Catholic Church teaches us to have a great respect for human life. We are called to promote the good of human life and protect it from anything that might hurt it. CCC 2258, 2283

**Resurrection (1):** After Christ's death, three days later He rose from the dead. The Gospels tell of Christ's Resurrection. It is a mystery of faith. CCC 638

**Revelation (6):** Revelation is God's communication of Himself to humanity. Natural revelation refers to God indirectly revealing Himself to us through the everyday visible world, or through our use of natural reason. Supernatural revelation refers to God's direct communication to us which culminates in Jesus Christ, who is God. The transmission of supernatural revelation in time is through Sacred Scripture and Holy Tradition, guarded and taught by the Magisterium of the Church. CCC 50

**Revelation, Book of:** The final book in the New Testament. Often attributed to John the Evangelist, it tells of his visions and dreams of the second coming of Jesus and the unveiling of the Kingdom of God on earth. The accounts within the book should not be understood solely in the literal sense but the history, audience, and genre should be taken into consideration. Like most apocalyptic literature, allegories and symbolism are extensively used.

**Reverence:** Reverence is to give the honor due to someone. Reverence is shown towards parents and legitimate civil authorities, and to Church authorities. Religious reverence, the highest form of reverence, is given to God and those persons or things associated with Him. Thus, reverence towards a consecrated individual such as a priest, consecrated person, or towards sacred objects is ultimately directed to God.

### **Right Judgment (See Counsel)**

**Right to Life:** Each person has a right to life and respect from others, the Church and society. A most critical offense today is the right to life for the unborn child. Abortion kills the child in the womb. This widely accepted practice by government and individual people morally offends the right to life. CCC 2258, 2270

**Righteous:** Free from sin and blameless before God. A righteous person avoids committing sins and tries to do what is right at all times.

**Rings in Marriage:** The Church has many signs to point to a spiritual reality. In the Sacrament of Matrimony the couple exchange blessed rings which are a sign of their marital union in Christ. Rings are a sign of permanent commitment to each other. CCC 1601

**Rite:** The Latin word means religious custom, usage, or ceremony. It refers to the words and actions prescribed for a liturgical or sacramental act. During the celebration of the sacraments and other liturgical events, certain rites are necessary. In the form of words and gestures, rites assure the proper administration of the sacrament. An example is: During the Rite of Baptism, the formula "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." CCC 1201, 1203

**Roman Missal:** The literal translation of *Missale Romanum*, the title of the book containing the introductory documents and prayer-texts for the celebration of Mass according to the Roman Rite.

**Rosary:** The Rosary is a special devotional prayer that reflects upon the many mysteries of the Life of Christ. It is prayed using five decades of beads. The twenty decades are composed of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries. CCC 971, 2678, 2708

**Rule, Religious:** The basic regulations of a religious institute are found in its rule. These regulations encompass the order of life and overall discipline of an institute, developed and amplified in its constitutions. The most influential religious rules were those composed by St. Basil, St. Augustine, and St. Benedict. Many subsequent religious rules are based upon these early rules.

**Rule of St. Benedict:** Benedict of Nursia composed his Rule around the year 525. The Rule is a guide to monastic living for monks who lived within an abbey. In his rule, Benedict envisioned a life of *ora et labora* (prayer and work) for monks. The Rule of St. Benedict has 73 chapters, and begins with a call to renounce one's own will and place the will of God as the first priority.

## S

**Sabbath (4):** The Sabbath is the "seventh day" of the Jewish week. This comes from Scripture where it describes that after the six days of creation were complete, God rested on the seventh day. Christians observe the Sabbath on Sunday; the day of the week Christ rose from the dead and begins the new creation. Sunday Mass fulfills the commandment to remember and keep holy the Sabbath day. Sunday is also a day of rest for human kind. CCC 2175

**Sacrament (K):** A sacrament is an outward sign of God's grace. The sacraments were instituted by Christ and are received through the life of the Church. Through the action of the Holy Spirit each sacrament brings a special divine grace to our lives. The Church has seven sacraments. CCC 1113, 1116, 1131

**Sacrament of Healing:** There are two Sacraments of Healing, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance. These sacraments are meant to primarily heal the soul of each person but they can also lead to healing of the body. CCC 1420, 1421

**Sacraments of Initiation:** The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. By receiving these three sacraments a person is fully a member of the Christian Community which is the Body of Christ. Baptism is the beginning. Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. The Eucharist completes Christian Initiation. Eucharist is the continual nourishment of Christian Life. It has the highest place among the seven sacraments. CCC 1212

**Sacrament of Service:** There are two Sacraments at the Service of Communion, the Sacrament of Holy Order and the Sacrament of Matrimony. These two Sacraments are ordered toward the salvation of other people. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders the priest helps to make the people holy. In the Sacrament of Matrimony the couple helps to make each other holy and to make their children holy. CCC 1540, 1641

**Sacramentals (5):** Sacramentals are sacred signs (objects, actions and blessings) which specially prepare a person to receive the graces of the sacraments. Sacramentals do not impart grace. Sacraments impart grace while sacramentals prepare a soul to receive the graces that are proper to the Sacraments. A few examples of sacramentals are: the Rosary, the Sign of the Cross, and Holy Water. CCC 1667, 1671

**Sacred (P):** Connected with God or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration.

**Sacred Scripture (1):** The Scriptures are the sacred writings contained in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Scripture is inspired by God, and is sacred. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are together the "Word of God", the way God has chosen to speak to humankind. CCC 81, 120, 134, 136

**Sacred Tradition (6):** A theological term used to refer to the fundamental basis of Church authority. It is the teachings and practices handed down, whether in oral or written form but not independently of Sacred Scripture. The Council of Trent (1546) affirmed both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as divine sources of Christian Doctrine.

**Sacrifice (K):** A sacrifice is the act of offering a gift of love to God. This offering takes the form of “giving up” something or depriving oneself of something. Jesus Christ is the supreme Sacrifice because He died to atone for the sins of all people. People make sacrifices by giving their money for special causes or by depriving themselves of pleasures and offering this penance to God for some greater good through acts of adoration, gratitude and supplication. CCC 616, 2099, 2100

**Sacrifice of the Mass:** The Sacrifice of the Mass is the Eucharistic celebration. It is called a sacrifice because it makes present sacramentally the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross. CCC 1330, 1365, 1368

**Saints (K):** God calls all people to be united with Him in this world and the next. The Church recognizes many people after they have died who have lived a holy life of great charity and heroic virtue. They become canonized saints. All people in heaven are saints. CCC 823, 946, 948

**St. Mother Theodore Guérin:** In 1840, Mother Theodore Guérin came from France with her Sisters of Providence to establish a mission in what is now Terre Haute, Indiana. Her mission in Indiana was the education of young women and the establishing of missions. By following the rivers she came to Fort Wayne and established the first Catholic school in the area in 1846. In 2006, St. Mother Guérin became the first canonized saint of Indiana.

**St. Paul:** Paul persecuted the Christians in the early Church. One day on his journey, while he was nearing Damascus, “a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:1-8) St. Paul then became one of the greatest missionaries to the Gentiles. Many of the epistles of the New Testament are his writings. They are filled with advice of how to truly live the Christian life. Paul was martyred for his faith by being beheaded outside the walls of Rome. The feast day of his conversion is celebrated on June 25<sup>th</sup>. He also shares a feast day with St. Peter on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Peter:** Peter was one of the twelve apostles. Before Christ’s Ascension He appointed Peter as the head of the Church on earth. He established many local churches. He was martyred in Rome, crucified upside down as he saw himself unworthy to die as Christ did. Peter and Paul worked together for the building up of the Church. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Church celebrates the Chair of St. Peter recognizing his authority over the Church and on June 29<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

**Salvation:** Salvation is liberation from sin and its consequences, especially the consequences death and of eternal separation from God. Salvation comes through the redemptive work of Jesus’ passion, death, and Resurrection. Individually, we are saved through grace, which enables us to repent from sin and cooperate with God’s saving power. CCC 169, 620, 1811

**Salvation History:** Salvation History is God’s progressive revelation to humanity with the goal of reconciling humanity back to Himself. Salvation History encompasses the original creation of man, the fall, the old covenant, the revelation of the law, the prophets, the promise of the Messiah, the coming of the Savior Jesus Christ, His life on earth, and the founding of His Church. In a certain sense salvation history is ongoing, both personally and collectively, and will only be concluded at the end of time when God’s plan for humanity reaches its culmination. CCC 280, 332, 431, 668, 1080

**Samaritan / Good Samaritan (P):** Samaritans are the descendants of those Jews who were not taken in exile to Babylon and who remained in Palestine and developed their own distinctive religious customs. The parable of the Good Samaritan is told by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke 10:29-37.

**Sanctifier of the Church:** A title given to the Holy Spirit. This expresses the role of the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete sent by Christ to safeguard and inspire the Church. The Holy Spirit bestows various gifts and direction on the Church constantly calling and aiding the Church in her life of holiness. CCC 767, 768

**Sanctifying Grace (5):** Grace is the gift of God's divine life which is first given to us in Baptism. Grace remains in our soul as long as we are faithful to God. If we commit mortal sin our souls are deprived of God's grace. Through prayer, the sacramental life, and living charitably, grace strengthens our relationship with God and others. This is what is meant by sanctifying – the increase of divine life within. CCC 824, 1266, 1999, 2001, 2023, 2024

**Savior (K):** Jesus Christ became the savior of all humanity. He became man to save us through His life, death and Resurrection. The name Jesus in the Hebrew language means "God saves." CCC 430

**Scandal:** Whenever the attitude or behaviors of another knowingly leads someone to commit an act of evil it is called scandal. CCC 2284, 2287

**Scholasticism (8):** A method of theological and philosophical speculation which aims at better understanding and deeper penetration of revealed truths and Christian doctrine through the intellectual processes of analogy, definition, speculation, coordination, and systematization of these materials.

**Scribes:** In the New Testament a term referring to a certain professional class of highly educated Jews who studied, explained, and defended Jewish law and scriptures. Christ rebukes them for their hypocrisy in slavishly adhering to the details of the law while ignoring its more important requirements such as the spirit of the law.

**Scriptures:** (See **Sacred Scripture**)

**Scrutinies (Rite of) (7):** Three rites of exorcisms for elect (unbaptized) during Lent.

**Second Coming:** The Incarnation marked the first coming of Jesus Christ when He took on human form. His second coming will be a return in glory when He comes as Savior to judge the living and the dead. This will be the end of time when all creation will find fulfillment. This particular time is unknown to humanity. CCC 676, 681, 682, 994, 1001

**Second Vatican Council:** The Second Vatican Council is the twenty-first Ecumenical Council of the Church. It was called by Pope John XXIII and began in 1962. The Council was held over four sessions between October 11, 1962 and December 13, 1965. The Council encouraged the Church to look back to the writings of the Fathers. It produced sixteen documents which clarified Church teaching but did not change it. The Second Vatican Council has many things to teach us even today.

**Sects (8):** A group of people with somewhat different beliefs (typically regarded as heretical) from those of a larger group to which they belong.

**Secular (8):** Denoting attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis. Also something not subject to or bound by religious rule; not belonging to or living in a monastic or other order.

**Secular Institutes:** Secular Institutes in the Church are a relatively new vocation that was approved in 1947. All Secular Institutes profess the evangelical counsels (poverty, chastity and obedience), belong to a community, live independently and seek to do God's work in the world above all else. Members of Secular Institutes can be single lay men and women, single deacons, and priests. They retain their secular career and work to be an example to the world of living for Christ. Some examples of Secular Institute are the Apostolic Oblates, Caritas Christi, and Lay Missionaries of the Passion. CCC 928, 929

**Seder:** Refers to the memorial meal eaten during the Jewish celebration of Passover. Also see Passover.

**See:** The word 'see' comes from the Latin *sedes* meaning seat. It originally referred to the seat of the Bishop in a diocese. Now it refers more broadly to the area which is under a special bishop's authority. The Holy See or Apostolic See refers to the Diocese of Rome where the pope is the bishop who has authority.

**Seminarian:** One who attends an ecclesiastical seminary, a candidate for the priesthood.

**Seraphim:** Angels described in the Book of Isaiah to have six wings. These angels are very special angels that are present at God's throne and praise Him.

**Sermon on the Mount:** The Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew 5: 1-12. Jesus spoke to His disciples and the people gathered and received the Beatitudes. CCC 577, 1968

**Service:** The Christian life calls each person to give help to others: the poor, the elderly and the stranger. There are many ways to give service. CCC 852, 910

**Sign of the Cross (P):** This is a prayer in honor of the Blessed Trinity. CCC 2157 It is made in the form of a cross using the words:

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

**Sin (P):** Sin is a deliberate offense against God and His Commandments. It either wounds or severs our relationship with God. CCC 1849, 1850

**Sin of Omission (4):** (See Omission)

**Single Life:** A person who chooses to live a single life is not married. The single life can be chosen temporarily or permanently. Some people discern that they can better serve God by not marrying. Others live the single life until the time that they meet the person that God wants them to marry or they feel God calling them into religious life or to the priesthood. All single people are called to live chastely by refraining from all sexual activity. CCC 1618, 1620

**Sirach:** A book of the Bible that can be found in Old Testament Wisdom Literature. The book of Sirach contains many profound statements which teach a person to love the virtue of wisdom.

**Sloth:** One of the capital sins is a lack of desire to do ones duties. It is a spiritual laziness or sorrow that neglects the good that could be done out of unwillingness or lack of hope. CCC 1866, 2094, 2733, 2755

**Spontaneous Prayer:** Spontaneous prayer rises unannounced from our hearts, often without words, usually in response to something God had done, whether it is a beautiful sunset or a random act of kindness by a complete stranger. “Whether the prayer is expressed in words or gestures it is the whole man who prays.” CCC 2562

**Social Justice (8):** Social Justice is making sure that each human person is treated with respect and has everything necessary to live a healthy life. The Church calls each person to work for social justice. Even a young person can work for social justice by making sure that unjust things are not done to those around them. CCC 1928

**Sola Scriptura (8):** In Scripture alone. One of the cardinal principles of Protestantism; it declares that all of divine revelation is contained exclusively in the Bible. It therefore denies that there is any revealed tradition.

**Son: (See Son of God)**

**Son of God (K):** God the Son is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. God the Son became man and took on a human nature. Jesus Christ is therefore truly the Son of God. When this title is applied to Jesus it recognizes and acknowledges His Divine Nature. CCC 468, 470

**Son of Man:** A title for Christ – often applied to Himself. This title emphasizes Christ's human nature. CCC 460

**Song of Solomon:** Song of Solomon, also known as Song of Songs, is a beautiful love poem symbolizing God's love for His people. It can be found in the Old Testament with the Wisdom Literature.

**Sorrowful Mysteries:** The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion. CCC 572, 971

**Soul:** A soul refers to the spiritual principle of the human person. Human beings have a "rational soul", which means we have the ability to think and the ability to freely will our actions. Human souls are spiritual, which means they are not made out of matter. The human person is composed of a material element, the body, and an incorporeal element, the soul. The human soul is immortal, meaning it will always exist once it is created by God. At death our soul is separated from our body, but awaits the return of the body at the end of time. CCC 363, 365, 366

**Spiritual:** Spiritual refers to the life of grace in a person. Spiritual things cannot be seen, touched, or perceived by the senses. A person who grows spiritually manifests their union with God by living a virtuous life. CCC 327, 330, 363

**Spiritual Communion:** The conscious burning desire to receive Holy Communion when unable to do so physically.

**Spiritual Works of Mercy (8):** The works of mercy are divided into two types: corporal (meaning of the body) and spiritual (meaning of the soul). CCC 2447 The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- Instruct the ignorant.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Admonish sinners.
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Forgive others willingly.
- Comfort the sorrowful.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

**Stations of the Cross (1):** The Stations of the Cross are a traditional Catholic practice in which fourteen events from the trial to the burial of Christ are recalled and meditated upon. It is common for parishes to have Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. CCC 572

**Steward:** A steward is a person who cares for the belongings or dealings of another. All people are called to be good stewards of the things that God has given them. CCC 373

**Stigmata:** Some holy people are chosen by Christ to bear His wounds. This is known as the stigmata. St. Francis of Assisi was the first recognized person to carry the five wounds of Christ.

**Stole (3):** A stole is a liturgical garment. It is a strip of cloth worn around the neck by bishops, priests, and deacons. Bishops and priests wear the stole over both shoulders with both ends hanging down, or crossed, in front. A deacon wears the stole like a sash over one shoulder. The stole is a sign of the dignity of Holy Orders and the authority and responsibility given by God.

**Successors (3):** In Catholicism we believe that bishops are the successors of the apostles. The Pope is the representative of Christ on earth. He appoints bishops who, through their ordination, become successors of the Apostles. CCC 862, 1555

**Suffering / Suffered (1):** Because of Original Sin, suffering became a part of human life on earth. Suffering in Christian life can lead to greater good when it is experienced in union with the sufferings Christ endured for the redemption of all people. CCC 1500, 1505

**Synoptic:** Synoptic refers to the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The word “synoptic,” from the Greek word for a general overview, refers to the similarity of the first three Gospels to each other in structure and content.

## T

**Tabernacle:** In Catholic churches there is a Tabernacle, a sacred object in the form of a round or square receptacle. Within it are contained consecrated hosts, the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ. It is safely made immovable and is locked. A burning light nearby is a sign that Christ is present in the Tabernacle. CCC 1183, 1379

**Temperance (3):** Temperance one of the Cardinal Virtues which helps a person to balance their life so that they do not spend too much time on merely pleasurable things and not enough time on God. The virtue of temperance helps a person grow closer to Christ. CCC 1805, 1809, 1838, 2290

**Temple:** In Old Testament times the Temple was a special place where Jews offered sacrifice and worshiped God. CCC 576, 583, 584

**Temple of the Holy Spirit:** The baptized person is considered a Temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus a person is a sacred being who must be respected. CCC 1265

**Temptation:** A temptation is a desire to sin. Temptations arise from three sources: the world (bad example or pressure of others), the flesh (human weakness due to concupiscence), or the devil (the action of evil spirits). Temptations are allowed by God in order to strengthen us in the face of trial and help us to rely on His grace. CCC 2846, 2849

**Ten Commandments (K):** In the Old Testament God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. They are God’s laws which tell us how we are to live so that we will know goodness and union with God on earth. CCC 2052; pages 496-497

**Thanksgiving (P):** Thanksgiving is a special type of prayer in which a person thanks God for all the blessings that God has given. The highest form of thanksgiving is the Eucharist in which the Church thanks God for the gift of His Son. In thanking God in the Eucharist the Church becomes more fully who She is created to be. CCC 2637, 2638

**Theological Virtues (3):** The Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and charity (love). These virtues are supernatural and are not attainable on our own, but only with God’s grace. The virtue of faith allows us to believe in the truths of revelation because God, who is trustworthy, has revealed them. The virtue of hope allows us to trust that we will have eternal life because God wills it. The virtue of charity, the greatest of the virtues, allows us to love God and our neighbor out of love for God. Since it is God who gives us these virtues, and because they are directed towards Him, they are called theological, which means “of God.” CCC 1812, 1829

**Torah:** A reference to the first five books of the Old Testament, or the “Pentateuch.” The books are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

**Tradition (3):** (See Sacred Tradition)

**Transitional (5):** Within the Sacrament of Holy Orders there are three callings. The first is the deacons who are called to represent Christ as servant. The second is the ministerial priesthood which is the call to live ‘in persona Christi’ – becoming the representative of the person of Christ. The fullness of this sacrament is the Bishop who is called as a priest to be a leader, shepherding and teaching. Deacons may be transitional or permanent. Deacons who will continue to the priesthood are called ‘transitional deacons’. Deacons who do not go on for priesthood are ordained to be permanent deacons.

**Transubstantiation:** Transubstantiation is the term used to describe the change of the elements (bread and wine) during the Eucharistic prayer: by the action of the Holy Spirit they are changed substantially (but not in appearance) into Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Jesus is present in a true and most special way by His Body and Blood. This presence is the most profound encounter we have with Christ during our life on earth. CCC 1376

**Trespass (1):** A voluntary wrongful act against the person or property of another.

**Tribes of Israel (6):** The social units of the Jewish nation descended from Jacob through his twelve sons (Genesis 49). Strictly speaking there were thirteen tribes: Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, and Benjamin, along with the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, whom Jacob adopted as his own (Genesis 48), and who therefore also became founders of tribes. But in the distribution of territory in the Promised Land, the tribe of Levi received no possession (Joshua 13) and perhaps for that reason is not counted as a tribe. Each tribe in turn was divided into clans, named after the grandsons of Jacob, and these in turn were subdivided into houses (Numbers 1, 26; Joshua 7) and the houses into families. In the family the father had complete authority over his wife (or wives) and children. The fathers, in turn, were elected or accepted by common consent, heads of families, or heads of houses whose directives they were to obey. The clan was subject to the prince of the tribe, also called a prince of Israel (Numbers 1, 7). Later, under the monarchy, the tribes became mere social units.

**Triduum (1):** A liturgical celebration of three days duration, as in the Easter Triduum. CCC 1168

**Trinity (7):** The Trinity is the central mystery of our faith which states that there are three Persons in one God. The three Persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When the Sign of the Cross is made, each person is acknowledged. CCC 232, 234, 253-55, 261, 2157

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

**True Presence (See Real Presence):**

**Trust:** Trust is the reliance on another's honesty. Faith, therefore, is based on trust of God who does not, and cannot, deceive. CCC 215

**Typology (6):** The discernment of persons, events, or things in the Old Testament which prefigured, and thus serves as a “type” (or prototype) of, the fulfillment of God's plan in the person of Christ. The typology of the Old Testament which is made clear in the New Testament demonstrates the dynamic unity of the divine plan of salvation. CCC 128

## U

**Understanding:** Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects the apprehension of the truth. A person who possesses the gift of understanding is able to better understand the mysteries that God has revealed. CCC 1303, 1831

**Unity (3):** Unity has two meanings:

1. Unity is one of the four marks of the Church, and which we reference each Sunday when we pray the Nicene Creed: “We believe in ONE, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” One aspect of this unity is the unity of doctrine, worship, and governance that all the faithful adhere to. CCC 813, 816
2. Unity also refers to the nature of God, who is absolutely one in His own being. There cannot be other gods. In relation to the doctrine of the Trinity, unity refers to the truth that in God there are three Divine Persons, united each fully possessing the One Divine Nature. CCC 254

**Universal Church:** The Universal Church is the entire Church founded by Christ. Each and every parish is part of the Universal Church. CCC 835

**Unleavened Bread:** Unleavened bread is bread without any yeast. Jews use unleavened bread in the celebration of the Passover to remember the flight from Egypt when they did not have time to wait for the yeast to rise in the bread and had to eat their bread without any yeast. Roman Catholics use unleavened bread for the Eucharist to remember what Jesus used when He first celebrated the Eucharist. CCC 1334, 1339

## V

**Vatican City:** An independent papal state on the Tiber River within Rome, Italy. The smallest sovereign state created by the Lateran Treaty signed in 1929 by Pope Pius XI and Victor Emmanuel.

**Venial Sin:** Venial Sin is an offence against God, which wounds our relationship with Him. CCC 1862, 1863

**Vestment (K):** A vestment is a garment worn by priests during special religious services such as the Mass, the celebration of the Sacraments or during prayer gatherings in church.

**Virtue (3):** A good habit that enables us to more easily and readily act the right way. The contrary inclination, a habit that causes one to more readily act in an evil way is called vice. Thus, one in possession of much virtue is called virtuous, whereas one in possession of many vices is said to be vicious. CCC 1803

**Visitation (5):** Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth. When Mary greets Elizabeth at the Visitation the infant leaps in Elizabeth's womb and she proclaims, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary responds with the Magnificat. CCC 717

**Vocal Prayer:** Vocal Prayer is a prayer in which a person uses words to communicate with God in prayer. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray He taught them vocal prayer, the Our Father. Because humankind is a spiritual and bodily creature it is important for us to use our senses in our prayer. In vocal prayer a person is called to engage their mind and soul in thinking about God while using their lips to pray. Vocal prayer is one of the best types of prayer to use in a group because it is easily accessible to all. CCC 2700, 2704

**Vocation (5):** The vocation of all people is to love and serve God in this life so as to attain eternal happiness. Individuals are called to specific vocations such as marriage, priesthood, the single life or consecrated life which has various forms. CCC 873, 898

**Vows (4):** Vows are solemn promises to God to do something good. Vows invoke the assistance of God to help one fulfill the vow, and may be temporary or permanent. Consecrated people make permanent vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. CCC 2102

**Vulgate:** The Latin translation of the Bible done by St. Jerome that is often used in the Catholic Church.

## W

**Water:** Water is made holy by being blessed. It is the special substance used for the Sacrament of Baptism. When water is blessed it is used in devotional practices such as putting the fingers in the Holy Water font and making the Sign of the Cross. Objects are sometimes blessed with Holy Water. CCC 1238, 1668

**Widow / Widower:** A widow (woman) or widower (man) is a person who was married but has lost their spouse to death. A person who has been widowed can choose to live the single life for the rest of their earthly life or they can choose to remarry if that is what God is calling them to do. The Church sometimes calls this the Order of Widows. CCC 922

**Wisdom:** Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects a person's reason in matters of judgment on the truth. A person with the gift of wisdom begins to think in the way that God thinks and comes to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the mysteries of the Faith. CCC 1303, 1831

**Wisdom Literature:** The books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom and Sirach are all considered wisdom literature because they teach a person to live wisely according to God's laws.

**Witness:** A witness is someone who testifies to the truth relying on their own experience. In the Christian sense, a witness is a member of the faithful who testifies to the Truth of Christ and the reality of God's grace in their lives through their words and deeds. CCC 2472

**Word of God (6):** The entire content of revelation as contained in the Holy Bible and proclaimed in the Church. In John's Gospel, God's "Word" means his only begotten Son, who is the fullness of God's revelation and who took flesh (the Word incarnate) and became man for the sake of our salvation. CCC 65, 81, 101, 241, 461

**Works of Mercy:** The works of mercy are divided into two types: corporal (meaning of the body) and spiritual (meaning of the soul). CCC 2447

The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- Feeding the hungry.
- Giving drink to the thirsty.
- Sheltering the homeless.
- Clothing the naked.
- Visiting the sick.
- Visiting those in prison.
- Burying the dead.

The first six corporal works of mercy are taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25: 34 – 40).

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- Instructing the ignorant.
- Counseling the doubtful.
- Admonishing sinners.
- Bearing wrongs patiently.
- Forgiving others willingly.
- Comforting the sorrowful.
- Praying for the living and the dead.

**Worship (K):** Worship is the act of giving adoration and praise to God. CCC 347, 2096

**Wrath:** An inordinate feeling of anger. One of the Capital Sins, it is characterized by an excessive desire for revenge or repercussions upon the offending party. This passion can often lead to acts of violence that are always morally wrong. CCC 1772, 1866, 2302

X

Y

**Yahweh (6):** The name of God revealed to Moses by God at the Burning Bush. The name Yahweh means "I am who I am." The Israelites considered the name of God, Yahweh, so holy that they would never speak or pronounce it. CCC 205, 206

## Z

**Zeal:** Is fervor of the heart to serve God and others through acts of charity. Zeal accepts and loves the truths of the faith and openly defends and shares it with others. CCC 579

**Zion:** In the Old Testament, Zion referred originally to Jerusalem, and specifically to the City of David. Gradually the word began to take on the connotation of the whole Israelite nation and their homeland. In Christian terms, Zion began to connote the heavenly Jerusalem, the final homeland of the faithful.