

Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines

Glossary for Grades Seven and Eight

“The final criterion for the presentation of the Christian message is that it should foster a common language of the faith so that it may be proclaimed, celebrated, lived, and prayed in words familiar to all the faithful.”

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Adoration: Adoration is the act of giving worship. The Bible gives evidence 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*

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: This is 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.

Anne, Saint: St. Anne is the mother of the Virgin Mary and the spouse of St. Joachim. Unfortunately, the Church does not know much about Mary’s parents but we know that they were holy and God-fearing people.

Annunciation: 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*

Anointing of the Sick: 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 Christ-like 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

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: 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

Apostolic: 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 857-65; 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.

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

Archbishop John Francis Noll: John Francis Noll was consecrated the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne on June 30, 1925. He was an avid lecturer and wrote materials against the anti-Catholicism that was rampant at that time. While serving in Hartford City, he began a publication titled *The Parish Monthly* in 1908. He was then transferred to St. Mary's, Huntington, where he purchased a modern printing facility that

allowed him to begin printing a national Catholic weekly publication, where in 1912 he began printing *Our Sunday Visitor*. He remained editor of the paper until his death.

Arianism: 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

Assumption (Feast of): 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 15th. CCC 966

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

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Baptism: 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

Beatitudes: The eight beatitudes were given by Jesus they are referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. They bring special happiness to those who live by them. CCC 1716-18

Bishops: 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, 861-62, 869, 886, 894-96, 1555-61, 1594

Bishop Herman Joseph Alerding: Herman Joseph Alerding was consecrated the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne on November 30, 1900.

Bishop John Carroll: John Carroll was elected the first bishop of the United States in 1790 after Rome granted permission to the priests of the United States to elect a bishop. He was the Bishop of the Diocese of Baltimore for 25 years until his death in 1815.

Bishop John Henry Luers: John Henry Luers was consecrated the first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne on January 10, 1858. The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was built during his tenure as Bishop.

Bishop John Michael D'Arcy: John Michael D'Arcy was born August 18, 1932 in Brighton, Massachusetts. He attended the Jesuits' Boston College High School, Brighton, before entering St. John's Seminary, Brighton. He was ordained a priest on February 2, 1957 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston. He served as a parish priest for eight years before leaving for Rome, where he earned a Doctorate in Spiritual Theology from Angelicum University. Upon his return to the Archdiocese of Boston, he was appointed spiritual director and instructor at St. John's Seminary. He was consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Boston on February 11, 1975. He also was the founding director of the new Office of Spiritual Development for the Archdiocese of Boston along with his duties at St. John's Seminary. Bishop D'Arcy was installed as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend on May 1, 1985 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Joseph Dwenger, C.P.P.S.: Joseph Dwenger was consecrated as the Diocese of Fort Wayne's second bishop in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on April 14, 1872.

Bishop Joseph James Rademacher: Joseph James Rademacher was installed as the third bishop of Fort Wayne on October 3, 1893.

Bishop Leo Aloysius Pursley: Leo Aloysius Pursley was installed as sixth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne on February 26, 1957. During Bishop Pursley tenure he petitioned the Holy See to change the name of the Diocese of Fort Wayne to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as well as for St. Matthew's Parish South Bend to be named the newly formed diocese's Co-Cathedral in 1960.

Bishop William Edward McManus: William Edward McManus was installed the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on October 19, 1976.

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 Trinity: see *Trinity*

Blessing: 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, 1671-72, 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, 1396

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Capital Sins (also known as the Seven Deadly Sins): The vices which encompass and promote other vices and sins. They stem from disordered desires. They are called "deadly" because, like poison, they slowly kill virtue and one's relationship with God. The seven vices are: pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth.

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Cardinal Virtues: 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 1805-09

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.

Catacombs: 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.

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 830-31

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 2119-2422

Charism: A charism is a spiritual gift or grace freely given by God in the Holy Spirit to be used for the building up of the Church and humanity as a whole. CCC 799-801, 951

Charity (Love): 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: 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

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 unites 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 1211-13, 1229-30, 1285, 1322

Church: Church is the People of God who believe in the Trinity. Church is also called the Body of Christ. 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

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.

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: See *Communal Prayer*

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 of Saints: 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, 957-59, 962*

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 1455-46, 1548*

Confirmation: At the Sacrament of Confirmation the person receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit which “seals” and strengthens the baptized person to take on the full responsibilities of the Church. *CCC 698, 900, 941, 1121, 1285, 1303-05, 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 life-long task. God’s grace strengthens the conscience to choose rightly. *CCC 1776-78, 1783-85, 1795, 1798, 1802*

Consecrated Life: 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

Contemplatio: See *Lectio Divina*

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. CCC 1803

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: see *Works of Mercy*

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 15:1-35. 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 (also known as Right Judgment): 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

Covenant: 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, 203-04, 357, 577, 781, 839, 1102, 1612, 1961, 1964, 1965-72, 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: To covet is to have an inordinate attachment or desire for something. Covetousness is known more widely as avarice or greed. CCC 1866

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, 194-96

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.

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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 is the sign of Jesus Christ, the Servant. Deacons are to assist the Bishop in various ministries such as: helping the poor, ministering to those in prison, and other works of mercy. Their ministry also includes assisting the priest at Mass in ways such as proclaiming the Gospel and delivering the homily, celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, witnessing marriages, bringing *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.

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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

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.

Dignity: see *Dignity of the Human Person*

Dignity of the Human Person: Human life is sacred because it is made by God and reflects God's image. Therefore, respect and dignity are owed each life from the moment of conception until one's natural death. CCC 1700-1876

Diligence: Is a virtue related to fortitude. It is the steadfast acceptance and completion of ones 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: 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

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

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.

Divine Inspiration: See also *Inspiration*

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 88-90

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Easter Sunday: 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

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.

Enlightenment (also called the Age of Reason): 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

Epistles: 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.

Eternal Life: 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: 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 Adoration: See *Adoration*

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.

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

Exodus: The word "exodus" comes from the Greek meaning "to go out" or "to leave." The book of the Bible 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 -

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

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

Fasting: 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 Julian Benoit: Fr. Julian Benoit, who came from France, was ordained in the United States in 1837. He served as a priest in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He is buried in the crypt of the present Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

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.

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 of the Assumption of Mary: see *Assumption*

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 Her members. Fidelity to God means loving Him and obeying His commandments.

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.

Forgiveness: 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 and 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: 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: 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, 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.

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.

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

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Courage
- Counsel

- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

These are received through the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. *CCC 1831, 1845*

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: 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.

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*

Gospel: 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*

Grace: 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: 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.

Great Schism (also called the Great Western Schism): The word "schism" means division. The Great Schism occurred between the years 1378 to 1417. This sad division in the Church was caused by the election of three supreme pontiffs due to the dissatisfaction of some of the cardinals with the rightly elected pope. The Schism was ended when the College of Cardinals agreed on the election of Pope Martin V.

Great Schism of the Eastern and Western Church: 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.

Great Schism of the Papacy: See also *Great Schism*

Greed: see *Avarice*

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

- H -

Hail Mary: 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: 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 1023-25, 1029

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: That which is holy is God-like. 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 Eucharist: see *Eucharist*

Holy Days of Obligation: Holy Days of Obligation are very special feast days throughout the liturgical year. On these days each person is obligated to attend Mass. In addition to each and every Sunday, in the United States the Holy Days are:

- 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)

CCC 2042, 2177, 2180, 2185

Holy Father: see *Pope*

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, 1576, 1582-1583

Holy Tradition: God's Revelation given to humankind through Scripture and the teachings of the Apostles. Catholic Tradition contains the totality of Revelation which is preserved and protected by the Magisterium of the Church. CCC 78, 80-82 174

Holy Trinity: see *Trinity*

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

Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life): 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.

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 a 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, 2112-14, 2424

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: 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

Incarnation: The eternal Son of God, without the loss of His divinity, took upon Himself a complete human nature and was incarnate (en-fleshed) 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

Indulgence: 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.

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

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

Inquisition: Inquisition was a way of correcting heresy and heretics.

Inspiration: The action and influence of the Holy Spirit upon the 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

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

- 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.

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.

Joachim, Saint: St. Joachim is the father of the Virgin Mary and the spouse of St. Anne. Unfortunately, the Church does not know much about Mary's parents but we know that they were holy and God-fearing people.

John the Baptist: 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

Joseph, Saint: 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.

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

- K -

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: 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 -

Last Supper: 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

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: 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.

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

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

Lectio: See *Lectio Divina*

Lectio Divina: *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

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 27-30

Love (Charity): See also *Charity (Love)*

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, 2351

- M -

Magisterium: 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 85-88

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

Marriage: The Sacrament of Marriage is the professed union of one man and one woman, who pledge themselves 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 assist 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 they both shall live. CCC 1638, 1393, 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.

Martyr: 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

Mary: Mary became the Mother of Jesus Christ. Her earthy 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, 490-91

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 (Jn. 20: 1-18).

Mass: 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

Matrimony: see *Marriage*

Meditatio: See *Lectio Divina*

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 desire for God. CCC 2705-2708

Meek: 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

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

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: 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

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

Missionaries: 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 have 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: 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: A monastery is the dwelling place of monks and consecrated women who live apart from the world.

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

Morality: 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

Mourn: 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 love one or one who is greatly esteemed. CCC 1716

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 with out 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

Nestorianism: 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*). CCC 195

New Covenant: 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 Testament: 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.

- O -

Obedience: Obedience is an act of compliance to the will of another with legitimate authority. As a virtue, it is 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

Original Sin: 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 choose 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

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: 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

One: 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

Oratio: See *Lectio Divina*

Ordained Priest: see *Priest*

Original sin: The grace of original holiness was lost and Adam and Eve became subject to the law of death. God created man and woman in His image and likeness. God called them to obedience. Adam and Eve were tempted and they choose to do their own will rather than God’s. Sin then became universally present in the world. CCC 404

- P -

Parables: 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: 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

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 Mystery: 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*

Paschal Sacrifice: see *Paschal Mystery*

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: 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. To save us, by His death and Resurrection 'passes over' to God the Father. *CCC 1363-1364*

Pastor: At each parish there is one priest, the pastor, who is granted authority by the bishop to govern the parish. The pastor has the responsibility for preaching, teaching and governing in his own parish. Sometimes, the pastor is joined by an associate pastor who assists the pastor in his duties. *CCC 2179*

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.

Peacemaker: 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*

Penance (Sacrament of): The Sacrament of Penance and 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

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.” CCC 702

Pentecost: 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 2:1-44*). It marked the beginning of the Church. CCC 731-732, 767-768, 1076

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: See Deacon

Personal Prayer: Daily prayer between each person and God which 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.

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: 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

Piety (also known as Reverence): 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

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: The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and 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 880-882

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 Post-Synodal 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 Days, with the first taking place in Rome on Palm Sunday 1986. During his 27th 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: 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: 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*

Precepts of the Church: 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.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Pride: Pride is one of the seven deadly or Capital Sins. Pride is an unhealthy love of self.

Priest: Priests receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. 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 them 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*

Private: See Personal Prayer

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.

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.

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

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*

- Q -

- R -

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

Real Presence: True Presence is another expression for Real Presence. During the Sacrament of the Eucharist Christ becomes truly present, under the appearances of bread and wine. During the Eucharistic Prayer the priest has the power to change these elements of bread and wine into the very Body and Blood of Christ, who becomes truly present. *CCC 1373-1378*

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*

Reconciliation: 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*

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*

Religious Institutes (also know as 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, 2454, 2487, 2509*

Respect: 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.

Resurrection: 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: 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.

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

Rite: 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 is “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” CCC 1201, 1203

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 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 -

Sacrament: 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 744, 1113-1116, 1131

Sabbath: 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 humankind.

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 Marriage: see *Marriage*

Sacrament of Reconciliation: see *Reconciliation*

Sacrament of the Eucharist: 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*

Sacred Scripture: The scriptures are the sacred writings contained in the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Scripture is inspired by God, and is sacred. Sacred Scripture and Holy Tradition are together the “Word of God”, the way God has chosen to speak to humankind. *CCC 81, 120, 134-136*

Saints: 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 lived a holy life of great charity and heroic virtue. They become canonized saints. All people in heaven are saints. *CCC 823, 946, 948*

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

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: 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: Jesus Christ became the savior of all humanity. He became man to save us through His life, death, Resurrection and Ascension. 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

Scriptures: See *Sacred Scripture*.

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.

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

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.

Sermon on the Mount: The Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew 5-7. Jesus spoke to His disciples and the people gathered and received the Beatitudes. CCC 577, 1968

Sign of the Cross: 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: Sin is a deliberate offense against God and His Commandments. It either wounds or severs our relationship with God. CCC 1849-1850

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

Sloth: One of the Capital Sins which 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

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

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 Works of Mercy: See also *Works of Mercy*

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 Paul was thrown from his horse. Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision and told him “stop persecuting me.” 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. His feast day is celebrated 25th. He also shares a feast day with St. Peter on June 29th.

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 22nd the Church celebrates the Chair of St. Peter recognizing his authority over the Church and on June 29th the Church celebrates the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

Stations of the Cross: 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.

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.

Suffering: 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 -

Temperance: Temperance one of the Cardinal Virtues which helps a person to balance their life so 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*

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: 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 2052-2550

Thanksgiving: 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: 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

Transitional: See deacon

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

Trinity: 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.”

- 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*

- V -

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

Virtue: 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*

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: 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*

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: 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*

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.

World War I: World War I began in July of 1914 and ended in November of 1917. It involved countries from all over the world.

World War II: World War II began in September of 1939 and ended in August of 1945. Like World War I it involved many nations. The United States tried to stay neutral until Japan attacked at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan and soon the United States was totally submerged in the war.

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 -

- Z -

Zeal: Is a 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, 2442