

## DIOCESE OF GAYLORD RELIGION CURRICULUM GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### KEY

**A5**—Denotes item assessed on the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ACRE assessment.

**A9**—Denotes item assessed on the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade ACRE assessment.

**A12**—Denotes item assessed on the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade ACRE assessment.

*CCC*—Denotes glossary items from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition, ©2000, United States Catholic Conference.

Items without a notation are either a reworking of ACRE assessment items or items from *Catholic Dictionary*, ©2002, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

## A

- ABORTION:****A9** The deliberate ending of a pregnancy that results in the death of the unborn child. Such direct abortion, willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life. *CCC 2271-2*
- ABRAHAM:** The man of faith and patriarch of Israel with whom God made a covenant which promised him land in which to live and many descendants—a great people for whom the Lord would be their God. Through Abraham God formed the people to whom He would later give the law by revelation to Moses. With the advent of Christ, the people of Israel would serve as the root to which the Gentiles would be grafted by their coming to believe. *CCC 59, 72, 145, 705, 762, 2570*
- ABSOLUTION:** An essential element of the Sacrament of Penance in which the priest, by the power entrusted to the Church by Christ, pardons the sin(s) of the penitent. *CCC 1424, 1442, 1449, 1453, 1480*
- ACEDIA:** *See Sloth.*
- ADORATION:** The acknowledgment of God as God, Creator and Savior. The first commandment of the law obliges us to adore God through worship and prayer. *CCC 2096, 2628; cf. 1083*
- ADULTERY:** Marital infidelity, or sexual relations between two partners, at least one of whom is married to another party. The sixth commandment and the New Testament forbid adultery absolutely. *CCC 2380; cf. 1650*
- ADVENT:****A5** The liturgical season of four weeks devoted to the preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. *CCC 524*
- ALTAR:** The center and focal point of a church, where the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present under sacramental signs in the Mass. Among the Israelites the altar was the place where sacrifices were offered to God. *CCC 1182, 1383*

5/15/02

- ANAMNESIS:** A Greek work meaning “remembering” and referring specifically, in the Latin Rite to the prayer that follows the institution narrative and memorial acclamation and commemorates the death and resurrection of the Lord. *CCC 1103,1106, 1354, 1362*
- ANGEL:** A spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of His saving plan. *CCC 329-331*
- ANGER:** An emotion which is not in itself wrong, but which, when it is not controlled by reason or hardens into resentment and hate, becomes one of the seven capital sins. Christ taught that anger is an offence against the fifth commandment. *CCC 1765, 1866, 2262*
- ANNULMENT:A12** Declaration by an appropriate Church authority or tribunal that a sacrament, such as marriage, is invalid, and therefore lacking in all legal or canonical consequences. *Cf. CCC1629*
- ANNUNCIATION:** The visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After giving her consent to God’s word, Mary became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Feast celebrated March 25.) *CCC 484, 494*
- ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** One of the seven sacraments, also known as the “sacrament of the dying,” administered by a priest to a baptized person who begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age, through prayer and the anointing of the body with the oil of the sick. The proper effects of the sacrament include a special grace of healing and comfort to the Christian who is suffering the infirmities of serious illness or old age and the forgiving of the person’s sins. *CCC 1499, 1520, 1523, 1526-32*
- APOSTLE:** A term meaning one who is sent as Jesus was sent by the Father, and as He sent His chosen disciples to preach the gospel to the whole world. He called the Twelve to become His Apostles, chosen witnesses of His Resurrection and the foundation on which the Church is built. *CCC 857*
- APOSTLES’ CREED:** A statement of Christian faith developed from the baptismal creed or “symbol” of the ancient Church of Rome, the see of St. Peter, first of the Apostles. It is considered to be a faithful summary of the faith of the Apostles. It begins, ”I believe in God, the Father Almighty..” *CCC 194*
- APOSTOLIC:** A character (mark) of the Church; two related meanings: 1) describing anything having its origins or roots in the apostles 2) a term in Canon Law and Church tradition which refers to the papal see or offices, and other matters related to the papacy. *Cf. CCC 857*
- APOSTOLIC AGE:A12** Referring to the period of early Church formation; the period of time when the Church and its formation was directly influenced by the apostles.
- APPARITION:** An appearance to people on earth of a heavenly being—Christ, Mary, an angel or a saint. The apparitions of Jesus in His risen body to His disciples occurred between Easter and His ascension into heaven. *CCC 641, 649*

5/15/02

**ASCENSION:A9**

The entry of Jesus' humanity into divine glory in God's heavenly domain, forty days after His Resurrection. (also the solemnity recalling Jesus' return to the Father.) *CCC 659, 665*

**ASSUMPTION:A5,9**

The dogma which recognizes the Blessed Virgin Mary's singular participation in her Son's Resurrection by which she was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when the course of her earthly life was finished. (also the solemnity celebrated August 15.) *CCC 966*

**ATHEISM:**

The denial in theory and/or practice that God exists. Atheism is a sin against the virtue of religion required by the first commandment of the law. *CCC 2124-5*

**ATONEMENT:**

The Christian doctrine that Christ's redemptive act brought about reconciliation between God and man. The term has come to mean doing penance for one's sins. *CCC606-618*

## B

**BAPTISM:A5**

The first of the seven sacraments, and the "door" which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, Who died for our sins and rose for our justification. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist constitute the "sacraments of initiation" by which a believer receives the remission of original and personal sin, begins a new life in Christ and the Holy Spirit and is incorporated into the Church. The rite of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water, or pouring water on the head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. *CCC 977, 1213ff.; 1275, 1278*

**BEATIFICATION:**

One of the final steps in the canonization process; it is performed by the Supreme Pontiff after a person's life, writings, and teachings have been examined and found to contain nothing contrary to the teaching of the Church nor to the demands of Christian perfection. The person who is beatified is called "blessed."

**BEATITUDES:A5**

The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount on the meaning and way to true happiness (cf. Mt 5:1-12, Lk 6:20-23). These teachings reflect the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham; they portray the countenance of Christ and describe His charity. Moreover, by shedding light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life, they describe the vocation of all the faithful. *CCC 1716*

**BEGOTTEN SON:**

A term referring to Jesus. Jesus is the true Son of the Father, not created.

**BENEDICTION/EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Devotional celebration to honor the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, in which a consecrated Host is placed in a monstrance and enthroned on the altar between lighted candles and incensed for adoration of the faithful, often followed with hymns, the blessing by the priest or deacon with the Blessed Sacrament over the people and the recitation of the Divine Praises. *CCC 1378*

5/15/02

**BIBLE:A5**

**Sacred Scripture:** the books which contain the truth of God's revelation, composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit. *CCC 105* The Bible contains both the forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. *CCC 120*

**BISHOP:A5**

**One who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which makes him a member of the Episcopal college and a successor of the Apostles. He is the shepherd of a particular church entrusted to him. (often called to lead a diocese.)** *CCC 155; cf. 861, 886*

**BLASPHEMY:**

**Speech, thought or action involving contempt for God or the Church, or persons or things dedicated to God. Blasphemy is directly opposed to the second commandment.** *CCC 2148*

**BLESSING:**

**A blessing or benediction is a prayer invoking God's power and care upon some person, place, thing or undertaking. The prayer or benediction acknowledges God as the source of all blessing. Some blessings confer a permanent status: consecration or persons to God or setting things apart for liturgical usage.** *CCC 1671, 2626*

## C

**CALUMNY:**

**A false statement which harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them.** *CCC 2477*

**CANON LAW:**

**The rules (canons or laws) which provide the norms for good order in the visible society of the Church. Those canon laws that apply universally are contained in the Codes of Canon Law. The most recent Code of Canon Law was promulgated in 1983 for the Latin (Western) Church and in 1991 for the Eastern Church. also, official rules that guide all aspects of Church life.** *CCC*

**CANONIZATION:**

**The solemn declaration by the Pope that a deceased member of the faithful may be proposed as a model and intercessor to the Christian faithful and venerated as a saint on the basis of the fact that the person lived a life of heroic virtue or remained faithful to God through martyrdom.** *CCC 828; cf. 957*

**CARDINAL:**

**Highest ranking prelate below the papacy itself, now nearly always a bishop or archbishop, appointed by the Pope to assist him as a member of the College of Cardinals.**

**CARDINAL SINS:**

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

**CARDINAL VIRTUES:**

**Four pivotal human virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. The human virtues are stable dispositions of the intellect and will that govern our acts, order our passions and guide our conduct in accordance with reason and faith.** *CCC 1805, 1834*

5/15/02

- CATECHESIS:** An education of children, young people and adults in the faith of the Church through the teaching of Christian doctrine in an organic and systematic way to make them disciples of Jesus Christ. *CCC 5, 426-427*
- CATECHUMEN:** A person who is preparing for Baptism. *CCC 1237*
- CATECHUMENATE:** **A9,12** The formation of the catechumens in preparation for their Christian Initiation, and aims at bringing their conversion and their faith to maturity within the ecclesial community. *CCC 1248* The candidates are anointed with *oil of catechumens* by which they are strengthened in their conversion from sin and renunciation of Satan. *CCC 1237*
- CATHOLIC:** **A9,12** One of the four marks or notes of the Church, taken from the Nicene Creed. The Church is Catholic or universal both because she possesses the fullness of Christ's presence and the means of salvation, and because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race. *CCC 750, 830*
- CELIBACY:** The state or condition of those who have chosen to remain unmarried for the sake of the kingdom of heaven in order to give themselves entirely to God and to the service of His people. In the Latin Church, celibacy is obligatory for bishops and priests. In some Eastern Churches, celibacy is a prerequisite for the ordination only of bishops; priests may not marry after they have been ordained. *CCC 1579, 1580*
- CHARITY:** The theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. *CCC 1822*
- CHASTITY:** The moral virtue which, under cardinal virtue of temperance, provides for the successful integration of sexuality within the person heading to the inner unity of the bodily and spiritual being. *CCC 2337* Chastity is called one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. *CCC 1832* Hence, the virtue which regulates one's sexual thoughts, desires and actions. *CCC 2341, 2344, 2346, 2348, 2394-95*
- CHRISM:** Perfumed oil, consecrated by the bishop, which signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used for consecration in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. *CCC 1241, 1289, 1291, 1294*
- CHRIST:** From the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah*, which means "anointed." It became the name proper to Jesus because He accomplished perfectly the divine mission of priest, prophet and King, signified by His anointing as Messiah. *CCC 436*
- CHRISTMAS:** The feast of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus. *CCC 1171* also the season of the Church's liturgical calendar when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- CHURCH:** The name given the "convocation" or "assembly" of the people God has called together from "the ends of the earth." In Christian usage, the word "Church" has three inseparable meanings: the People that God gathers in the whole world; the particular or local church (diocese); and the liturgical assembly. *CCC 752*

5/15/02

- COLLEGIALITY:** The principle that all the bishops of the Church with the Pope at their head form a single “college” which succeeds in every generation the “college” of the Twelve Apostles with Peter at their head, which Christ instituted as the foundation of the Church. This “college,” always with the Pope, has supreme authority over the universal Church. *CCC 861, 880, 883*
- COMMANDMENT:** A norm of moral and/or religious action; above all, the *Ten Commandments* given by God to Moses. Jesus summarized all the commandments in the twofold command of love of God and love of neighbor. *CCC 2052*
- COMMUNAL PENANCE:** Services at which the community joins in prayer before and after private confession.
- COMMUNION:A5** Holy Communion, the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. *CCC 1382* More generally, our fellowship and union with Jesus and other baptized Christians in the Church, which has its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist. *CCC 959* also, another name for Eucharist; the Body and Blood of Jesus in the form of bread and wine; that part of the Mass from the praying of the Our Father through the Concluding Prayer after Holy Communion.
- COMMUNION OF SAINTS:A9,12** The unity in Christ of all the redeemed, those on earth and those who have died. The communion of saints is professed in the Apostles’ Creed, where it has also been interpreted to refer to unity in the “holy things”, especially the unity of faith and charity achieved through participation in the Eucharist. *CCC 948, 957, 960, 1474*
- COMPASSION:** Sympathy for those who suffer, with the desire to relieve their pain.
- CONCLAVE:** A closed meeting of the Cardinals of the Church for the purpose of electing a pope.
- CONFESSION:A5** An essential element of the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation which consists of telling one’s sins to the priest. By extension, the word *confession* is used to refer to the Sacrament of Penance itself. *CCC 1455*
- CONFIRMATION:** One of the ensemble of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Church, together with Baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or “confirm” the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. *CCC 1285*
- CONSCIENCE:A9** The interior voice of a human being, within whose heart the inner law of God is inscribed. Moral conscience is a judgment of practical reason about the moral quality of a human action. It moves a person at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. *CCC 1777-8*
- CONSECRATION:** The dedication of a thing or person to divine service by a prayer or blessing. The consecration at Mass is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer during which the Lord’s words of institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper are recited by the priest, making Christ’s body and blood sacramentally present under the species of bread and wine. *CCC 1352, 1353*

5/15/02

- CONSECRATED LIFE:** A permanent state of life recognized by the Church, entered freely in response to the call of Christ to perfection, and characterized by the profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. *CCC 913 See Vow*
- CONTRITION:** Sorrow of the soul and hatred for the sin committed, together with a resolution not to sin again. It is the most important act of the penitent, necessary for reception of the Sacrament of Penance. *CCC 1451*
- CONVERSION:** A radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil and toward God. This change of heart, or conversion, is a central element of Christ's preaching, of the Church's ministry or evangelization, and of the Sacrament of Penance. *CCC 1427, 1431, 1423; cf. 821*
- CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:** Charitable actions that show reverence for the human body and respect it as the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and visiting prisoners. Mt 25:34-40) *CCC 2447*
- COUNCIL, ECUMENICAL:** A gathering of all the bishops of the world for the purpose of discussing and clarifying the teachings of the Church in the exercise of their collegial authority over the universal Church. It is usually called by the Pope or at least confirmed by him. *CCC 884*
- COVENANT:****A5,9** A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and human beings, involving mutual commitment or guarantees. The Bible refers to God's covenants with Noah, Abraham and Moses. *CCC 56, 62, 66*
- CREATION:** The act by which the eternal God gave a beginning to all that exists outside of Himself. Creation also refers to the created universe or totality of what exists, as often expressed by the formula "the heavens and the earth." *CCC 290*
- CREED:** A brief, normative, summary statement or profession of Christian faith, e.g., the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed. The word "Creed" comes from the Latin *Credo*, meaning "I believe." *CCC 187*

## D

- DARK AGES:** A period in history following the collapse of the Roman Empire characterized by political and social upheaval. During this time (the middle of the fifth century to the eleventh century) marked by barbarian onslaught, western culture and heritage was preserved and fostered by the monasteries and some popes, notably Gregory the Great.
- DEACON, DIACONATE:** A third degree of the hierarchy of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, after bishop and priest. The deacon is ordained not to priesthood but for ministry and service. Deacons are ordained to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity. *CCC 1569, 1571*

5/15/02

- DEATH:** The passage from one form of life to eternal life; separation of the body from the soul in which the soul assumes a novel relation to the body. Death is a result of Original Sin and is the inevitable result of bodily life. *CCC 1006-1014*
- DEVIL/DEMON:** A fallen angel, who sinned against God by refusing to accept His reign. Satan, the Evil One, and the other demons were at first good angels, created naturally good, who became evil by their own doing. *CCC 391, 170; cf. 2851*
- DEVOTIONS:** Pious practices beyond participation in various acts of the liturgy, honoring God or the saints; includes formal prayers, such as novenas, or actions, such as wearing a medal or scapular. Such devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it, and lead the people to it, since in fact the liturgy by its very nature is far superior to any devotion. *CCC 1674-76*
- DIASPORA:** The name first given to the Jews, and then to any nation or large national group, dispersed throughout foreign lands.
- DIOCESE:** A “particular church,” a community of the faithful in communion of faith and sacraments whose bishop has been ordained in apostolic succession. A diocese is usually a determined geographic area; sometimes it may be constituted as a group of people of the same rite or language. In Eastern churches, an eparchy. *CCC 833*
- DISCIPLE:** Those who accepted Jesus’ message to follow Him are called his disciples. *CCC 767, 787*
- DIVINE:** Referring to God.
- DIVINE LAW:** God’s governance of the universe.
- DIVORCE:** The claim that the indissoluble marriage bond validly entered into between a man and a woman is broken. A civil dissolution of the marriage contract (divorce) does not free persons from a valid marriage before God; remarriage would not be morally licit. *CCC 2382; cf. 1650*
- DOCTRINE/DOGMA:** The revealed teachings of Christ which are proclaimed by the fullest extent of the exercise of the authority of the Church’s Magisterium. The faithful are obliged to believe the truths or dogmas contained in divine Revelation and defined by the Magisterium. *CCC 88*
- DOMESTIC CHURCH:** The family as the most basic unit of the Church.

## E

- EASTER:** The greatest and oldest Christian feast, which celebrates Christ’s Resurrection from the dead. Easter is the “feast of feasts,” the solemnity of solemnities, the “Great Sunday.” Christians prepare for it during Lent and Holy Week. Catechumens usually receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. *CCC 1169; cf. 647*



5/15/02

- EASTERN CHURCHES:** Churches of the East in union with Rome but not the Roman rite, with their own liturgical, theological, and administrative traditions, such as those of the Byzantine, Alexandrian or Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Maronite and Chaldean rites. *CCC 1202-1203; cf. 835*
- ECUMENISM:A9,12** Promotion of the restoration of unity among all Christians, the unity which is a gift of Christ and to which the Church is called by the Holy Spirit. *CCC 816, 820-22* hence the effort of all Christian Churches to work toward unity among all Christian people.
- EMMANUEL:** “God with us”; a term used by the prophets about the Messiah and a name traditionally construed as a prediction of the virgin birth of Jesus. *CCC 744*
- EMOTIONS:** Feelings; human tendency in which the senses participate.
- ENCYCLICAL:** A pastoral letter written by the Pope and sent to the whole Church and even to the whole world to express Church teaching on some important matter. *CCC cf. 892*
- EPICLESIS:** The calling down of the Holy Spirit upon the Holy Gifts after the Consecration in the Eastern Liturgy and before the Consecration in the Roman Rite. *CCC 1105-06, 1109, 1353*
- EPIPHANY:** The feast which celebrates the *manifestation* to the world of the newborn Christ as Messiah, Son of God and Savior of the World. The feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the east, together with His baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana. *CCC 52, 528, 535*
- EQUALITY:** The sameness in dignity that human beings enjoy because they are made in God’s image. *CCC369, 872, 1934-35*
- ETHICS:** The systematic reflection on human goodness and righteousness along with human fulfillment and the role of the human person in decision-making. The science of morality of human acts deriving from natural law. Ethics encourages one to live in freedom from outside pressures and to develop a truly upright character.
- EUCHARIST:A12** The ritual, sacramental action of thanksgiving to god which constitutes the principal Christian liturgical celebration of and communion in the paschal mystery of Christ. *CCC 1322* Also a Greek word meaning “thanksgiving”; the entire action of celebrating the Mass is most commonly called the Eucharist; the consecrated elements of bread and wine are called the Eucharist. *CCC 1373-1381*
- EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** The central prayer of thanksgiving, praise, blessing, epiclesis, narrative of the institution and consecration, anamnesis, offering, intercessions and final doxology said over the bread and wine during the celebration of the Mass. *CCC 1353-54*

5/15/02

**EVANGELICAL COUNSELS:** In general, the teachings of the New Law proposed by Jesus to His disciples which lead to the perfection of Christian life. In the New Law, the precepts are intended to remove whatever is incompatible with charity. *CCC 1973* The public profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience taken by professed religious intended to free them to evangelize. *CCC 915*

**EVANGELIST:****A5,12** One of the four authors to whom is ascribed the writing of the Gospels, i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. *CCC 120, 125* The term is also used to describe one who proclaims the Good News of the Gospels. In current Protestant usage especially, any preacher of the Gospel.

**EVANGELIZATION:****A9** The proclamation of Christ and His Gospel with others (usually by the example of a good life, good works) so that they desire to be an active member of the Church, or sharing it with believers to enliven their faith. *CCC 905; cf. 861* hence the primary mission of the Church.

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:** Prayerful self reflection on our words and deeds in the light of the Gospel to determine how we may have sinned against God. Such an examination ought to be made by one in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. *CCC 1454*

**EXCOMMUNICATION:** A severe ecclesiastical penalty, resulting from grave crimes against the Catholic religion, imposed by ecclesiastical authority or incurred as a direct result of the commission of an offense. Excommunication excludes the offender from taking part in the Eucharist or other sacraments and from the exercise of any ecclesiastical office, ministry or function. *CCC 1463*

**EXODUS:** God's saving intervention in history by which He liberated the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, made a covenant with them and brought them into the Promised Land. Also, the second book of the Old Testament which narrates these events. *CCC 62*

## F

**FAITH:****A9** Both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God Who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the sacraments and lived by right conduct. It is both a theological virtue and an obligation which flows from the first commandment. *CCC 26, 142, 150, 1814, 2087*

**FAITHFUL:** Those who have been incorporated into Christ in Baptism and constituted as the people of God, the Church. *CCC 871* Also fully initiated and practicing members of the Church.

5/15/02

**FASTING:A12**

Refraining from food and drink as an expression of interior penance, in imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert. It is an ascetical practice recommended in Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers. *CCC 538, 1434, 2043* In the Catholic Church, fasting is required of Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (except for medical reason) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is a reminder of our need to be filled with God.

**FEAR OF THE LORD:**

One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which ensures our awe and reverence before God. *CCC 1831*

**FEAST DAYS:**

The annual cycle of liturgical celebrations commemorating the saving mysteries of Christ's life, as a participation in the Paschal Mystery, which is celebrated annually at Easter. Feast days commemorating Mary and the saints are also celebrated, providing the faithful with examples of those who have been glorified with Christ. *CCC 1169, 1173*

**FINAL JUDGMENT:**

General or last judgment on humanity as a whole, as well as on each individual; held after the resurrection of the dead.

**FORMAL PRAYERS:**

Traditional Catholic prayers and rites that every Catholic should know, i.e., Our Father, Hail Mary, etc.

**FORTITUDE:**

One of the four cardinal moral virtues by which a person does what is right in spite of difficulties. *CCC 1808* Fortitude (sometimes called strength, courage or might) is also one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. *CCC 1299; cf. 712*

**FREE WILL:**

The faculty or capability of making a reasonable choice among several alternatives. Free will underlies the fact and possibility of moral responsibility. *CCC 1704-05, 1711, 1730-31, 1853*

**FUNDAMENTALISM:**

The belief in the literal interpretation of the Bible.

## G

**GENESIS:**

The first book of the Bible, which describes God's creation of the world and humanity as well as the drama of sin and the hope for salvation. *CCC 120; cf. 289, 337, 355*

**GENUFLECTING:**

A reverence made by bending the right knee as an act of reverence and respect to God, especially to express adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. *CCC 1378*

**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:A12** Permanent dispositions that make us docile to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The traditional list of seven gifts is derived from Isaiah 11:1-2: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude and fear of the Lord. *CCC 1830*

**GOD:**

The infinite divine being, one in being yet three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has revealed Himself as the "One Who is," as truth and love, as Creator of all that is, as the author of divine revelation and as the source of salvation. *CCC 198, 279*

5/15/02

**GOOD NEWS:**

The gospel proclaimed by Jesus that God loves everyone and invites us into His kingdom.

**GOSPEL:**

The “Good News” of God’s mercy and love revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It is this *Gospel* that the Apostles, and Church following them, are to proclaim to the entire world. *CCC 571* The *Gospel* is handed on in the apostolic tradition of the Church as the source of all saving truth and moral discipline. *CCC 75* The four *Gospels* are the books written by the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John which have for their central object Jesus Christ: His life, teachings, Passion and glorification and the Church’s beginnings under the Spirit’s guidance. *CCC 124, 514*

**GRACE:A12**

The supernatural gift from God to assist persons in achieving eternal salvation. It is an undeserved gift, to which individuals have no right or claim, but which rather comes simply from the benevolent nature of God. *CCC 1996-2005*

**GREAT COMMANDMENT:A9** (Sometimes referred to as The Two Great Commandments) the basis of Catholic action instituted by Christ—love of God and love of neighbor; the Two Great Commandments given by Christ to fulfill the Old Testament commandments.

**GUARDIAN ANGELS:**

Angels assigned to protect and intercede for each person. *CCC 336*

## H

**HEAVEN:A5**

Eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Trinity and all the blessed. Heaven is the state of supreme and definitive happiness, the goal of the deepest longings of humanity. *CCC 1023*

**HELL:**

The state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed, reserved for those who refuse by their own free choice to believe and be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives. *CCC 1033*

**HERESY:**

The obstinate denial after Baptism of a truth which must be believed with divine and Catholic faith. *CCC 2089; cf. 465*

**HIERARCHY:**

The Apostles and their successors, the college of bishops, to whom Christ gave the authority to teach, sanctify and rule the Church in His name. Commonly refers to the pope, bishops, priests and deacons in the Catholic Church; a structure with different levels of authority. *CCC 871-76, 1569, 1571*

**HOLINESS:**

Sanctity attained by self-dedication to God, separation from worldly values and conformity to Christ, bringing about a profound transformation, allowing for participation in the life of the Blessed Trinity. That is, living a life of love and service of God and others. *CCC 375, 405, 2013-14, 2028, 2813*

**HOLY:A9,12**

Of God. Seeking to do God’s will; sacred or set apart for God; one of the characteristics (marks) of the Church—possessing the fullness of Christ’s presence and the means of salvation.

5/15/02

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:** Principal feast days on which, in addition to Sundays, Catholics are obliged by Church law to participate in the Eucharist; a precept of the Church. *CCC 2042, 2180*

**HOLY ORDERS:****A5,9,12** The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church through the laying on of hands. This sacrament has three distinct degrees or “orders”: deacon, priest and bishop. All three confer a permanent sacramental character. *CCC 1536*

**HOLY SEE:** The seat of the central administration of the worldwide Catholic Church; the name is taken from the seat or diocese of the Pope. *CCC cf. 882*

**HOLY SPIRIT:** The third divine person of the Blessed Trinity, the personal love of Father and Son for each other. Also called the Paraclete. *CCC 685*

**HOMILY:****A12** Preaching by an ordained minister to explain the Scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy and to exhort people to accept them as the Word of God. *CCC 132, 1100, 1349* hence a moral talk, usually after the reading of the Gospel at Mass, to help people apply the Scripture readings to their lives.

**HOMOSEXUALITY:** Sexual attraction or orientation toward persons of the same sex and/or sexual acts between persons of the same sex. Homosexual acts are morally wrong because they violate God’s purpose for human sexual activity. *CCC 2357-2359*

**HOPE:****A5,12** The theological virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it. *CCC 1817* it helps us trust in God’s promises even in the face of difficulty.

## I

**ICONOCLASM:** A heresy which maintained that veneration of religious images is unlawful. Iconoclasm was condemned as unfaithful to Christian tradition at Nicea in 787 A.D. *CCC 2131*

**IDOLATRY:** The divinization of a creature in place of God; the substitution of some one (or thing) for God; worshiping a creature (even money, pleasure, or power) instead of the Creator. *CCC 2112*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:****A5,12** The dogma proclaimed in Christian Tradition and defined in 1854, that from the first moment of her conception, Mary—by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ—was preserved immune from original sin. *CCC 491* a solemn feast of the Church celebrated on Dec. 8, and a Holy Day of Obligation honoring this gift from God; under this title, Mary is the patroness of both the United States and the Diocese of Gaylord.

**IMMANUEL:** *See* EMMANUEL.

**IMMORTALITY:** The quality of the spiritual human soul whereby it survives the death of the body and remains in existence without end, to be reunited with the body at the final resurrection. *CCC 366*

5/15/02

**INCARNATION:**A5,9,12

The fact that the Son of God assumed human nature and became man in order to accomplish our salvation in that same human nature. Jesus Christ is both Divine (God) and human (man.) CCC 461, 464

**INDULGENCE:**

The remission of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven. A properly disposed member of the Christian faithful can obtain an indulgence under prescribed conditions through the help of the Church. An indulgence is partial if it removes part of the temporal punishment due to sin, or plenary if it removes all punishment. CCC 1471

**INFALLIBILITY:**

The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful. CCC 891 This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals. CCC 92

**INSPIRED (biblical authors):**A12 The gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted a human author to write a biblical book so that it has God as its author and teaches faithfully, without error. CCC 105

**INTEGRITY:**

To show moral principles; involving not only knowing what is right and wrong, but choosing to do the right thing.

**INTERCESSION:**A5,12

A form of prayer of petition on behalf of another person or group. CCC 2634

**INTERDICTION:**

Ecclesiastical penalty imposed on persons and places for certain violations of Church law. e.g., the closing of a church to sacred services. In the new code, a canonical penalty applied to individuals, prohibiting them from taking part in services or receiving sacraments or sacramentals.

## J

**JESUS CHRIST:**

The eternal Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered crucifixion and death, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. “Jesus,” which means “God saves” in Hebrew, was the name given to Him at the Annunciation; “Christ” is a title which comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah* and means “anointed.” CCC 184 f.; 430, 436; cf. 727

**JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

The immediate precursor or herald of Jesus. John identified Jesus as the Messianic Lamb of God and baptized Him in the Jordan River. CCC 523, 720

**JOSEPH:**

The spouse of Mary and the adoptive father of Jesus. CCC 437, 497

5/15/02

**JUDGMENT:**

The eternal retribution received by each soul at the moment of death, in accordance with that person's faith and works. ("the particular judgment") CCC 1021-2 The "Last Judgment" is God's triumph over the revolt of evil, after the final cosmic upheaval of this passing world. Preceded by the resurrection of the dead, it will coincide with the second coming of Christ in glory at the end of time, disclose good and evil, and reveal the meaning of salvation history and the providence of God by which justice has triumphed over evil. CCC 677-9, 1021, 1038

**JUSTICE:**

The cardinal moral virtue which consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and to neighbor. CCC 1807 to give others what they rightly deserve; fairness.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The action of God which frees us from sin and communicates "the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ" (Rom 3:22). Justification is not only the remission of sins but also the sanctification and renewal of the interior man. CCC 1987-9

## K

**KINGDOM OF GOD:**

The reign or rule of God. It is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; it is announced in the Gospel; it is present in the person of Jesus; it remains in our midst in the Eucharist. CCC 551-554, 709, 763 hence, wherever God's will prevails.

## L

**LAITY:**

The faithful who have been baptized. The laity participate in their own way in the priestly, prophetic and kingly functions of Christ. Laity are distinguished from clergy (who have received Holy Orders) and those in consecrated life. CCC 897

**LAMB OF GOD:**

New Testament name for Jesus, which emphasizes His obedient sacrifice of love to the Father for us. The sacrifice of the "Lamb" dates back to Exodus. Also a liturgical title for Christ recited three times before the distribution of the Eucharist at Mass. Cf. 523, 536, 602, 608, 613, 719, 757

**LAST SUPPER:A9**

The last meal, a Passover (Seder) supper, which Jesus ate with His disciples the night before He died. CCC 610-1 commemorated on Holy Thursday, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist.

**LECTIONARY/LECTOR:**

The official, liturgical book (*lectionary*) from which the reader (*lector*) proclaims the Scripture readings used in the Liturgy of the Word. CCC 1154

5/15/02

- LENT:** The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal mystery (Easter Triduum.) Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer. CCC 540, 1095, 1438 a time we recall and deepen our baptismal promises especially through prayer, fasting and giving alms.
- LITURGICAL YEAR:A12** The Church's yearly cycle of seasons and feastdays which celebrate the mystery of Christ's birth life, death and Resurrection in such a way that the entire year becomes a "year of the Lord's grace." It has its focal point at Easter. CCC 1168
- LITURGY:** In its original meaning, a "public work" or service done in the name of or on behalf of the people. CCC 1067-9 the official public worship of the Church, especially the Eucharist, the Sacraments and the Liturgy of the Hours.
- LITURGY OF THE HOURS:** The daily official liturgical prayer of the Roman Catholic Church; its celebration sanctified at various times of the day. It was formerly called the Divine Office, a name by which it is still frequently called. CCC 1174-1178
- LORD:** Old Testament title for God that in speaking or reading aloud was always substituted for the name that was revealed to Moses and that was too holy to be pronounced: Yahweh. The New Testament uses this title both of God the Father and—in a new way—of Jesus. CCC 209, 446
- LORD'S PRAYER:** The title early Christians gave to the prayer which Jesus entrusted to His disciples and to the Church (*Mt 6:9-13*). Also called the "Our Father," which are its first words. CCC 2759

## M

- MAGI:** The wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior. CCC 528
- MAGISTERIUM:A9,12** The living teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give as authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture), or in the form of Tradition. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals. CCC 85, 890, 2033 the bishops in union with the pope.
- MARKS OF THE CHURCH:** The four attributes (marks or notes) of the Church mentioned in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed: "the Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic." CCC 811
- MARRIAGE:** A covenant of partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament (Matrimony.) CCC 1601
- MARTYR:A9** A witness to the truth of the faith, in which the martyr endures even death to be faithful to Christ. Those who die for the faith before Baptism are said to have received a "baptism of blood," by which their sins are forgiven. CCC 1258, 2473



5/15/02

**MARY:**

The mother of Jesus. Because she is the mother of Jesus—Son of God—according to the flesh, she is rightly called the Mother of God. *CCC 148, 495*

**MASS:** **A9,12**

The Eucharist or principal sacramental celebration of the Church, established by Jesus at the Last Supper, in which the mystery of our salvation is renewed and accomplished. The Mass renews the Paschal sacrifice of Christ as the sacrifice offered by the Church. *CCC 1332; cf. 1088, 1382, 2192* a common name for the entire Eucharistic celebration of the Roman Rite; from Latin word for sending or dismissal, *missa*; the most important act of worship of the Catholic community.

**MATRIMONY:**

The Sacrament of Marriage (a Sacrament of Commitment) which joins a Christian man and woman in a life-long, life-giving and love-giving union, reflecting Christ's union with His Church. Marriage is recognized by the Church as sacramental if between a baptized male and female. *CCC 1601-1666*

**MEDITATION:**

An exercise and a form of prayer (thought prayer) in which we try to understand God's revelation of the truths of faith and the purpose of the Christian life and how it should be lived. *CCC 2705* mental discourse on any mystery of our faith: the life of Christ, Scripture, the liturgy or the lives of the saints.

**MESSIAH:**

A Hebrew word meaning "anointed." *CCC 436* the promised Savior (Christ in Greek.)

**MIDDLE AGES:**

Period of history between the fall of Rome (476 A.D.) and the beginning of the Renaissance (about 1450 A.D.) when Europe was united in a Christendom dominated by the pope; a time of achievements in theology, philosophy and arts, especially the architecture of the great cathedrals.

**MINISTER:**

Those who function in some capacity in the celebration of the sacraments, including clergy and those who are instituted in the ministries of lector and acolyte. Since Vatican II the term has been used more broadly to mean anyone who serves the worshipping community by exercising some ministry. *Cf. CCC 859, 874, 876, 878, 1142, 1553, 1579, 1584, 1592, 2122, 2686*

**MINISTRY:**

The service or work of sanctification performed by the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the sacraments by those in Holy Orders *CCC 893, 1536* or in determined circumstances, by laity. *CCC 903* hence, loving service to others; using one's gifts for God's glory.

**MIRACLES:**

A sign or wonder such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be attributed to Divine power. The miracles of Jesus were a messianic sign of the presence of God's kingdom. *CCC 547* hence, acts performed through the power of God that we cannot explain.

**MORALITY:**

Referring to the goodness or evil of human acts. Human freedom makes a person a "moral subject" or agent, able to judge the morality (goodness or evil) of the acts which are chosen. The morality of human acts depends on the object (or nature) of the action, the intention or end foreseen, and the circumstances of the action. *CCC 1749; cf. 407* actions done with knowledge and free consent; actions may be morally good or evil.

5/15/02

**MORAL LAW:** A9,12

The foundation for living the moral life; the norm of human conduct, whether revealed or known by reason; term is used to distinguish the law as binding by conscience from mere statutes or directives intended to insure good order.

**MORAL VIRTUES:**

Good habits of right living or behavior. *CCC 1805*

**MORTAL SIN:**

A grave infraction of the law of God that destroys the divine life in the soul of the sinner (sanctifying grace), constituting a turn away from God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: grave matter, full knowledge of the evil of the act and full consent of the will. *CCC 1855, 1857*

**MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST:** The Church forms a single body, united with Christ the head, with members who retain their diversity; it is mystical because this body can only be seen with the eyes of faith. *CCC 774, 776-7, 779, 787-96, 805-07, 1396*

## N

**NATURE:**

The created order. *CCC 341*

**NATIVITY:**

The term referring to the birth of Jesus.

**NEW COMMANDMENT:**

Jesus' law of love.

**NEW COVENANT:**

The new "dispensation," order or Covenant, established by God in Jesus Christ, to succeed and perfect the Old Covenant. *CCC cf. 612, 839* hence, our relationship with God through the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

**NICENE CREED:** A9,12

The profession of faith, common to the churches of East and West, which came from the first two ecumenical councils (Nicea and Constantinople: 325 and 381 A.D.) *CCC 195-6* Catholic statement (summary) of the essential beliefs of our faith and used during the Eucharistic Liturgy.

## O

**OBEDIENCE:**

(1) The submission to the authority of God which requires everyone to obey the Divine law. Obedience to the Church is required in those things which pertain to our salvation; and obedience is due to legitimate civil authority, which has its origin in God for the sake of the common good and the order of society. *CCC 1897* The fourth commandment obliges children to obey their parents. *CCC 2216*

(2) *Obedience of faith:* The first obedience is that of faith: to listen and freely submit to the word of God. *CCC 144*

(3) *Obedience of Christ:* Jesus Christ substituted His obedience to the will of His Father, even unto death, for the disobedience of sin. *CCC 615*

(4) *Vow of Obedience:* In imitation of this obedience of Jesus, as an evangelical counsel, the faithful may profess a vow of obedience; a public vow of obedience, accepted by Church authority, is one element that characterizes consecrated life. *CCC915*

5/15/02

- OLD COVENANT:** The old dispensation or order, which God established with His chosen people Israel, through the revelation of the Law to Moses. *CCC 1961*
- ORDERS, HOLY:** The Sacrament of Apostolic Ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church through the laying on of hands. The sacrament has three distinct degrees or “orders”: deacon, priest and bishop. All three confer a permanent, sacramental character. *CCC 1536*
- ORDERS, RELIGIOUS:** *See Consecrated Life.*
- ORDINATION:** The rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders by which the bishop, through the imposition of hands and the prayer of consecration, confers the order of bishop, priest or deacon to exercise sacred power which comes from Christ on behalf of the Church. *CCC 1538*
- ORIGINAL SIN:** The sin by which the first human beings disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God’s will. As a consequence they lost the grace of original holiness, and became subject to the laws of death; sin became universally present in the world. Besides the personal sin of Adam and Eve, original sin describes the fallen state of human nature which affects every person born into the world, and from which Christ, the “new Adam,” came to redeem us. *CCC 369-412*
- ORTHODOX CHURCHES:** Eastern Churches not in full communion with the Catholic Church. Christians of the Orthodox Churches are separated from the Catholic Church (schism), yet are in an imperfect but deep communion with the Catholic Church by reason of our common Baptism, the profession of the Creed, and possession of true sacraments by reason of the apostolic succession of their priesthood. *CCC 838, 1399*
- OUR FATHER:** *See Lord’s Prayer.*
- OUR LADY:** *See Mary.*

## P

- PAPACY:** The supreme jurisdiction and ministry of the Pope as shepherd of the whole Church. *CCC 882*
- PARABLES:** **A12** A characteristic feature of the teaching of Jesus. Parables are simple images or comparisons which confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice about his invitation to enter the Kingdom of God. *CCC 546* hence, stories Christ used to teach a truth about the Kingdom of God.
- PARACLETE:** A name for the Holy Spirit. The name was used by Jesus in the New Testament (cf. *Jn14:16*) to indicate the promised gift of the Spirit as another consoler and advocate, who would continue His own mission among the Apostles. *CCC 692*
- PARADISE:** The symbolic description of the condition of our first parents before the Fall, who lived in a state of friendship with God in the happiness of original justice and holiness. *CCC 374, 384* Paradise also signifies heaven. *CCC 1023*

5/15/02

- PARISH:** A stable community of the faithful within a particular church or diocese, whose pastoral care is confided by the bishop to a priest as pastor. CCC 2179 hence, a local church community of Catholics, established as a unit of the church under the leadership of a pastor.
- PAROUSIA:** The glorious return and appearance of Christ at the end of time as judge of the living and the dead; the second coming of Christ. CCC 1001
- PASCHAL MYSTERY:** **A9,12** Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by His Passion, death, Resurrection and ascension, whereby "dying He destroyed our death, rising He restored our life," fulfilling the promise of the Old Testament. CCC 1067; cf. 654
- PASSION:** The suffering and death of Jesus. CCC 572, 602-616 "Passion" or Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. CCC 560
- PASSIONS, MORAL:** The emotions or dispositions which incline us to good or evil actions, such as love and hate, hope and fear, joy and sadness, and anger. CCC 1763
- PASTOR:** The ministry of shepherding the faithful in the name of Christ. The Pope and bishops receive the pastoral office which they are to exercise with Christ, the Good Shepherd, as their model. They share their pastoral ministry with priests, to whom they give responsibility over a portion of the flock as pastors of parishes. CCC 886, 1560, 2179
- PASTORAL LETTERS:** A letter from a bishop to his diocese.
- PENANCE:** *Interior penance:* a conversion of heart toward God and away from sin, which implies the intention to change one's life because of hope in Divine mercy. CCC 1431  
*External acts of penance:* include fasting, prayer and almsgiving. CCC 1434  
The observance of certain penitential practices is obliged by the fourth precept of the Church. CCC 2043
- PENANCE, SACRAMENT OF:** **A5** The liturgical celebration of God's forgiveness of the sins of the penitent, who is thus reconciled with God and with the Church. The acts of the penitent—contrition, the confession of sins and satisfaction or reparation—together with the prayer of absolution by the priest, constitute the essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance. CCC 980, 1422, 1440, 1448 hence it is a Sacrament of Healing by which one shows remorse for sin and is led to justification by a priest.
- PENTATEUCH:** The first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. CCC 702; cf. 120
- PENTECOST:** **A5,9** The "fiftieth" day at the end of the seven weeks following Passover (Easter in the Christian dispensation.) CCC 726, 731 hence, a solemn feast of the liturgical year celebrated on the 50th and final day of the Easter Season; it remembers the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers, the disciples; commonly referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- PEOPLE OF GOD:** A synonym for the Church, taken from the Old Testament people whom God chose, Israel. CCC 761, 783

1/15/02

**PERJURY:**

Giving one's word under oath falsely, or making a promise under oath without intending to keep it. Perjury violates the second and eighth commandments. CCC 2152, 2476

**PERSONAL SIN:A5**

Words, utterances, actions or desires contrary to God's law. A deliberate, free, knowledgeable act contrary to God's law. Hence, turning away from God. CCC 1854-1864

**PETER (SAINT):**

Simon, whom Jesus called Peter or "Rock," upon whom He would build His Church (*Mt 16:16-19*). He was the first to confess Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the living God. CCC 442 He was the first among the Apostles, and their head; the Pope is his successor as Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the universal Church. CCC 552 ff.; 765, 862, 881

**PIETY:**

One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which leads one to devotion to God. CCC 1831 Piety also refers to the religious sense of a people and its expression in popular devotions. CCC 1674

**PILGRIMAGE:**

Prayerful journey to a place of devotion to obtain some spiritual benefit. The purpose of the pilgrimage may be to venerate a sacred object or religious relic, to be in the presence of a holy person, to do penance, or to offer thanksgiving in return for graces received. CCC 769, 1013, 1419, 1438, 1674, 2101, 2691

**POPE:A5,9**

The successor of St. Peter as bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the universal Catholic Church. The Pope exercises a primacy of authority as Vicar of Christ and shepherd of the whole Church; he receives the divine assistance promised by Christ to the Church when he defines *infallibly* a doctrine of faith or morals. CCC 880-882 visible head of the Church on earth. See Papacy

**POVERTY:**

The condition of want experienced by those who are poor, whom Christ called "blessed," and for whom He had a special love. CCC 544 Poverty is one of the three evangelical counsels whose public profession in the Church is a constitutive element of consecrated life. CCC 915 hence, a vow of a religious to live a simple life and give up control of material possessions.

**PRAISE:**

The form of prayer which focuses on giving recognition to God for His own sake, giving glory to Him for Who He is. CCC 2639

**PRAYER:**

The elevation of the mind and heart to God in praise of His glory; a petition made to God for some desired good, or in thanksgiving for a good received, or in intercession for others before God. CCC 2559-2565

**PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH:** Positive laws (sometimes called commandments) made by Church authorities to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in prayer and moral effort, for the sake of their growth in love of God and neighbor. CCC 2041

**PRESBYTER:**

An "elder" or priest, a member of the order of priesthood; the presbyterate (priesthood) is one of the three degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. CCC 1536, 1554

5/15/02

**PRESENTATION (in the temple):** The feast on which Catholics remember the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph (*Lk 2:22-39*) in accord with Mosaic Law concerning the first-born. At the Presentation, Simeon and Anna sum up the expectation of Israel for the long-awaited Messiah. *CCC 529* (Celebrated February 2) Also, *the presentation of the gifts*, especially of bread and wine, is a preparatory rite for the liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass. *CCC 1346*

**PRIDE:** One of the seven capital sins. It is undue self-esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honor and sets oneself in competition with God. *CCC 1866*

**PROFESSED RELIGIOUS:** A man or woman who has entered the consecrated life, belongs to a community and takes the vows of that community: poverty, chastity and obedience. *Cf. CCC 873, 915, 925, 944*

**PROPHET:** One sent by God to form the people of the Old Covenant in the hope of salvation. The prophets are often authors of books of the Old Testament. *CCC 702* hence, a person God chooses to speak in His name. John the Baptist concludes the work of the prophets of the Old Covenant. *CCC 721*

**PROTESTANT:** A person who believes in Christ and has been baptized, but who does not profess the Catholic faith in its entirety, but rather is a member of a Protestant church or ecclesial community whose roots are in the Reformation, begun in the sixteenth century. *CCC cf.838*

**PROVIDENCE:** The dispositions by which God guides his creation toward its perfection yet to be attained; the protection and governance of God over all creation. *CCC 302*

**PRUDENCE:** The virtue which disposes a person to discern the good and choose the correct means to accomplish it. One of the cardinal moral virtues that disposes the Christian to live by the law of Christ, prudence provides the proximate guidance for the judgment of conscience. *CCC 1806* hence, thinking before acting, making moral choices, weighing the consequences.

**PSALM:** A prayer in the Book of Psalms of the Old Testament assembled over several centuries; a collection of prayers in the form of hymns or poetry. The psalms have been used since Jesus' time as the public prayer of the Church. *CCC 2585*

**PURGATORY:** A state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven. *CCC 1031; cf. 1472*

## R

**RACISM;** Unjust discrimination on the basis of a person's race; a violation of human dignity and a sin against justice. *CCC 1935*

5/15/02

- REAL PRESENCE:** The unique, true presence of Christ in the Eucharist under the species or appearances of bread and wine. The Church invites the faithful to deepen their faith in the real presence of Christ through adoration and communion at the Eucharistic liturgy and through adoration outside its celebration. *CCC 1378-9*
- RECONCILIATION, SACRAMENT OF:** The sacramental celebration in which, through God's mercy and forgiveness, the sinner is reconciled with God and also with the Church, Christ's body, which is wounded by sin. *CCC 1422, 1442-5, 1468 See Penance.*
- REDEEMER/ REDEMPTION:** Jesus Christ, Redeemer of mankind. Christ paid the price of His own sacrificial death on the cross to ransom us, to set us free from the slavery of sin, thus achieving our redemption. *CCC 571, 601; cf. 517, 1372*
- REFORMATION:A12** The period in history beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and lasting into the 17<sup>th</sup> century, characterized by the formation of Protestant churches. Sometimes referred to as the Protestant Reformation. *Cf. CCC 406, 1400*
- RELATIVISM:** A theory of ethics, teaching that all moral judgments differ according to circumstances. This is contrary to Catholic teaching, which states that while culpability may vary, certain actions or attitudes are always wrong and other actions or attitudes are always right, regardless of circumstance.
- RELIGION:** A set of beliefs and practices followed by those committed to the service and worship of God. The first commandment requires us to believe in God, to worship and serve Him, as the first duty of the virtue of religion. *CCC 2084, 2135*
- RELIGIOUS LIFE:** *See Consecrated Life.*
- REMISSION OF SINS:** The forgiveness of sins, which is accomplished in us through faith and Baptism, as the fruit of the redemptive sacrifice of Christ on the cross. *CCC 976, 1263* Christ gave the power to remit sins to His Apostles and through them to the ministers of the Church. *CCC 981* The remission of sins committed after Baptism is effected sacramentally through the Sacrament of Penance (or Reconciliation.) *CCC 1446*
- REPARATION:** Making amends for a wrong done or for an offense, especially for sin, which is an offense against God. By His death on the cross, Christ offered His life out of love for the Father to make reparation for our sinful disobedience. *CCC 614* We are obliged to make reparation for personal sins against justice and faith, either through restitution of stolen goods or correcting the harm done to the other's good name. *CCC 2412, 2487*
- REPENTANCE:** *See Contrition.*
- RESURRECTION:A5,9** The bodily rising of Jesus from the dead on the third day after His death on the cross and burial in the tomb. *CCC 639* The resurrection of the righteous, who will live forever with the risen Christ, at the last Judgment. The eleventh article of the Christian creed states, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." The resurrection of the body means not only that the immortal soul will live on after death, but that even our "mortal bodies" (*Rom 8:11*) will come to life again. *CCC 988*

5/15/02

**RETREAT:**

Time set aside to renew or deepen one's relationship with God through a series of religious exercises and services, marked by prayer, meditation and worship.

**REVELATION:A12**

God's communication of Himself, by which He makes known the mystery of His divine plan, a gift of self-communication which is realized by deeds and words over time, and most fully by sending us His own divine Son, Jesus Christ. CCC 50 hence, self communication of God to humanity; the two sources of Revelation throughout history are Sacred Scripture and Tradition.

**RISEN CHRIST:**

Jesus in His new life, the one Who we meet today in His words and sacraments.

**RITE:**

1) The title of any official liturgical ceremony; 2) The word rite also describes traditions, rules and ways of celebrations that are characteristic of a distinct group within the Catholic Church; 3) Most Catholics in the United States belong to the Latin (Roman) rite; 4) There are other rites in the Catholic Church, i.e. Maronite, Byzantine, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian and Chaldean, etc. CCC 1201-1203

**ROSARY:A5**

A prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which repeats the privileged Marian prayer *Hail Mary*, in "decades" of ten prayers, each preceded by the *Our Father* and concluded by the *Glory Be to the Father*, accompanied by meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life. The rosary was developed by medieval piety in the Latin church as a popular substitute for the liturgical prayer of the Hours. CCC 2678. 2708; cf. 1674

## S

**SABBATH:**

The Sabbath or seventh "day," on which God rested after the work of the "six days" of creation was completed, as recounted in the opening narrative of the Bible. Creation is thus ordered to the Sabbath, the day to be kept holy to the praise and worship of God. Just as the seventh day or Sabbath completes the first creation, so the "eighth day," Sunday, the day of the week on which Jesus rose from the dead, is celebrated as the "holy day" by Christians—the day on which the "new creation" began. CCC 345-349 Thus the Christian observance of Sunday fulfills the commandment to remember and keep holy the Sabbath day. CCC 2175

**SACRAMENT:A9,12**

Church's seven major signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit. CCC 1131, 774 The seven sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (the three sacraments of initiation), Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. CCC 1210 Sacraments deepen and strengthen our union with God.

**SACRAMENTAL:A9,12**

A sacred sign (i.e., holy water, rosary) or any object, action or blessing that help people grow in faith and holiness and by which spiritual effects are obtained by the intercession of the Church. Sacramentals thus bear a certain resemblance to the sacraments. CCC 1667



5/15/02

**SACRAMENTS OF COMMITMENT: Holy Orders and Matrimony.**

**SACRAMENTS OF HEALING: Penance/Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.**

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:****A9** Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which brings a person into full membership in the Church. *Cf. CCC 1212, 1275*

**SACRED HEART:** The symbol of the love with which Jesus continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception. *CCC 478*

**SACRILEGE:** Profanation of or irreverence toward persons, places and things which are sacred, i.e. dedicated to God; sacrilege against the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, is a particularly grave offense against the first commandment. *CCC 2120*

**SAINTS:****A5** People who lead a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receive the reward of eternal life. The Church is called the communion of saints, of the holy ones. *CCC 823, 946; cf. 828* hence, people whose lives were Christ-like in a particular way who have been honored and declared by the Church.

**SALVATION:** The forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with God, which can be done by God alone. *CCC 169*

**SALVATION HISTORY:** The entire way in which God has acted in creating the world and bringing it to fulfillment. God unfolds His plan gradually and though humans, who sinned; the Savior, Jesus Christ, was sent to suffer, die, and rise. Then the Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost to continue the saving action of God. Hence, the story of God's relation to His people from creation to the end of time. *Cf. CCC 280, 332, 430-31, 668, 1080, 1103*

**SATAN:** A fallen angel or the devil; the Evil One. *CCC 391, 395, 2851*

**SATISFACTION FOR SIN;** An act whereby the sinner makes amends for sin, especially in reparation to God for offenses against Him. The penance given by the confessor in the Sacrament of Penance constitutes such satisfaction. All true satisfaction for sin must be a participation in the satisfaction for sin made by Christ through His death on the cross. *CCC 1459 See Penance; Reparation.*

**SAVIOR:** Jesus (which means "God saves" in Hebrew.) The son of God became man to achieve our salvation; He is the unique savior of humanity. *CCC 430* Also, Redeemer.

**SCANDAL:** An attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. *CCC 2284*

**SCHISM:** Refusal of submission to the Supreme Pontiff, or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him. *CCC 2089* hence, a formal and willful separation from the unity of the Church.

**SCRIPTURE, SACRED:** The sacred writings of the Old and New Testament. *CCC 101 See Bible.*

**SEAL OF CONFESSION:** The confessor's obligation to keep absolutely secret what a penitent has told to him in the Sacrament of Penance; also known as the "sacramental seal." *CCC 1467*

5/15/02

- SEDER:** Jewish ritual meal celebrating their flight from slavery in Egypt.
- SELF DISCIPLINE:** Controlling one's desires and actions.
- SERMON ON THE MOUNT:** **A5** Collections of Jesus' teachings, including the Eight Beatitudes (*Mt 5-6-7*)
- SIGN OF THE CROSS:** A sign in the form of a cross made by the Christian as a prayer honoring the Blessed Trinity, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." *CCC 2157; cf. 786*
- SIMONY:** The buying or selling of spiritual things which have God alone as their owner and master. *CCC 2121*
- SIN:** **A5,9,12** An offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed or omission contrary to the eternal law of God. In judging the gravity of sin, it is customary to distinguish between mortal and venial sins. *CCC 1849, 1853, 1854* hence, choosing to do what offends God; an offense against God which either weakens or breaks one's relation with God.
- SLANDER:** *See Calumny.*
- SLOTH:** A culpable lack of physical or spiritual effort; acedia or laziness. One of the capital sins. *CCC 1866, 2094, 2733*
- SOCIAL JUSTICE:** The respect for the human person and the rights which flow from human dignity and guarantee it. Society must provide the conditions that allow people to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and vocation. *CCC 1928, 1931*
- SOCIAL SIN:** The effect of sin over time, which can affect society and its institutions to create "structures of sin," by analogy called "social sin." *CCC 1869*
- SOCIAL TEACHING:** The teaching (social doctrine) of the Church on the truth of revelation about human dignity, human solidarity and the principles of justice and peace; the moral judgments about economic and social matters required by such truth and about the demands of justice and peace. *CCC 2419-2422*
- SON OF DAVID:** A title of Jesus which fulfills a prophecy in the Hebrew scriptures.
- SON OF GOD:** A title frequently applied to Jesus in the Gospel, signifying His unique and eternal relationship to God the Father. The revelation of His divine sonship is the principal dramatic development of the story of Jesus of Nazareth. *CCC 441-445* (To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus is the Son of God.)
- SON OF MAN:** The title used by Jesus himself in the Gospel. This title connotes a relationship with the eschatological figure of the "Son of Man appearing in clouds and glory: in the prophecy of Daniel (*Mk 13:26; Dn 7:13*) *CCC 440; cf. 661* hence Jesus also is denoting that He is truly human.

5/15/02

**SOUL:**

The spiritual principle of human beings. The soul is the subject of human consciousness and freedom; soul and body together form one unique human nature. Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God. The soul does not die with the body, from which it is separated by death and with which it will be reunited in the final resurrection. CCC 363, 366; cf. 1703 Also, God's gift of everlasting life; the spiritual aspect of a person.

**SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:** Traditional form of service to the spiritual needs of others. They are: instructing the ignorant, correcting sinners, advising the doubtful, showing patience to sinners and those in error, forgiving others, comforting the afflicted and praying for the living and dead. Cf. CCC 2447

**SPIRITUALITY:A9**

The term used to describe our growing, loving relationship with God. Cf. CCC 89, 131, 1374, 1392, 2014, 2684, 2687, 2693, 2697

**STEALING/THEFT:**

Unjustly taking and keeping the property of another, against the reasonable will of the owner. CCC 2408 Stealing is a violation of the seventh commandment of God, "Thou shalt not steal." CCC

**SPONSOR:**

Person who presents a candidate for Baptism or Confirmation, and serves as the official representative of the community of faith; takes some of the responsibility for the faith of the candidate. Also known as the Godparent for Baptism. Cf. CCC 1311, 2156

**SPONTANEOUS PRAYER:** Prayer that a person creates by himself/herself.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:A5** Also known as the Way of the Cross; series of meditations on the sufferings, death and burial of Jesus. See Way of the Cross. Cf. CCC 1674, 2667

**SUFFERING SERVANT:**

A title of Jesus which fulfills a prophecy in the Hebrew scriptures.

**SUICIDE:**

The willful taking of one's own life, a grievous sin against the fifth commandment. A human person is neither the author nor the supreme arbiter of his life, of which God is sovereign master. CCC 2280

**SUPERNATURAL MYSTERY:** A truth revealed by God we cannot understand but believe because it comes through Scripture or Tradition. Any reality that cannot be explained by reason but must be addressed from the standpoint of "supernatural" faith.

**SYMBOL:**

A sign that points to something beyond itself, i.e., water-life and death; bread-nourishment and health; etc. cf. CCC 522, 697, 1145-52, 1189

**SYNOD:**

A gathering/meeting of bishops of an ecclesiastical province or patriarchate (or even from the whole world, e.g., Synod of Bishops) to discuss doctrinal and pastoral needs of the Church. A *diocesan* synod is an assembly of priests and other members of Christ's faithful who assist the bishop by offering advice about the needs of the diocese and by proposing legislation for him to enact. CCC 887, 911 The words "synod" and "council" are sometimes used interchangeably.

# T

- TABERNACLE:** The receptacle in the church in which the consecrated Eucharist is reserved for Communion for the sick and dying. Reservation of the Eucharist in the tabernacle lends itself to private devotional visits and adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament by the faithful. *CCC 1183, 1379*
- TEMPERANCE:** The cardinal moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasure and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the mastery of the will over instinct and keeps natural desires within proper limits. *CCC 1809* hence, the means by which one controls the desire for pleasure; living in moderation.
- TEMPLE:** The house of worship built in Jerusalem by Solomon as God's dwelling place, for the exercise of the priestly rites of sacrifice in the Jewish religion. After the capture of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans, the second temple was destroyed and never rebuilt. Jesus recognized the Temple as God's dwelling, and a house of prayer. *CCC 583, 797; cf. 2580*
- TEMPTATION:** An attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandments of God. *CCC 538* hence, enticement to sin.
- TEN COMMANDMENTS:** Laws of God, given by God to Moses in the Old Testament, that tell us how to love, honor and respect God and others; they set the basis for Judeo/Christian moral living. They have been said to be the minimal requirements for the God-loving person, but the Two Great Commandments given by Jesus are viewed as the "fullness" of the divinely instituted covenant.
- TESTAMENT:** The name given to the two major parts of the Bible; a synonym for "covenant," as in the Old and New Covenants. The Old Testament recounts the history of salvation before the time of Christ (46 books) and the New Testament unfolds the saving work of Jesus and the apostolic beginnings of the Church (27 books.) *CCC 120-1, 124 See Covenant.*
- THEOLOGY:** The study of God based on divine revelation. *CCC 236, 2033, 2038*
- THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES:** Gifts infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as His children and of meriting eternal life. The theological virtues are: faith, hope and charity. *CCC 1813* Hence, virtues that center our life on God.
- TRADITION:A9** The living transmission of the message of the Gospel of the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible) are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession of the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. *CCC 75-82* hence those truths, beliefs and practices in the Church, passed on from one generation to the next under the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the ages.

5/15/02

**TRANSIFURATION:** The mysterious event in which Jesus, seen speaking with Moses and Elijah on the mountain, was transformed in appearance—in the sight of Peter, James and John—as a moment of disclosure of His divine glory. *CCC 554*

**TRANSUBSTANTIATION:****A9** The scholastic term used to designate the unique change of the Eucharistic bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. “Transubstantiation” indicates that through the consecration of the bread and the wine there occurs the change of the entire substance of the bread into the substance of the Body of Christ, and of the entire substance of the wine into the Blood of Christ—even though the appearances or “species” of bread and wine remain. *CCC 1376* hence, the doctrine which refers to the real presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

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

**TRINITY:****A5,9,12** The mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The revealed truth of the Holy Trinity is at the very root of the Church’s living faith as expressed in the Creed. The mystery of the Trinity in itself is inaccessible to the human mind and is the object of faith only because it was revealed by Jesus Christ, the divine Son of the Father. *CCC 232, 237, 249, 253-6* hence, the central mystery of Christian faith and life.

## U

**UNITY, CHRISTIAN:** *See Ecumenism.*

## V

**VALUES:** Those things which are considered worthwhile and are put into practice in one’s life.

**VATICAN CITY:** Residence of the pope; location of the officials who assist the Pope. An independent sovereign state by the Lateran Treaty of 1929, the State of Vatican City occupies 108.7 acres with a population of 1,000, all of whom are citizens of the city-state. It survives as the last of the once-vast Papal States and incorporated into the Republic of Italy.

**VATICAN II:****A9,12** (Vatican Council II) The 21<sup>st</sup> and most recent general Ecumenical Council, called by Pope John XXIII to foster renewal in the Church, during which the pope and bishops established teaching norms and pastoral guidelines for the Church in its mission of evangelizing (1962-65.) *cf. CCC 111, 597, 748, 816, 1232, 1388, 1513, 1557, 1571, 1656*

1/15/02

**VENERATION (OF SAINTS):** Showing devotion and respect to Mary, the Apostles and the martyrs who were viewed as faithful witnesses to faith in Jesus Christ. Later, veneration was given to those who lived a life of prayer and self-denial in giving witness to Christ, whose virtues were recognized and publicly proclaimed in their canonization as saints. CCC 828 Such veneration is often extended to the *relics* or remains of those recognized as saints; indeed, to many sacred objects and *images*. Veneration must be clearly distinguished from adoration and worship, which are due to God alone. CCC 1154, 1674, 2132

**VENIAL SIN:** Sin which does not destroy the divine life in the soul, as does mortal sin, though it diminishes and wounds it. CCC 1855 Venial sin is the failure to observe necessary moderation in lesser matters of the moral law, or in grave matters acting without full knowledge or complete consent. CCC 1862

**VIATICUM:** The Eucharist received by a dying person. CCC 1524

**VIRGIN BIRTH:** The conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary solely by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church's confession of faith in the virgin birth affirms that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit without human seed. CCC 496

**VIRTUES:A12** Habitual and firm dispositions to do good. The moral virtues are acquired through human effort aided by God's grace; the theological virtues are gifts of God. CCC 1803 hence, any habit or pattern of doing good.

**VISITATION:** Feast which honors Mary's journey to Ein Kerem, a town in the Judean hills, to visit her pregnant cousin, St. Elizabeth. (Celebrated May 31) The Feast serves as the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. Cf. CCC 717

**VOCATION:** The calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve Him; the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal happiness. CCC 1, 358, 1700 Christ calls the faithful to the perfection of holiness. CCC 825 hence, a call from God to holiness of life and a specific state of life: marriage, religious or single.

**VOW:** A deliberate and free promise made to God, concerning a possible and better good which must be fulfilled by reason of the virtue of religion. CCC 2102 Religious vows, the public profession of the evangelical counsels in the Church, have an exemplary value in witnessing to the kingdom to come. CCC cf. 915 hence, a solemn, free promise, made to God to perform a good act not required to achieve salvation.

## W

**WAY OF THE CROSS:** A devotional exercise which follows the "way of the cross" in the Savior's steps, observing stops or "stations" to meditate on the path Jesus took from the Praetorium in Jerusalem to Golgotha and the tomb. CCC 2669

**WISDOM:** A spiritual gift which enables one to know the purpose and plan of God; one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. CCC 1831 Wisdom is also the name of one of the books of the Old Testament. CCC 120

1/15/02

- WITNESS:** Expressing one's belief publicly in words and actions. *Cf. CCC 30, 642, 688*
- WORD OF GOD:** The entire content of revelation as contained in the Holy Bible and proclaimed in the Church. In John's Gospel, God's "Word" also means His only Begotten Son, Jesus. *CCC 65, 81, 101, 241, 461; cf. 2653* hence, Christians also call Jesus "the Word of God"; Also, Scripture.
- WORKS OF MERCY:** Charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs. *CCC 2447* The spiritual works of mercy include: instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, forgiving and patiently forbearing. Corporal works of mercy include feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, sheltering the homeless and burying the dead. *CCC 2447*
- WORSHIP:** Adoration and honor given to God, which is the first act of the virtue of religion. *CCC 2096* Public worship is given to God in the Church by the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the liturgy. *CCC 1067* hence, the expression of our love, adoration, reverence and honor to God alone through communal and private activities.

## Y

- YAHWEH (YHWH):** The personal name of the God of Israel, revealed to Moses on Mt. Sinai, meaning "I am Who I am." *CCC 205*

## Z

- ZEAL:** The charity and resulting effort that enables one to serve God and others in the furthering of the Mystical Body of Christ. When a person is animated with zeal, they acknowledge the treasure of the Faith and seek to defend it and share it with those who have not heard it or those who have but are not living its demands. *Cf. CCC 579, 2442*