

Vocabulary for Unit 4

Apostolic Succession: The uninterrupted passing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles directly to all bishops. It is accomplished through the laying on of hands when a bishop is ordained in the Sacrament of Holy Orders as instituted by Christ. The office of bishop is permanent, because at ordination a bishop is marked with an indelible, sacred character.

charism: A special gift or grace of the Holy Spirit given to an individual Christian or community, commonly for the benefit and building up of the entire Church.

charismatic: The word refers to a person gifted with the charisms or graces of the Holy Spirit such as healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Because self-deception is always possible, the charisms claimed by such a person must be verified by the Church.

Confirmation, Sacrament of: With Baptism and the Eucharist, one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Through an outpouring of the special Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by confirming or “sealing” the baptized person’s union with Christ and by equipping that person for active participation in the life of the Church.

Pentecost: The biblical event following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus at which the Holy Spirit was poured out on his disciples; in the Christian liturgical year, the first fifty days after Easter on which the biblical event of Pentecost is recalled and celebrated.

