

Vocabulary for Unit 3

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. The office of bishop is permanent, because at ordination a bishop is marked with an indelible, sacred character.

covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being in which mutual commitments are made.

creed: A short summary statement or profession of faith. The Nicene and Apostles' Creeds are the Church's most familiar and important creeds.

Deposit of Faith: The heritage of faith contained in the Sacred Scriptures and Tradition. It has been passed on from the time of the Apostles. The Magisterium takes from it all that it teaches as revealed truth.

Divine Revelation: God's self-communication through which he makes known the mystery of his divine plan. Divine Revelation is a gift accomplished by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the words and deeds of salvation history. It is most fully realized in the Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.

dogma: Teachings recognized as central to Church teaching, defined by the Magisterium and accorded the fullest weight and authority.

Logos: A Greek word meaning "word," used to refer to the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ.

Magisterium: The Church's living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope.

mortal sin: A serious transgression of a person's relationship with God and neighbors. Mortal sin hinders an individual's potential for love and eternal life.

Original Sin: From the Latin *origo*, meaning "beginning" or "birth." The term has two meanings: (1) the sin of the first human beings, who disobeyed God's command by choosing to follow their own will and thus lost their original holiness and became subject to death, (2) the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world.

patriarch: The father or leader of a tribe, clan, or tradition. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were patriarchs of the Israelite people.

primeval history: The time period before the invention of writing and recording of historical data.



prophet: A person God chooses to speak his message of salvation. In the Bible, primarily a communicator of a divine message of repentance to the Chosen People, not necessarily a person who predicted the future.

Sacred Tradition: From the Latin *tradere*, meaning “to hand on.” Refers to the process of passing on the Gospel message. It began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in the Scriptures, and is interpreted by the Magisterium under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

salvation history: The pattern of specific events in human history in which God clearly reveals his presence and saving actions. Salvation was accomplished once and for all through Jesus Christ, a truth foreshadowed and revealed throughout the Old Testament.

sin: Any deliberate offense, in thought, word, or deed, against the will of God.

theophany: God’s manifestation of himself in a visible form to enrich human understanding of him. An example is God’s appearance to Moses in the form of a burning bush.

Trinity: From the Latin *trinus*, meaning “threefold,” referring to the central mystery of the Christian faith that God exists as a communion of three distinct and interrelated divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to human reason alone and is known through Divine Revelation only.

venial sin: Sin that is less serious and reparable by charity.

wisdom literature: The Old Testament Books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, and Wisdom.

