

Vocabulary for Unit 1

Bible: The collection of Christian sacred writings, or Scripture, accepted by the Church as inspired by God and composed of the Old and New Testaments.

biblical inerrancy: The doctrine that the books of Scripture are free from error regarding the truth God wishes to reveal through Scripture for the sake of our salvation.

biblical inspiration: The gift of the Holy Spirit, which assisted human beings to write biblical books, so they have God as their author and teach faithfully and without error the saving truth that God willed to give us.

Church: The term *Church* has three inseparable meanings: (1) the entire People of God throughout the world; (2) the diocese, which is also known as the local Church; (3) the assembly of believers gathered for the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist. In the Nicene Creed, the Church is recognized as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic—traits that together are referred to as “marks of the Church.”

codices: Book-like manuscripts that replaced scrolls.

consecrate, Consecration: To declare or set apart as sacred or to solemnly dedicate to God’s service; to make holy. At Mass the Consecration occurs during the Eucharistic Prayer when the priest recites Jesus’ words of institution, changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

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

Deposit of Faith: The heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred 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.

Eucharist, the: The celebration of the entire Mass. The term sometimes refers specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Gentile: A non-Jewish person. In Scripture, the Gentiles were those outside the covenant, those who did not know how to fulfill God’s will. Without this knowledge, they could not be in right relationship with God, and so were considered “unholy” or “unclean.” In the New Testament, Saint Paul and other evangelists reached out to the Gentiles, baptizing them into the family of God.



Gospels: Translated from a Greek word meaning “good news,” referring to the four books attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, “the principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word”¹ (CCC, 125), Jesus Christ.

incarnate, Incarnation: From the Latin, meaning “to become flesh,” referring to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God, becoming man. In the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became truly man while remaining truly God.

Lectionary: The official liturgical book containing the readings of the Mass, the Gospels, the Responsorial Psalms, and the Gospel Acclamations.

liturgical year: The Church’s annual cycle of religious feasts and seasons that celebrate the events and mysteries of Christ’s birth, life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, and that form the context for the Church’s worship.

Liturgy of the Hours: Also known as the Divine Office, the official public, daily prayer of the Catholic Church. The Divine Office provides standard prayers, Scripture readings, and reflections at regular hours throughout the day.

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

synoptic Gospels: From the Greek for “seeing the whole together,” the name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke because they are similar in style and content.

Tradition: From the Latin *tradere*, meaning “to hand on,” referring to the process of passing on the Gospel message. Tradition, which began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in Scripture, is handed down and lived out in the life of the Church, and is interpreted by the Magisterium under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Vatican Council II: The Ecumenical or general Council of the Roman Catholic Church that Pope John XXIII (1958–1963) convened in 1962 and that continued under Pope Paul VI (1963–1978) until 1965.

Word of God: The entire deposit of truth revealed by God throughout history and transmitted through Scripture and Tradition, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, God speaks of the Word, Jesus Christ, the fullness of Revelation and the Eternal Son of God. Jesus Christ became man (the Word incarnate) for the sake of our salvation.

Endnote Cited in a Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition

1. *Dei Verbum* 18.

The quotation on this handout labeled CCC is from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America, second editio, number 125. Copyright © 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV). English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* copyright © 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—LEV.

