Vocabulary for Unit 6

**chastity:** The virtue by which people are able to successfully and healthfully integrate their sexuality into their total person; recognized as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**conscience:** A person’s God-given internal sense of what is morally right or wrong. To make good judgments, a person needs to have a well-formed conscience.

**consistent ethic of life:**  The reverence for and protection of human life held by Catholics. This ethic applies to life in all its stages—at its very beginning, at its very end, and at every point in between.

**dominion:** We are to be stewards of all life, including human life, and of the earth itself.

**embryo:** The unborn child from the time it implants in the uterine wall through the eighth week of its development.

**Fall, the:** Also called the Fall from Grace, the biblical revelation about the origins of sin and evil in the world, expressed figuratively in the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis.

**fetus:**  The unborn child from the end of the eighth week after conception to the moment of birth.

**genocide:** The systematic and planned extermination of an entire national, racial, or ethnic group.

**human trafficking:** The illegal trade of human beings, a modern-day form of slavery, for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, or involuntary military combat.

**immortal:** Living forever; not subject to death.

**inherent dignity:** This means that dignity is so much a part of us that no one can ever take it away.

**parables:** Stories rooted in daily life that use symbolism or allegory as a teaching tool and that usually have a surprise ending.

**poverty:** From the Latin *pauper,* meaning “poor,” this word refers to those who lack material goods so that their basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, health care, and education are not met.

**procreation:** Conceiving and bearing children.

**Samaritans:** Residents of Samaria, the central hill country of Palestine. In the time of Jesus, tremendous ethnic hatred and tension, which sometimes erupted into violence, existed between Jews and Samaritans.

**social consciousness:**  This can be defined as awareness of the problems that directly and indirectly affect groups of people and the environment and how various individual and corporate decisions can influence them for better or for worse.

**stewards:** People who are put in charge of managing, caring for, and protecting something, such as money or personal property.

**wisdom:** It “gently draws the human mind to look for and to love what is true and good” (*The Church in the Modern World,* 15).

(The quotation within the definition for *wisdom* is from *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* [*Gaudium et Spes,* 1965],number 15, in *Vatican Council II: Constitutions, Decrees, Declarations,* Austin Flannery, general editor [Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1996]. Copyright © 1996 by Reverend Austin Flannery, OP.)