

# Vocabulary for Unit 2

## Terms for Mastery

**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.

**canon of Scripture** The books of the Bible officially recognized by the Church as the inspired Word of God.

**canonized** A deceased Catholic's having been publically and officially proclaimed a saint.

**domestic church** A name for the first and most fundamental community of faith: the family.

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

**martyrdom** Witness to the saving message of Christ through the sacrifice of one's life.

**Sacred Tradition** The process of passing on the Gospel message. Sacred Tradition, which began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in Sacred Scripture, is handed down and lived out in the Church, 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.

## Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

**ecumenism** The movement to restore unity among all Christians, the unity to which the Church is called by the Holy Spirit.

**ex cathedra** A Latin term literally meaning "from the chair," referring to pronouncements concerning faith or morals made by the Pope, acting with full Apostolic authority, as pastor and teacher of all Christians.

**infallibility** The gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the Pope and the bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith and morals without error.

**interreligious dialogue** The efforts to build cooperative and constructive interaction with other world religions.

**Paschal Mystery** The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.



**theodicy** From the Greek words for “God” and “justice,” referring to the study of evil and suffering in the world, which seems contrary to the existence of a presumably good God.

**vocation** A call from God to all members of the Church to embrace a life of holiness. Specifically, it refers to a call to live the holy life as an ordained minister, as a vowed religious (sister or brother), or in a Christian marriage. Single life that involves a personal consecration or commitment to a permanent, celibate gift of self to God and one’s neighbor is also a vocational state.

## Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**Evangelists** From a Greek word meaning “messenger of good news,” the title given to the authors of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**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 account of Adam and Eve in Genesis.

**free will** The gift from God that allows human beings to choose from among various actions, for which we are held accountable. It is the basis for moral responsibility.

**Gentile** Someone who is not Jewish.

**inspired** Written by human beings with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to teach faithfully and without the saving truth that God willed to give us.

**patriarchs** The ancient fathers of the Jewish people, whose stories are recounted in the Book of Genesis.

**theology** Literally, “the study of God”; the academic discipline and effort to understand, interpret, and order our experience of God and Christian faith.

