Vocabulary for Unit 7

**allegory:** A literary form in which something is said to be like something else, in an attempt to communicate a hidden or symbolic meaning.

***anawim:*** A Hebrew word for the poor and marginalized.

**Essenes:** A group of pious, ultraconservative Jews who left the Temple of Jerusalem and began a community by the Dead Sea, known as Qumran.

**Evangelists:** Based on a word for “good news,” in general, anyone who actively works to spread the Gospel of Jesus; more commonly and specifically, the persons traditionally recognized as authors of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

**Gentiles:** Non-Jewish people.

**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”2 (*CCC,* 125), Jesus Christ.

**Herodians:** A group of Jewish leaders, including the Temple high priests and Jewish royal families, who collaborated with the Roman governors.

**Johannine:** Related to the author of the fourth Gospel.

**Kingdom of God:** The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. Also called the Reign of God.

***Logos:*** A Greek word meaning “Word.” *Logos* is a title of Jesus Christ found in the Gospel of John that illuminates the relationship between the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. (See John 1:1,14.)

**Messiah:** A Hebrew word meaning “God’s anointed one.” Translated as “Christ” in Greek.

**messianic hope:** The Jewish belief and expectation that a messiah would come to protect, unite, and lead Israel to freedom.

**messianic secret:** A theme in the Gospel of Mark that portrays the disciples and others as recognizing Jesus’ identity as the Messiah. However, Jesus directed them not to tell anyone else.

**mysticism:** A word that comes from the Greek, meaning “to conceal.”

**parables:** Short stories that use everyday images to communicate religious messages.

**Paraclete:**  A name for the Holy Spirit, the Divine Third Person of the Trinity, whom Jesus promised to the disciples as an advocate and counselor.

**Pharisees:** A Jewish religious group that strictly observed and taught the Law of Moses.

**Quelle:** Also called the Q Source, a theoretical collection of ancient documents of the teachings of Jesus shared among the early followers of Christianity.

**rabbi:** An honored teacher in the Jewish tradition.

**Sadducees:** A group of powerful and often wealthy Jews who were connected to the Temple priests and often disagreed with the Pharisees.

**scribes:** People associated with the Pharisees or Sadducees who were skilled copyists, professional letter writers, and interpreters and teachers of the Law.

**symbol:** An object that points to or represents another reality. Sometimes the word *symbol* is used as a synonym of *sign,* and other times it refers to an object that makes present what it signifies.

**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.

**Theophilus:** The name given to the audience of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles; it means “lover of God” or “God fearer.”

**Zealots:** People who banded together during the time of Christ to violently resist Roman occupation.