

Vocabulary for Unit 5

bishop: One who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and is a successor to the Apostles.

candidacy: A formal period of discernment with other men who are considering the priesthood. Also known as pre-theology, this generally lasts for two years.

college of bishops: The assembly of bishops, headed by the Pope, that holds the teaching authority and responsibility in the Church.

collegial: Characterized by the equal sharing of responsibility and authority among the members of a group who form a college. The bishops of the Church together with the Pope at their head form a college, which has full authority over the Church.

consecrated life: A state of life recognized by the Church in which a person publicly professes vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

discernment: From a Latin word meaning “to separate or to distinguish between,” it is the practice of listening for God’s call in our lives and distinguishing between good and bad choices.

domestic: Relating to household or family.

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

eremitic: Having to do with hermits.

hermit: A person who lives a solitary life in order to commit himself or herself more fully to prayer and in some cases to be completely free for service to others.

hierarchy: In general, the line of authority in the Church; more narrowly the Pope and the bishops, as successors of the Apostles, in their authoritative roles as leaders of the Church.

Holy See: This term is a translation of the Latin *sancta sedes*, which literally means “holy seat.” The word *see* refers to a diocese or seat of a bishop. The Holy See is the seat of the central administration of the whole Church, under the leadership of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

institute: An organization devoted to a common cause. Religious orders are a type of religious institute.

Latin Church, Latin Rite: That part of the Catholic Church that follows the disciplines and teachings of the Diocese of Rome, especially the liturgical traditions. It is called the Latin Church or Latin Rite because Latin has been the official language since the fourth century. The majority of the world’s Catholics belong to the Latin Rite.

ministry: Based on a word for “service,” a way of caring for and serving others and helping the Church fulfill its mission. *Ministry* especially refers to the work of sanctification performed by those in Holy Orders



through the preaching of God's Word and the celebration of the Sacraments. The laity helps the Church fulfill its mission through lay ministries, such as that of lector or catechist.

monk: Someone who withdraws from ordinary life, and lives alone or in community, in order to devote oneself to prayer and work in total dedication to God.

presbytery, presbyterate: The name given to priests as a group, especially in a diocese; based on the Greek work *presbyter*, which means "elder."

priesthood: When a transitional deacon is ready, he is ordained by the bishop with Holy Orders to the priesthood.

province: A grouping of two or more dioceses with an archbishop as its head.

(religious) brother: A lay man in a religious order who has made permanent vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

(religious) sister: A lay woman in a religious order who has made permanent vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

secular: Relating to worldly concerns; something that is not overtly religious.

seminary study: Sponsored by his diocese, a priest candidate enters seminary for priestly formation and theological studies, generally lasting four years, plus one year of working in a parish in the diocese.

Transitional Diaconate: About a year before ordination to the priesthood, a seminarian is ordained to the Transitional Diaconate (different from the Permanent Diaconate), at which time he makes vows of celibacy and obedience to the bishop.

vicar: Someone who serves as a substitute or agent for someone else. As the Vicar of Christ, the Pope acts for Christ, his human representative on earth.

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), in a Christian marriage, or in single life.

