

Vocabulary for Unit 4

assembly: Also known as a congregation, it is a community of believers gathered for worship as the Body of Christ.

catechumen: One who is preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church by engaging in formal study, reflection, and prayer.

catechumenate: The name of the full process, as well as of one formal stage within the process, by which persons are prepared for full initiation into the Church. The process is commonly reserved for adult converts to Catholicism.

Consecration: Making a person (candidate for ordination), place (a new church), or a thing (bread and wine) holy. During the Mass, the term refers to that point in the Eucharistic prayer when the priest recites Jesus' words of institution, changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Eucharistic prayer: The part of the Mass that includes the Consecration of the bread and wine. It begins with the preface and concludes with the great Amen.

grace: The free and undeserved gift of God's loving and active presence in the universe and in our lives.

Holy Communion: Another name for the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

liturgy: Based on a word meaning "public work," the official public worship of the Church, the heart and high point—or source and goal—of which is the Eucharist.

Liturgy of the Eucharist: The second major part of the Mass, it comprises the preparation of the gifts, the Eucharistic prayer, and the Rite of Holy Communion.

Liturgy of the Word: The first major part of the Mass, it comprises three scriptural readings, a Responsorial Psalm, a homily, the Nicene Creed, and petitions.

ordained ministers or clergy: Those who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, that is, deacons, priests, and bishops.

priesthood of the faithful: The belief that the Body of Christ is made up of priestly people who share in Christ's royal priesthood.

ritual: The established form of the words and actions for a ceremony that is repeated often. The actions often have a symbolic meaning, such as the anointing with Chrism at Confirmation.

Sacrament: In Catholic life and worship, the seven efficacious signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.



sacramentals: Sacred signs (such as holy water and a crucifix) that bear some resemblance to the Sacraments, but which do not carry the guarantee of God's grace associated with the Seven Sacraments.

Sacraments of Healing: The two Sacraments that are concerned with healing the mind, body, and spirit: the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Sacraments of Initiation: The three Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion: The name given to the two Sacraments that are directed toward building up the People of God, namely Holy Orders and Matrimony.

symbol: An object or action that points us to another reality. It leads us to look beyond our senses to consider the deeper mystery.

Triduum: The three days of the liturgical year that begin with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and end with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

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.

