

Vocabulary for Unit 6

Ascension: The “going up” into heaven of the risen Christ forty days after his Resurrection.

Church: (1) The entire People of God throughout the world, (2) the local church, (3) the assembly of believers gathered for the liturgy, especially the Eucharist.

conversion: A change of heart; from the Greek word *metanoia*.

deacon: A man ordained to assist the Apostles by ministering to the needs of the Church, especially through acts of charity.

ekklesia: Christians in a region, in a house, or all Christians; the Greek word means “the assembly of the people.”

evangelization: Spreading the Gospel of Christ; from the Greek *eu* meaning good, and *angelos*, meaning “messenger.”

Gentile: A word used to designate a person who is not Jewish.

Holy Spirit: This word (from the Latin *spiritus*, meaning “breath” or “soul”) refers to the Third Person of the Trinity, the Paraclete divinely sent to teach and guide the Church to the end of times.

kerygma: The Christian message found in the Gospels that is proclaimed; the word is derived from the Greek for “proclaim.”

Pentecost: The biblical event following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus at which the Holy Spirit was poured out on his disciples. The first Pentecost is often identified as the birth of the Church.

presbyter: A Greek word meaning “elder,” this was used to refer to the leaders of local Christian communities.

Way, the: The original title for Christianity during the time of the Apostles.

