

## Vocabulary for Unit 2

**abbot, abbess:** The superior and spiritual leader of a monastery (masculine: abbot; feminine: abbess).

**antipope:** A person claiming to be Pope in opposition to the Pope chosen in accordance with Church law.

**Arianism:** A heresy developed in the late third century that denied Christ's full divinity, stating that Christ was a created being who was superior to human beings but inferior to God.

**charism:** A special gift or grace of the Holy Spirit given to an individual Christian or community, commonly for the benefit and building up of the entire Church.

**Christendom:** The Church's sphere of power and authority, both politically and spiritually, during the Middle Ages.

**consubstantial:** Having the same nature or essence.

**Doctor of the Church:** A title officially bestowed by the Church on those saints who are highly esteemed for their theological writings, as well as their personal holiness.

**Ecumenical Council:** A gathering of the Church's bishops from around the world convened by the Pope or approved by him to address pressing issues in the Church.

**Fathers of the Church (Church Fathers):** During the early centuries of the Church, those teachers whose writings extended the Tradition of the Apostles and who continue to be important for the Church's teachings.

**feudalism:** A system that evolved in Western Europe in the eighth and ninth centuries in which society was ordered around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for service and protection.

***filioque*:** Latin for "and from the Son," this phrase was added to the Nicene Creed in the Roman Church to express that the Holy Spirit descended from the Father and the Son, rather than *from* the Father and *through* the Son, as the Byzantine Church expressed.

**Franks:** A Germanic tribe that inhabited the Roman provinces of Gaul (roughly coinciding with modern-day France) starting in the sixth century.

**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.



**hypostatic union:** The union of Jesus Christ's divine and human natures in one Divine Person.

**iconoclasm:** The deliberate destruction of religious icons and symbols.

**illuminated manuscript:** A manuscript in which the text is supplemented with artwork such as decorated initials, borders, and illustrations, often using gold and silver. During the Middle Ages, manuscripts were copied and illuminated by hand, work often done by monks.

**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.)

**papal bull:** An official letter or charter issued by the Pope, named for the *bull*, or wax seal, that was used to authenticate it.

**Papal States:** An independent country ruled by the Pope until 1870, covering a wide strip of land in the middle of the Italian Peninsula. The Papal States were awarded to the papacy in 756 in a formal deed called the Donation of Pepin.

**patriarch (Eastern):** In the Old Testament, a patriarch is the father of a group or tribe. In the Eastern (or Greek) Church, a patriarch is a spiritual father. The title is given to the highest ranking bishops in the Church.

**rule of life:** Constitution that clarifies the mission and directs the daily life of a religious community or institute according to the spirit of the Gospel.

**simony:** Buying or selling something spiritual, such as a grace, a Sacrament, or a relic. It violates the honor of God.

**Theotokos:** A Greek title for Mary meaning "God bearer."

**Vikings:** The Scandinavian explorers, merchants, and warriors who invaded and settled in Europe from the late eighth to the eleventh centuries.

**Vulgate:** The version of the Bible translated from Hebrew and Greek into Latin by Saint Jerome and which became the definitive version and officially promulgated by the Church.

