

Name _____

Unit 1 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A

adoration The prayerful acknowledgment that God is God and creator of all that is.

apostate One who denies or renounces one's faith.

Apostolic Succession The uninterrupted passing on of authority from the Apostles directly to all bishops. It is accomplished through the laying on of hands when a bishop is ordained in the Sacrament of Holy Orders as instituted by Christ.

C

chief priest This person led the religious services and conducted animal sacrifices held at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Christology Literally the study of Christ; the systematic statement of Christian beliefs about Jesus Christ, including his identity, mission, and saving work on Earth.

conversion A profound change of heart, turning away from sin and toward God.

D

Deposit of Faith The heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It has been passed on from the time of the Apostles. The Magisterium takes from it all that it teaches as revealed truth.

disciple Follower of Jesus.

doctrine An official, authoritative teaching of the Church based on the Revelation of God.

E

elites A select group that has the most power and influence in a society, typically because of wealth and social status.

F

faith In general, the belief in the existence of God. For Christians, the gift of God by which one freely accepts his full Revelation in Jesus Christ. It is a matter of the both the head (acceptance of Church teaching regarding the Revelation of God) and the heart (love of God and neighbor as a response to God's first loving us); also, one of the three Theological Virtues.

free will The gift from God that allows human beings to choose from among various actions, for which we are held accountable. It is the basis for moral responsibility.

G

Gentile A non-Jewish person. In Sacred Scripture, the Gentiles were the uncircumcised, those who did not honor the God of the Torah. Saint Paul and other evangelists reached out to the Gentiles, baptizing them into the family of God.

genuflect To kneel on one knee as a sign of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.

Gospel Most basically, the "Good News" of the Resurrection of God in and through Jesus Christ, proclaimed initially by him, then by the Apostles, and now by the Church; also refers to those four books of the New Testament that focus on the person, life, teachings, suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.



grace The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to empower us to respond to his call and to live as his adopted sons and daughters. Grace restores our loving communion with the Holy Trinity, lost through sin.

H

High Priest This person led the religious services and conducted animal sacrifices held at the Temple in Jerusalem. The High Priest was appointed by the Jewish king with the approval of the Roman governor.

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

I

Incarnation From the Latin, meaning "to become flesh," referring to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God, becoming man. In the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became truly man while remaining truly God.

indentured servant A person who is under contract to work for another person for a period of time, usually without pay; often considered a form of slavery.

inspired Written by human beings with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to teach faithfully and without error the saving truth that God willed to give us.

J

justification God's act of bringing a sinful human being into right relationship with him. It involves removal of sin and the gift of God's sanctifying grace to renew holiness.

M

Magisterium The Church's living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope, the bishop of Rome. Their task is to interpret and preserve the truths revealed in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

martyr A person who voluntarily suffers death because of his or her beliefs. The Church has canonized many martyrs as saints.

Messiah Hebrew word for "anointed one." The equivalent Greek term is *Christos*. Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One.

miracle A special manifestation, or sign, of the presence and power of God active in human history.

missionary A person sent to preach the Gospel, or help strengthen the faith already professed, among people in a given place or region.

N

natural law The moral law that can be understood by all people through the use of human reason. It is our God-given ability to understand what it means to be in right relationship with God, other people, the world, and ourselves. The basis for natural law is our participation in God's wisdom and goodness because we are created in the divine likeness.

New Testament The twenty-seven books of the Bible, which have the life, teachings, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of the Church as their central theme.



P

parable Generally a short story that uses everyday images to communicate religious messages. Jesus used parables frequently in his teaching as a way of presenting the Good News of salvation.

Paschal Mystery The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

Passion The suffering and death of Jesus during the final days of his life: his agony in the garden at Gethsemane, his trial, and his Crucifixion.

patriarchal Describes a society, government, or religion in which the positions of power are held by men and important decisions are made by men.

Pharisees This group of Jews was well-known for its strict adherence to all the laws of the Old Testament. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead.

R

redemption From the Latin *redemptio*, meaning “a buying back,” referring, in the Old Testament, to Yahweh’s deliverance of Israel and, in the New Testament, to Christ’s deliverance of all Christians from the forces of sin. As the agent of redemption, Jesus is called the Redeemer.

Resurrection The bodily rising of Jesus from the dead on the third day after his death on the cross; the heart of the Paschal Mystery and the basis of our hope in the resurrection of the dead.

S

Sacred Tradition This word (from the Latin meaning “to hand on”) refers to the process of passing on the Gospel message. Tradition, which began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in Scripture, is handed down and lived out in the life of the Church and is interpreted by the Magisterium under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sadducees This group of Jews consisted largely of the elite, wealthy class; many were chief priests. They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

salvation From the Latin *salvare*, meaning “to save,” referring to the forgiveness of sins and assurance of permanent union with God, attained for us through the Paschal Mystery—Christ’s work of redemption accomplished through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Only at the time of judgment can a person be certain of salvation, which is a gift of God.

scribes These people were scholars and teachers of the Jewish Law and Scripture. They were associated with both the chief priests and the Pharisees.

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.

T

tenant farmer A farmer who works someone else’s land, paying the landowner a percentage of the crops or animals raised.

Z

Zealots These people believed that God wanted Israel to be an independent nation again, free from foreign rule. They preached a violent overthrow of the Roman occupiers.



Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

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 and in the world.

infallibility The gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the Magisterium of the Church, the Pope, and the bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith and morals without error.

interreligious dialogue The efforts to build cooperative and constructive interaction with other world religions.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

canon of Scripture The books of the Bible officially recognized by the Church as the inspired Word of God.

Divine Revelation God's self-communication through which he makes known the mystery of his divine plan. Divine Revelation is a gift accomplished by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through the words and deeds of salvation history. It is most fully realized in the Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.

Heaven A state of eternal life and union with God, in which one experiences full happiness and the satisfaction of the deepest human longings.

Old Law Divine Law revealed in the Old Testament, summarized in the Ten Commandments. Also called the Law of Moses.

oral tradition The stage in the formation of the Gospels by which the Good News was spread by "word of mouth" prior to being written down.

Promised Land In the Bible, the land of Canaan, which was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Sabbath A day of religious observance and abstinence from work, kept by Jews from Friday evening to Saturday evening, and by most Christians on Sunday.

synagogue The building where a Jewish assembly or congregation meets for religious worship and instruction.

Torah A Hebrew word meaning "law," referring to the first five books of the Old Testament.

universality Jesus' offer of salvation is extended to all people, especially the outcast and marginalized.

written tradition The stage during the formation of the Gospels when the human authors, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, drew upon the oral tradition and earlier writings to create the four Gospels we have today in the Bible.

