

Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

Key Words

A

absolution being completely forgiven of our sins

Advent means “coming”; the season of preparation for the feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world and into our hearts

Advocate helper or advisor; a name Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit

Alleluia means “Praise the Lord!”

anoint to mark something or someone as chosen or sacred; to mark with oil in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

B

baptismal promises a series of questions and answers about faith; promises made by a person receiving one or more of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation or, in the case of infants, by their parents and godparents, and renewed by the entire Church at Easter

C

common good the good of everyone, not just an individual or a few people

conversion a change, especially a spiritual change, in attitudes, actions, or viewpoints

covenant an unbreakable promise or vow that unites God and an individual, or two people

crozier a bishop’s staff, curved at the top to resemble a shepherd’s crook; a symbol of the bishop’s responsibility to represent Christ the Good Shepherd

D

discernment prayerfully listening to God and paying attention to where God might be leading us

E

Easter Vigil the liturgy that is celebrated on the Saturday evening before Easter

F

free will the God-given ability to choose how to live our lives and whether to love God and creation

fruits of the Spirit qualities that help us to become better people, more like Jesus

G

Gifts of the Holy Spirit spiritual gifts that help us to figure out what is good and right, and then to do it

grace God’s free and undeserved gift that we receive in the sacraments; God’s own life in us

H

Holy Souls those who have died and may still be waiting to enter Heaven

humility from the Latin word *humus*, meaning “Earth”; “down to Earth”; seeing ourselves truthfully, recognizing that we depend on God and on other people

I

incarnate means “in flesh”; in Jesus Christ, God became *incarnate* as a human being, in all things but sin

inherent a permanent, unchanging characteristic that has been part of something for its entire existence

initiation the process of joining a group; for example a series of steps a person must take to show a commitment to the beliefs, values, or goals of a group

Israelites God’s Chosen People, descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

K

Kingdom of God rule of God over the hearts of people; also called the “Reign of God”

M

Magnificat Mary’s song of praise to God, from the first words in Latin, “My soul praises”

martyr from the Greek word for “witness”; someone who dies for his or her faith

mestiza in Latin America, a woman descended from both the Spanish and native peoples; the masculine form is *mestizo*

missionary a person who shares God’s love, and the message of Jesus’ saving work, with others

Mystical Body the Church; oneness in Christ with everyone else who has been baptized and receives Holy Communion; includes all those in Heaven, on Earth, and in Purgatory

O

ordained a man (deacon, priest, or bishop) who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in response to God’s call to serve the Church

Original Sin the sin that was passed on to each of us from Adam and Eve because of their disobedience to God

P

parable a story with a message and Jesus’ preferred way of teaching

penance prayers or actions to make up for our sin and to show that we are sorry

Pentecost the Sunday in the Church calendar when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the beginning of the Church’s mission

Purgatory means “purification”; a state of being in which those who have died are purified of all sin so that they are ready to enter Heaven

R

Real Presence the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in his Body and Blood under the appearances of bread and wine

right to life the right to live from the beginning of life (before birth) to natural death

ruah means “breath”; the Hebrew name for *spirit*

S

Sacraments at the Service of Communion the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony that build the Church, the communion of believers, and serve others

Sacraments of Christian Initiation the sacraments that make us full members of the Catholic Church—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist

sacred chrism olive oil that is mixed with balsam and has been blessed by the bishop; used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders

solidarity one of the principles of Catholic social teaching, recognizing that we are all united, connected, and called to care for one another

T

tilma a cloak worn by men of the Aztec peoples of Mexico, made of a material similar to burlap

transubstantiation a change of substance, taking place through the power of the Holy Spirit when the priest repeats Jesus’ words, “This is my Body. . . . This is my Blood.” (*Roman Missal*)

Triduum means “three days”; the primary celebration of the entire Church Year starting with Holy Thursday evening and ending at Vespers (Evening Prayer) Easter Day

triptych means “three folds”; a type of art that uses three panels

U

ultimatum a final condition or demand

V

vocation God’s specific plan for each of us to help build the Kingdom; the way we are individually called to love and serve God and other people

vulnerable in danger of being mistreated, threatened, or harassed

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