

## Vocabulary for Unit 6

**adoration:** The prayerful acknowledgment that God is God and Creator of all that is.

**blessing:** A prayer asking that God care for a particular person, place, or activity. A simple blessing is usually made with the Sign of the Cross.

**contemplation:** A form of wordless prayer in which one is fully focused on the presence of God; sometimes defined as “resting in God,” a deep sense of loving adoration of God.

**discernment:** From a Latin word meaning “to separate or to distinguish between,” it is the practice of listening for God’s call in our lives and distinguishing between good and bad choices.

**domestic church:** Another name for the first and most fundamental community of faith: the family.

**doxology:** A prayer of glory and praise to one God in three divine Persons. Two examples of doxologies from the Mass are the Glory to God and the words that precede the Great Amen.

**exposition:** As part of Eucharistic adoration, exposition is the custom of taking the Eucharist from the tabernacle and placing it in a special vessel called a monstrance, designed to hold a host and “expose” it—that is, to make it visible—so people can pray before it.

**Intercession:** A prayer on behalf of another person or group.

**Liturgy of the Hours:** The official, nonsacramental daily prayer of the Catholic Church. The prayer provides standard prayers, Scripture readings, and reflections at regular hours throughout the day.

**Lord’s Prayer:** Another name for the Our Father.

**meditation:** A form of prayer involving a variety of methods and techniques, in which one engages the mind, imagination, and emotions to focus on a particular truth, biblical theme, or other spiritual matter.

**mysticism:** An intense experience of the presence and power of God, resulting in a deeper sense of union with God; those who regularly experience such union are called mystics.

**novena:** From the Latin word for “nine,” it is a public or private devotion that extends for a period of nine days. In some cases a novena is offered on a designated day for nine weeks or nine months.

**petition:** A prayer form in which one asks God for help and forgiveness.



**praise:** A prayer of acknowledgment that God is God, giving God glory not for what he does, but simply because he is.

**prayer:** The lifting of mind and heart to God in praise, petition, thanksgiving, and intercession; communication with God in a relationship of love.

**thanksgiving:** A prayer of gratitude for the gift of life and the gifts of life.

**vocal prayer:** A prayer that is spoken aloud or silently, such as the Lord's Prayer. It is one of the three expressions of prayer, the other two being meditation and contemplation.

