

Vocabulary for Unit 1

Apostolic Succession: The uninterrupted passing on of apostolic preaching and 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. The office of bishop is permanent, because at ordination a bishop is marked with an indelible, sacred character.

canonized: A deceased Catholic's having been publicly and officially proclaimed a saint.

canon of Scripture: The list of the books of the Bible officially recognized as sacred, inspired writings.

cloistered: Adjective indicating a religious order whose members rarely leave the monastery or convent that is their home.

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.

ecumenism: The movement to restore unity among all Christian Churches and, ultimately, of all people throughout "the whole wide world" (the literal meaning of the word).

Evangelists: Based on a word for "good news," in general, anyone who actively works to spread the Gospel of Jesus; more commonly and specifically, the persons traditionally recognized as authors of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

ex cathedra: A Latin phrase that literally means "from the chair."

Gentile: Someone who is not Jewish.

infallible: This means that the Pope's statements are true and without error when "he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals"¹ (CCC, 891).

inspired: Written by human beings with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to teach without error those truths necessary for our salvation.

interreligious dialogue: The Church's efforts to build relations with *other world religions*, such as Judaism and Islam.

Magisterium: The official, authoritative teaching voice of the Church.

martyrs: People who suffer death because of their beliefs. The Church has canonized many martyrs as saints.

noncanonical: Writings that are not part of a canon.

patriarchs: The ancient fathers of the Jewish people, whose stories are recounted in the Book of Genesis.



Revelation: God's self-disclosure to us. *Self-disclosure* means God reveals himself and the divine plan of salvation.

saints: Ordinary people who lived in the midst of difficulties, uncertainty, and suffering. Despite these circumstances, they made extraordinary choices to put their faith into action.

salvation history: The pattern of specific salvific events in human history that reveal God's presence and saving actions.

sanctify: To make holy.

sanctifying grace: A supernatural gift of God by which our sins are forgiven, we are made holy, and our friendship with God is restored.

supernatural: This adjective (from the Latin *super*, meaning "above," and *natura*, meaning "nature") is predicated on a phenomenon that is completely above the laws of nature: the supernatural is beyond the powers of creation and is the result of God's gratuitous action (see CCC, 1998).

theology: Literally, "the study of God"; the academic discipline and effort to understand, interpret, and order our experience of God and Christian faith.

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 the Scriptures, 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.

vocation: A calling from God to fulfill a particular purpose or mission in life.

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Endnote Cited in a Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition

1. *Lumen gentium* 25; cf. Vatican Council I: Denzinger Schönmetzner, *Enchiridion Symbolorum definitionum declarationum de rebus fidei et morum* (1965) 3074.

