

# Vocabulary for Unit 1

**actual graces:** God's interventions and support for us in the everyday moments of our lives. Actual graces are important for conversion and for continuing growth in holiness.

**agape:** Unconditional love. A Greek word used in Scripture and by the early Christians to describe a self-giving love that puts aside one's own immediate self-interest for the interest of another.

**age of reason:** The age at which a person can be morally responsible. This is generally regarded to be the age of seven.

**Beatitudes:** The teachings of Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount in which he describes the actions and attitudes that should characterize Christians and by which one can discover genuine meaning and happiness.

**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.

**Church:** The term *Church* has three inseparable meanings: (1) the entire People of God throughout the world; (2) the diocese, which is also known as the local Church; (3) the assembly of believers gathered for the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist. In the Nicene Creed, the Church is recognized as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic—traits that together are referred to as "Marks of the Church."

**disciple:** Comes from a Greek word meaning "a learner." A disciple of Jesus is one who has made the decision to learn from him.

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

**People of God:** Another name for the Church, the name is scriptural in origin and refers to God's plan from the beginning of time to call a people to himself.

**Sacraments of Christian Initiation:** The three Sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist—through which we enter into full membership in the Church.

**sacramental graces:** The gifts proper to each of the Seven Sacraments.

**Sacred Chrism:** Perfumed olive oil that has been consecrated. It is used for anointing in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

**sanctifying grace:** The grace that heals our human nature wounded by sin and restores us to friendship with God by giving us a share in the divine life of the Trinity. It is a supernatural gift of God, infused into our souls by the Holy Spirit, that continues the work of making us holy.



**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.

**vocation:** A call from God to all members of the Church to embrace a life of holiness. Specifically, it refers to a call to live the holy life as an ordained minister, as a vowed religious (sister or brother), or in a Christian marriage. Single life that involves a personal consecration or commitment to a permanent, celibate gift of self to God and one's neighbor is also a vocational state.

