

# Vocabulary for Unit 1

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

**aspiration:** A short prayer meant to be memorized and repeated throughout the day. The word comes from the Latin *aspirare*, “to breathe upon.” In this way we can heed Saint Paul’s injunction to pray without ceasing and continually turn our thoughts toward God.

**blasphemy:** Speaking, acting, or thinking about God, Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, or the saints in a way that is irreverent, mocking, or offensive.

**Body of Christ:** A term that when capitalized designates Jesus’ Body in the Eucharist, or the entire Church, which is also referred to as the Mystical Body of Christ.

**catholic:** Along with One, Holy, and Apostolic, *Catholic* is one of the four marks of the Church. *Catholic* means “universal.” The Church is catholic in two senses. She is catholic because Christ is present in her and has given her the fullness of the means of salvation and also because she reaches throughout the world to all people.

**chalice:** The cup used during the Mass that holds the wine before the Consecration and the Blood of Christ after the Consecration. It represents the cup used at the Last Supper and is a symbol of Jesus’ sacrifice and eternal life.

**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.

**charismatic:** The word refers to a person gifted with the charism or graces of the Holy Spirit such as healing, prophecy, and speaking in tongues. Because self-deception is always possible, the charisms claimed by such a person must be verified by the Church.

**community:** A body of individuals that is unified.

**diocese:** A specific community of believers under the leadership of a bishop, also known as a “particular” or “local” Church. It is usually determined on the basis of geography but may also be determined by language or culture.

**evangelization:** The proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ through words and witness.

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

**Hellenistic:** Of or relating to Greek history, culture, or art after Alexander the Great.



**infallibility:** The gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Pope and the bishops in union with him to teach on matters of faith and morals without error.

**katholikos:** Greek, meaning “universal” or “according to the whole.”

**Kyriake:** Greek, meaning “the Lord’s house.”

**liturgy:** The Church’s official, public, communal prayer. It is God’s work, in which the People of God participate. The Church’s most important liturgy is the Eucharist, or the Mass.

**Magisterium:** The Church’s living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope.

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

**mystical:** Having a spiritual meaning or reality that is neither apparent to the senses nor obvious to the intelligence; the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation.

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

**Theology of the Body:** The name given to Pope Saint John Paul II’s teachings on the human body and sexuality delivered via 129 short lectures between September 1979 and November 1984.

**Transubstantiation:** In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, this is the name given to the action of changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

**Trinitarian:** Of or relating to the Trinity or the doctrine of the Trinity.

**virtue:** A habitual and firm disposition to do good.

