

Vocabulary for Unit 2

Annunciation: The biblical event in which the angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary and announces that she is to be the Mother of the Savior.

Blessed Trinity: The three Divine Persons in One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The central mystery of our faith.

church: In common Christian usage, the term *church* is used in three related ways: (1) the entire people of God throughout the world; (2) the diocese, which is also known as the local church; and (3) the assembly of believers gathered for the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist. In the Creed, the Church is recognized as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic—traits that together are referred to as Marks of the Church.

Creation: The beginning of all that exists as a result of an act of God, who made everything from nothing. The account of Creation is told in the Book of Genesis.

creed: An official profession of faith, usually prepared and presented by a council of the Church and used in the Church's liturgy. Based on the Latin *credo*, meaning "I believe," the two most familiar Catholic creeds are the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

disciple: A follower of Christ. Based on a word for "pupil" or "student," used both to designate those who learned from and followed Jesus in New Testament times (the disciples) and those who commit themselves to follow him today.

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

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

faith: In general, the belief in the existence of God. For Christians, the gift of God by which one freely accepts his full Revelation in Jesus Christ. It is a matter of both the head (acceptance of Church teaching regarding the Revelation of God) and the heart (love of God and neighbor as a response to God's first loving us); also, one of the three theological virtues.

Gospel: Most basically, "the good news" (the phrase on which the word *gospel* is based) of the Revelation of God in and through Jesus Christ, proclaimed initially by him, then by the Apostles, and now by the Church; also refers to those four books of the New Testament that focus on the person, life, teachings, suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.



Incarnation: Based on words meaning “in flesh,” the mystery of the Son of God becoming man in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The Incarnation means that Jesus, the Son of God and second Person of the Trinity, is *both* fully God and fully man.

Kingdom of God: The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence of that, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. Also called the Reign of God.

Messiah: Hebrew word for “anointed one.” The equivalent Greek term is *Christos*. Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One.

ministry: Based on a word for “service,” in a general sense any service offered to help the Church fulfill her mission; more narrowly, particular expressions of such service (e.g., the ministry of catechesis and liturgical ministries).

Original Sin: The sin by which the first humans disobeyed God and thereby lost their original holiness and became subject to death. Original Sin is transmitted to every person born into the world.

parable: A story intended to convey a religious truth or particular teaching through the use of metaphors; a central feature of Jesus’ teaching ministry.

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

salvation: Liberation from sin and eternal union with God in Heaven. Salvation is accomplished by God alone through the Paschal Mystery.

stewardship: An attitude that we do not own the gifts God has given us but are trustees of those gifts. We have an obligation to share our time, talents, and material treasures with others.

Theotokos: Greek for “God bearer.” The name given to Mary after an Ecumenical Council in the fifth century to affirm that she is the Mother of the human Jesus and the Mother of God.

