

Vocabulary for Unit 3

civil: Related to the state and its citizens.

commutative justice: This type of justice calls for fairness in agreements and contracts between individuals. It is an equal exchange of goods, money, or services.

corporal works of mercy: Charitable actions that respond to people's physical needs and show respect for human dignity. The traditional list of seven works includes feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting prisoners, and burying the dead.

discernment: From a Latin word meaning "to separate or to distinguish between," the practice of listening for God's call in our lives and distinguishing between good and bad choices.

mortal sin: An action so contrary to the will of God that it results in complete separation from God and his grace. As a consequence of that separation, the person is condemned to eternal death. For a sin to be a mortal sin, three conditions must be met: the act must involve grave matter, the person must have full knowledge of the evil of the act, and the person must give his or her full consent in committing the act.

natural law: The natural law expresses the original moral sense that God gave us that enables us to discern by our intellect and reason what is good and what is evil. It is rooted in our desire for God, and in our participation in his wisdom and goodness because we are created in his divine likeness.

reparation: Making amends for something one did wrong that caused harm to another person or led to loss.

restitution: Making things right with another person or people who have been harmed by an injustice, or returning or replacing what rightfully belongs to another.

sin: Any deliberate offense, in word, deed, or desire, against the will of God. Sin wounds human nature and injures human solidarity.

social sin: The impact that every personal sin has on other people; sin that directly attacks others' life, freedom, dignity, or rights; and the collective effect of many people's sins over time, which corrupts society and its institutions by creating "structures of sin."

social structures: The complex pattern of relationships that shape any society. They help to determine how justice is lived out in society.

spiritual good: The good that focuses on our need for God's grace so that we can be in full communion with God in this life and for all eternity.

spiritual works of mercy: Charitable actions that respond to people's spiritual needs and show respect for human dignity. The traditional list of seven works includes sharing knowledge, giving advice to those who need it, comforting those who suffer, being patient with others, forgiving those who hurt you, giving correction to those who need it, and praying for the living and the dead.

state: Any organized political authority in a specific area; it can refer to city or county governments, state or regional governments, and national governments.



structures of sin: Social structures that block justice and fail to protect human life and human rights. They are the result of the personal sin of individuals and in turn lead to personal sins.

temporal good: The aspect of the common good that focuses on the material and social needs that are part of earthly life.

underground Church: A term used to describe the Church when its gatherings are private and hidden from public view because of persecution or state laws forbidding religious practices.

works of charity: Social action that is an immediate response to a person or group who is suffering or lacking the necessities for a dignified life.

works of justice: Social action that seeks to convert structures of sin and build structures of greater justice.

