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Unit 4 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

**communal sin** The negative influence exerted   
on people by communal situations and social structures that are the fruit of men’s sins; also refers to the collective effect of many people’s   
sins over time, which corrupts society and its institutions by creating “structures of sin.”

**providence** God’s divine care and protection.

**redemption** From the Latin *redemptio*, meaning “a buying back,” referring, in the Old Testament,   
to Yahweh’s deliverance of Israel and, in the New Testament, to Christ’s deliverance of all Christians from the forces of sin. As the agent of redemption, Jesus is called the Redeemer.

**reparation** The act of making amends for something one did wrong that caused physical, emotional, or material harm to another person.

**stewardship** The careful and responsible management of someone or something that has been entrusted to a person’s care. This includes responsibly using and caring for the gifts of creation that God has given us.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**corrupt** Having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain.

**divine retributive justice**  The belief that God punishes people for their sins during this lifetime.

**omnipotent** From the Latin *omnia,* meaning “all,” and *potens,* meaning “powerful”; refers to the divine attribute that God is almighty and so has unlimited authority and power.

**Penitential Act** The invitation by the priest at Mass, after the opening greeting, to have the congregation acknowledge their sins and place their trust in God’s mercy.