

Name _____

Unit 1 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A–B

anger (wrath) A desire for revenge that prevents reconciliation, one of the capital sins.

beatitude Our vocation as Christians, the goal of our existence. It is true blessedness or happiness that we experience partially here on Earth and perfectly in Heaven.

C–D

Canon Law The name given to the official body of laws that provide good order in the visible body of the Church.

capital sins Seven sins that lead to and reinforce other sins and vices. The seven are traditionally called pride, covetousness (greed), envy, anger (wrath), gluttony, lust, and sloth.

circumstances The specific conditions or facts affecting a moral decision. Circumstances can increase or decrease the goodness or evil of an action.

concupiscence The tendency of all human beings toward sin, as a result of Original Sin.

Decalogue: The Ten Commandments.

E–F

envy Resentment that we direct at others who have some success, thing, or privilege that we want for ourselves. It is one of the capital sins and contrary to the Tenth Commandment.

Eternal Law The order in creation that reflects God's will and purpose; it is eternal because it is always true and never changes. All other types of law have their basis in Eternal Law and are only true if they reflect the truth of Eternal Law.

etiology A story that explains something's cause or origin.

free will The gift from God that allows human beings to choose from among various actions, for which we are held accountable. It is the basis for moral responsibility.

G–L

gluttony Excessive eating or drinking; a capital sin.

Great Commandments Jesus' summary of the entire Divine Law as the love of God and the love of neighbor.

greed (covetousness) The desire to accumulate earthly goods beyond what we need. It is one of the capital sins and contrary to the Tenth Commandment.

intellect The divine gift that gives us the ability to see and understand the order of things that God places within creation and to know and understand God through the created order.

intention The intended outcome or goal of the person choosing the object when making a moral decision.

lust Undisciplined, unchecked desire for self-enjoyment, especially of a sexual nature. It is one of the seven capital sins.



M–N

merit God's reward to those who love him and by his grace perform good works. To have merit is to be justified in the sight of God, free from sin and sanctified by his grace. We do not "merit" justification or eternal life; the source of any merit we have is due to the grace of Christ in us.

morality Refers to the goodness or evil of human acts. The morality of an act is determined by the nature of the action, the intention, and the circumstances. God's grace empowers us to choose good acts and live virtuous lives in obedience to Eternal Law.

moral law The moral law is established by God and is a rational expression of Eternal Law. Moral law reflects God's wisdom; it is the teaching that leads us to the blessed life he wants for us.

mortal sin An action so contrary to the will of God that it results in a 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 a grave matter, the person must have full knowledge of the evil of the act, and the person must give full consent in committing the act.

natural law The moral law that can be understood through the use of human reason. It is our God-given ability to understand what it means to be in right relationship with God, other people, the world, and ourselves. However, our ability to know natural law has been clouded by Original Sin.

New Law Divine Law revealed in the New Testament through the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and through the witness and teaching of the Apostles. The New Law perfects the Old Law and brings it to fulfillment. Also called the Law of Love.

O–P

object In moral decision-making, the object is the specific thing—an act, word, or thought—that is being chosen.

Old Law Divine Law revealed in the Old Testament, summarized in the Ten Commandments. Also called the Law of Moses.

Precepts of the Church Sometimes called the Commandments of the Church, these are basic obligations for all Catholics, dictated by the laws of the Church and intended to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in prayer and moral effort.

pride Believing one is better than others, often resulting in despising or disrespecting other people; one of the capital sins.

S

sanctify To purify or make holy.

sin Any deliberate offense, in thought, word, or deed, against the will of God. Sin wounds human nature and injures human solidarity. The Bible reveals sin as rebellion against God (Old Testament); missing the goal of living in harmony with God's Eternal Law (Old Testament); a trespass or transgression against God's Law (New Testament).

sin of commission A sin that is the direct result of a freely chosen thought, word, or deed.

sin of omission A sin that is the result of a failure to do something required by God's moral Law.

sloth Habitual laziness; failing to put forth effort and take action; one of the capital sins.

soul Our spiritual principle, it is immortal, and it is what makes us most like God. Our soul is created by God at the moment of our conception. It is the seat of human consciousness and freedom.



state Any organized political authority in a specific area, such as a kingdom, a nation, a country, or a state within a country.

V

venial sin A less serious offense against the will of God that diminishes one's personal character

and weakens but does not rupture one's relationship with God.

vice A practice or habit that leads a person to sin.

virtue A habitual and firm disposition to do good.

Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

common good Social conditions that allow for all citizens of the Earth, individuals and families, to meet basic needs and achieve fulfillment.

social justice The defense of human dignity by ensuring that essential human needs are met and that essential human rights are protected for all people.

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."

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

C–M

catechism A popular summary, usually in book form, of Catholic doctrine about faith and morals and commonly intended for use within formal programs of catechesis.

infallibility The gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the Magisterium of the Church, the Pope and the bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith and morals without error.

justification God's action of bringing a sinful human being into right relationship with him. It involves the removal of sin and the gift of God's sanctifying grace to renew holiness.

Magisterium The Church's living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope, the Bishop of Rome. Their task is to interpret and preserve the truths revealed in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

O–S

original holiness The grace given to Adam and Eve in their original state by which they lived in close friendship with God.

original justice The original state of Adam and Eve before the Fall. Due to their friendship with God, they were at harmony within themselves, with each other, and with all creation.

Original Sin From the Latin *origo*, meaning "beginning" or "birth." The term has two meanings: (1) the sin of the first human beings, who disobeyed God's command by choosing to follow their own will and thus lost their original holiness and became subject to death, (2) the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world, except Jesus and Mary.

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

Pentateuch A Greek word meaning "five books," referring to the first five books of the Old Testament.

salvation history The pattern of specific events in human history in which God clearly reveals his presence and saving actions. Salvation was accomplished once and for all through Jesus Christ, a truth foreshadowed and revealed throughout the Old Testament.



Morality and God's Love

