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Unit 5 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

**actual graces** God’s interventions and support for us in the everyday moments of our lives. Actual graces are important for conversion and for continuing growth in holiness.

**Cardinal Virtues** Based on the Latin word *cardo,* meaning “pivot,” four virtues that are viewed as pivotal or essential for full Christian living: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

**contrition** To have sorrow and hatred for our sin and a commitment not to sin again.

**culpable** To be guilty of wrongdoing.

**fortitude** Also called strength or courage, the Cardinal Virtue that enables one to maintain sound moral judgment and behavior in the face of difficul-ties and challenges.

**hope** The Theological Virtue by which we trust in the promise of God and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it; the conviction that God’s grace is at work in the world and that the Kingdom of God established by and through Jesus Christ is becoming realized through the workings of the Holy Spirit among us.

**justice** The Cardinal Virtue concerned with rights and duties within relationships; the commitment, as well as the actions and attitudes that flow from the commitment, that ensure we give to God and to our neighbor, particularly those who are poor and oppressed, what is properly due them.

**love** Also called “charity,” the Theological Virtue by which we love God above all things and, out of that love of God, love our neighbors as ourselves.

**prudence** The Cardinal Virtue by which a person is inclined toward choosing the moral good and avoiding evil; sometimes called the rudder virtue because it helps steer the person through complex moral situations.

**sacramental graces** The gifts proper to each of the Seven Sacraments.

**special graces** Gifts intended for the common good of the Church, also called charisms.

**temperance** The Cardinal Virtue by which one moderates his or her appetites and passions to achieve balance in the use of created goods.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**absolution** An essential part of the Sacrament   
of Penance and Reconciliation in which the priest pardons the sins of the person confessing, in the name of God and the Church.

**faith** From the Latin *fides,* meaning “trust” or “belief,” faith is the gift of God by which one freely accepts God’s full Revelation in Jesus Christ. It is a matter of both the head (acceptance of God’s revealed truth) and the heart (love of God and neighbor as a response to God’s first loving us). Also, one of the three Theological Virtues.

**Gifts of the Holy** **Spirit** At Baptism, we receive seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers   
of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ,  
the Church. The seven gifts are wisdom, understanding, right judgment or counsel,  
fortitude or courage, knowledge, piety or reverence, and fear of the Lord or wonder  
and awe.

**grace** The free and undeserved gift of God's loving and active presence in our lives that God gives us to empower us to respond to his call and to live as his adopted sons and daughters. Grace restores our loving communion with the Holy Trinity, lost through sin.

**penance** In general, an attitude of the heart in which one experiences regrets for past sin and commits to a change in behaviors or attitudes. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the priest assigns penitents a penance to help them make amends for their sins. Particular acts of penance may include spiritual disciplines such   
as prayers or fasting.

**reconciliation** The process of restoring broken relationships with God, with the Church, and with people who were directly offended by our sins.

**sanctifying grace** The grace that heals our human nature wounded by sin and restores us  
to friendship with God by giving us a share in the divine life of the Trinity. It is a supernatural gift of God, infused into our souls by the Holy Spirit, that continues the work of making us holy.