

## Vocabulary for Unit 7

**doctrine:** An official, authoritative teaching of the Church based on the Revelation of God.

**dogma:** Teachings recognized as central to Church teaching, defined by the Magisterium and accorded the fullest weight and authority.

**Ecumenical Council:** A gathering of the Church's bishops from around the world convened by the Pope or approved by him to address pressing issues in the Church.

**episcopacy:** A term for the bishop's governance of his Church.

**episcopal:** Of or relating to a bishop.

**indefectibility of the Church:** The Church's remaining uncorrupted and faithful to Christ's teachings, until the end of human history.

**infallibility:** The gift given by the Holy Spirit to the Pope and the bishops in union with him to teach on matters of faith and morals without error.

**Magisterium:** The Church's living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope.

**ministry:** Based on a word for "service," a way of caring for and serving others and helping the Church fulfill its mission. *Ministry* especially refers to the work of sanctification performed by those in Holy Orders through the preaching of God's Word and the celebration of the Sacraments. The laity helps the Church fulfill its mission through lay ministries, such as that of lector or catechist.

**province:** A grouping of two or more dioceses with an archbishop as its head.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** The Sacrament by which members of the Church are ordained for permanent ministry in the Church as bishops, priests, or deacons.

