

## Vocabulary for Unit 4

**actual grace:** 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.

**Apostles' Creed:** One of two creeds of faith that has a special place in the Church's life. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of Christian faith developed from the baptismal creed of the ancient Church of Rome.

**apostolate:** The Christian person's activity that fulfills the apostolic nature of the whole Church when he or she works to extend the Kingdom of Christ to the entire world. If your school shares the wisdom of its founder, its namesake, or the charism of the religious order that founded it, it is important to learn about this person or order and his or her charism, because as a graduate you will likely want to incorporate this charism into your own apostolate.

**apostolic:** To be founded on the Twelve Apostles.

**Apostolic Succession:** The uninterrupted passing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles directly to all bishops. It is accomplished through the laying on of hands when a bishop is ordained in the Sacrament of Holy Orders as instituted by Christ. The office of bishop is permanent, because at ordination a bishop is marked with an indelible, sacred character.

**bishop:** One who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and is a successor to the Apostles.

**catholic:** Along with One, Holy, and Apostolic, *Catholic* is one of the four marks of the Church. *Catholic* means "universal." The Church is catholic in two senses. She is catholic because Christ is present in her and has given her the fullness of the means of salvation and also because she reaches throughout the world to all people.

**conversion:** A change of heart, turning away from sin and toward God.

**creed:** Based on the Latin *credo*, meaning, "I believe," a creed is an official presentation of the faith, usually prepared and presented by a council of the Church and used in the Church's liturgy. Two creeds occupy a special place in the Church's life: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

**ecclesial:** Of or relating to a church.

**episcopal:** Of or relating to bishops.

**grace:** The free and undeserved gift of God's loving and active presence in the universe and in our lives, empowering 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.

**habitual grace:** Sanctifying grace is a habitual grace, meaning that it is a stable and supernatural disposition. It is always with us, helping us to live according to God's will. Habitual grace differs from actual grace and sacramental grace.



**icon:** Religious painting traditional among many Eastern Christians. Christian iconography expresses in image the same Gospel message that the Scriptures communicate by words.

**iconostasis:** A screen or partition with doors and tiers of icons that separates the bema, the raised part of the church with the altar, from the nave, the main part of the church, in Eastern Churches.

**laypeople (laity):** All members of the Church with the exception of those who are ordained as bishops, priests, or deacons. The laity share in Christ's role as priest, prophet, and king, witnessing to God's love and power in the world.

**marks of the Church:** The four essential features or characteristics of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic (universal), and Apostolic.

**Nicene Creed:** The formal statement or profession of faith commonly recited during the Eucharist.

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

**Sacred Tradition:** From the Latin *tradere*, meaning "to hand on." Refers to the process of passing on the Gospel message. It began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in the Scriptures, and is interpreted by the Magisterium under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**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.

**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.

**supernatural grace:** Transcending the power of human intellect and will.

