

## Vocabulary for Unit 7

**Beatific Vision:** Directly encountering and seeing God in the glory of Heaven.

**catholic:** Universal.

**Communion of Saints:** We are united “in holy things” and “among holy persons” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC]*, 948). The “holy things” in which we are united are the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and other spiritual gifts. The “holy persons” with whom we are joined as one are all those members of Christ’s own Body, the great “cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1).

**Deposit of Faith:** Christ’s message of Revelation that was given to the Apostles, who in turn transmitted this message through Scripture and Tradition to the Church.

**Eucharist:** A Greek word that means “thanksgiving.”

**Eucharistic species:** The gifts of bread and wine after they have become Christ’s Body and Blood.

**evangelical counsels:** The call to go beyond the minimum rules of life required by God (such as the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church) and strive for spiritual perfection through a life marked by a commitment to chastity, poverty, and obedience.

**Fall, the:** Also called the Fall from Grace, the biblical revelation about the origins of sin and evil in the world, expressed figuratively in the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis.

**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.

**grace:** The gift of God’s loving presence with us, which empowers us to respond to God’s call and to live always as God’s children. Grace is never earned; although none of us truly deserves grace, God freely chooses to bless us with this gift.

**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.

**liturgy:** All official public prayer of the Church, including celebrations of the Eucharist and other Sacraments and the Liturgy of the Hours, the official daily prayers of the Church.

**Mystical Body of Christ:** A “supernatural unity . . . a single mystical person”<sup>1</sup> (CCC,1474). This means that all members of the Church are truly and spiritually united as one Body in the divine life of the Blessed Trinity.

**Pentecost:** In the Scriptures the event in which the early followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit. Today the Church celebrates this event on Pentecost Sunday, which occurs seven weeks after Easter Sunday.



**Reign of God:** The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence of that, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. The fullness of God's Reign will not be realized until the end of time. Also called the Kingdom of God.

**Sacraments:** An efficacious and visible sign of God's invisible grace, instituted by Christ. The Seven Sacraments are Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

**saint:** Really anyone who is trying to live a holy and Christian life, through the grace of Christ.

**theodicy:** Human attempts to answer the age-old question, If God is all powerful and all good, how is it possible that there is so much suffering in the world?

**vows:** Promises made to God.

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**Endnote cited in a Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition**

1. *Indulgentiarum doctrina*, 5.

