

Vocabulary for Unit 7

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.

Anointing of the Sick, Sacrament of: One of the Seven Sacraments, sometimes formerly known as “the Sacrament of the dying,” in which a gravely ill, aging, or dying person is anointed by the priest and prayed over by him and attending believers. One need not be dying to receive the Sacrament.

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

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

examination of conscience: Prayerful reflection on, and assessment of, one’s words, attitudes, and actions in light of the Gospel of Jesus; more specifically, the conscious moral evaluation of one’s life in preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Heaven: A state of eternal life and union with God in which one experiences full happiness and the satisfaction of the deepest human longings.

Hell: The state of permanent separation from God, reserved for those who freely and consciously choose to reject God to the very end of their lives.

indulgence: The means by which the Church takes away the punishment that a person would receive in Purgatory.

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 grave matter, the person must have full knowledge of the evil of the act, and the person must give his or her full consent in committing the act.

Oil of the Sick: Blessed olive oil used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to anoint the forehead and hands of people who are seriously ill or near death.

Penance and Reconciliation, Sacrament of: One of the Seven Sacraments of the Church, the liturgical celebration of God’s forgiveness of sin, through which the sinner is reconciled with both God and the Church.

Purgatory: A state of final purification or cleansing, which one may need to enter following death and before entering Heaven.

reparation: Making amends for something one did wrong that caused harm to another person or led to loss.



repentance (contrition): An attitude of sorrow for a sin committed and a resolution not to sin again. It is a response to God's gracious love and forgiveness.

sin: Any deliberate offense, in thought, word, or deed, against the will of God.

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.

