

Vocabulary for Unit 2

Abba: A way of addressing God the Father used by Jesus to call attention to his—and our—intimate relationship with his Heavenly Father. *Abba* means “my Father” or “our Father” in Aramaic.

Advocate (in Greek, *paraclete*): Someone who is on our side, to help us, strengthen us, and empower us for holiness. This is a description of the Holy Spirit.

Amen: Translation of the Hebrew word that means “so be it.”

beatitude: The state of eternal happiness with God in Heaven.

begotten: Fathered.

catholic: Universal.

Christ: “Anointed one.”

Christology: Literally the study of Christ; the systematic statement of Christian beliefs about Jesus Christ, including his identity, mission, and saving work on earth.

Church Fathers: Teachers and writers in the early Church, many of whom were bishops, whose teachings are a witness to the Apostolic Tradition.

covenant: A personal, solemn promise of faithful love that involves mutual commitments and creates a sacred relationship.

creed: A short summary statement or profession of faith.

Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love): Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical.

divine economy: Also known as the economy of salvation, this refers to God’s eternal plan and his actions for the salvation of humanity.

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

Ecumenical Council: A worldwide gathering of Catholic bishops convened by the Pope to discuss and resolve issues and problems the Church is facing.

encyclical: A letter written by the Pope and sent to the whole Church and, at times, beyond the Church to the whole world; commonly focused on Church teaching regarding a particular issue or currently important matter.

eternity: This word refers to anything that will last for an indefinitely long period.

filial: Having to do with the relationship of a child to his or her parents.



incarnate: To become flesh; specifically, God the Son assuming human nature. The Incarnation means that Jesus, the Son of God and Second Person of the Trinity, is both fully God and fully man.

Jesus: “God saves.”

Last Judgment: The judgment of the human race by Jesus Christ at his second coming, as noted in the Nicene Creed. It is also called the Final Judgment.

Messiah: Hebrew word for “anointed one.” The equivalent Greek term is *christos*. Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One.

monotheism: The belief in and worship of only one God.

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

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.

philosophy: In Greek this word literally means “love of wisdom.” It refers to the study of human existence using logical reasoning.

salvation history: The pattern of specific salvific events in human history that reveal God’s presence and saving actions.

sanctify: To make holy.

solemnities: Important holy days in the Catholic liturgical calendar, such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints’ Day.

Trinity: The truth that God, although one, is three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

unbegotten: God has always existed, without beginning or end.

