

Vocabulary Words Level II (Ages 6 - 7) and Level III (Ages 8 - 9)

Advent - Four weeks of preparation before Christmas.

Angel – Personal, invisible creatures who freely chose to accept God’s grace. Their primary task is to adore and glorify God; they are his servants and messengers. Guardian angels show God’s protection and care to humankind.

Annunciation – Mary receives her call to be the Mother of God’s Son, and the conception of Jesus within Mary takes place.

Apostle – A word meaning “One sent.” It is used most often to refer to the Twelve who were close to Jesus and specially chosen to preach the Good News of the risen Lord. The twelve apostles symbolize the New Israel, the Church.

Baptism – The sacrament of initiation, through which we are freed of original sin and welcomed into the church.

Bible – The story of God and God’s people; the written word of God.

Catholic – One of the four marks, or qualities of the church that shows its truth and its origin in God. The Church is catholic, or universal.

Christian – People who follow Jesus Christ. Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and come from Christ, which means “anointed one.”

Confirmation – The sacrament that seals and completes Baptism. In Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Creator – The title that recognizes God as maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

Easter – The church’s celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Eucharist – The church’s great prayer of praise and thanksgiving, sometimes called the Mass.

Forgiveness – The Catholic Church believes that sins forgiven are actually removed from the soul (John 20) and not merely around over by the merits of Christ. Only God can forgive sins.

Good Friday – Friday in Holy Week, anniversary of Christ’s death on the Cross, and a day of fast and abstinence from the earliest Christian times.

Gospel – A word that means “Good News” or “Glad Tidings.” The Good News is that God sent Jesus, God’s only Son, to proclaim that all people may belong to the kingdom of God.

Grace – The life and love of God offered to everyone.

Holy Spirit – The third Person of the Blessed Trinity whom we regard as having a special role in making the Church and its members holy.

Jesus Christ – A name that means “God saves.” This is the name Mary gave to her son, who is the Son of God. We believe that Jesus is both God and human. He taught us about God his father. He suffered, died, and was raised from death to save us from the power of sin and everlasting death.

Kingdom of God – The world Jesus came to build in which everyone will be treated with love and justice.

Last Supper – The last Passover meal Jesus ate with his disciples before his passion, death, and resurrection.

Lent – The 40 days of preparation for Easter. The season of Lent is a time of prayer, penance, and acts of charity. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

Liturgy – The work the people of the church do together when we pray and worship God.

Mary – The mother of Jesus. God chose Mary to be the mother of his Son. We believe that Mary was free from original sin and all personal sin from the very beginning of her life. We believe that she remained a virgin throughout her life. And we believe that God took her to be with him forever, body and soul, at the time of her death. Jesus told us to call Mary our Mother, too. She is the Mother of the Church.

Mass – The Eucharist. The two main parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist.

Pentecost – The day Church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples.

Prayer – Communicating with God. The five reasons for prayer are blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise. There are many ways to pray.

Reconciliation – The sacrament that celebrates God’s forgiveness of sin through the church. This sacrament is also known as Penance. The word reconciliation means “Coming back together” or “making peace.”

Resurrection -The mystery of Jesus' being raised from death by God's loving power. We celebrate the feast of the Resurrection at Easter.

Sacraments of Healing – Reconciliation and Anointing of the sick – the Church's two sacraments of healing and forgiveness.

Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist – the Church's three sacraments of welcome and belonging.

Sacraments of Vocation - Matrimony and Holy Orders. The Church's two sacraments which holy order the community and nurture it to growth.

Sin – Refusing to do what God wants. When people sin, they harm themselves and the community.

Vocabulary Words Level IV (Ages 10 - 11)

Absolution - The pardon of God given through the ministry of the church to those who confess their sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Acts of Apostles - The book of the New Testament that describes how the Good News was proclaimed to the nations how the church grew under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and how Peter, Paul, and the other disciples formed Christian communities after Jesus' Ascension. Acts is probably part two of Luke's Gospel.

Bible - God's word written down by humans; the Church's holy book, also called Scripture. The Bible is made up of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are many different books collected in the Bible. The word bible means "library."

Blessed Sacrament - Another name for the Eucharist. Jesus is really present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Catechumen - Literally, catechumens are people who are being given catechesis. The term has the specific, ecclesiastical meaning of someone who is receiving formal instruction in the Catholic Faith, with a view to reception into the Church and full participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

Chastity - The virtue of expressing God's gift of sexuality in the right way according to one's state of life.

Conscience - The gift from God that helps us know the difference between right and wrong and choose what is right. Conscience is free will and reason working together. We must form our conscience properly through prayer and study. We examine, or check, our conscience in preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Consecration - The consecration is that part of the Mass in which the bread and wine become Jesus' own Body and Blood through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest.

Covenant - In the Bible, a covenant is a special agreement made between God and people.

Easter Vigil - The ceremonies of Holy Saturday and the most solemn memorial of the liturgical year. The Easter Vigil consists of four parts: Service of the Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Examination of Conscience - An examination of conscience is asking ourselves, with the help of the

Holy Spirit, how well we have obeyed God's law and have loved and served others.

Faith - Faith is a virtue that enables us to believe and trust in God.

Good Friday - Friday in Holy Week, anniversary of Christ's death on the Cross, and a day of fast and abstinence from the earliest Christian times.

Grace - The life and love of God offered to everyone.

Great Commandments - The commandment in which Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments by teaching us that God's laws are based on love of God and love of neighbor.

Hebrew Scriptures - Another word for Old Testament. The story of God's involvement in the life of His people the Israelites.

Holy Thursday - Also called Maundy Thursday, the anniversary of the Last Supper, when Christ instituted the Eucharist the sacrifice of the Mass, and the sacrament of the priesthood.

Holy Saturday - The Saturday of Holy Week. The Roman Missal notes that according to a most ancient tradition, the sacraments are not celebrated on this day. The Church keeps vigil at the tomb of the Lord, reflections on His saving death and looking forward to His life - giving resurrection.

Incarnation - Our belief that God became man in Jesus.

Inspiration - The gift given to the community of God's people to help both write and interpret the bible.

Lectionary - The present lectionary was introduced March 22, 1970. It contains a three-year cycle of readings for Sundays for the feasts of saints. Moreover, it contains readings for a large variety of other Masses. There are also responsorial psalms that follow the first readings for each mass, along with Gospel or Alleluia verses to follow the second readings.

Liturgy - The work the people of the church do together when we pray and worship God.

Liturgy of the Eucharist - The second part of the Mass, in which we offer Jesus and ourselves to the Father, the bread and wine become Jesus, and we receive him in Communion.

Liturgy of the Word - The first part of the Mass, in which we hear and respond to the Word of God.

Liturgical year - The way the Church community celebrates its faith and religious roots throughout the

year. The main seasons of the liturgical year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

Lord's Supper - A term generally favored by Protestants, the Lord's Supper is another name for the Last Supper. In non-Catholic usage it is a re enactment of the Lord's Supper, as in a Communion service.

Mercy - God's loving kindness and forgiveness.

Messiah - The title that means "the Anointed One," or "the Christ." Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Anointed One promised by God.

Mortal Sin - Serious sin. The word mortal means "deadly." Mortal sin kills the life of grace in us. In order for sin to be mortal it must be a serious matter. We must know that it is seriously wrong. And we must choose it anyway. In cases of mortal sin confession and absolution through the Sacrament of Reconciliation is necessary before we may rejoin the Eucharistic.

Myth - In ancient Greek literature "myth" designated a "word," "speech," later on "an account," "story" or "narrative" and eventually come to mean "rumor" or "fable." Contemporary scholars define myth as a symbolic form of thinking in the language, art, and science of the day which is beyond sensible experience.

Old Testament - The first part of the Bible. The Old Testament tells the story of the Jewish people before Jesus was born. It tells many stories of God's love.

Original Sin - The human condition of weakness and tendency toward sin that causes us to disobey God. Only Jesus, the Son of God, and Mary, his mother, were free of original sin. Baptism restores their relationship of loving grace in which God created all people. But the temptation remains to choose what we want rather than what God wants.

Paschal Mystery - The mystery of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. By these actions we have been saved from effects of sin and everlasting death. We celebrate the Paschal mystery at every Eucharist.

Passover - The Jewish feast commemorating, with a religious meal, God's saving action of leading the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.

Pentecost - The day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and the Church was born as a society; originally a Jewish harvest feast.

Rite of Christian Initiation - The process that leads a non-Christian adult to full communion with the Catholic Church; abbreviated R.C.I.A. It has four stages: Evangelization and

precatechumenate, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy.

Sacred Scripture - Sacred writings containing God's revelation. For Christians the Bible includes the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and the New Testament.

Salvation - The free act of God which sets people free from sin and its consequences for a loving relationship with God which begins now and will last for all eternity.

Synagogue - The Jewish community center where the study and exposition of the Old Testament was conducted. Although its main function was religious, it also served as a meeting place for other kinds of community activities - funerals, meetings, and business affairs. A staff of officials managed the synagogue, directed ceremonies, and supervised educational programs.

Temple - The house of prayer, originally built in Jerusalem by Solomon, as a symbol of God's presence among his people.

Ten Commandments - The laws God gave to Moses and the Israelites to help them become a community and live the covenant in freedom and peace.

Venial Sin - A less serious offense against God which is committed with some degree of knowledge and harms a person's relationship with God but does not break it off.

Yahweh - God's name as it was given to Moses. It means, "I am who I am."

Vocabulary Words for Level V (Ages 12-13)

Body of Christ- The formulas served to proclaim the communicants' faith that the risen Christ (body, blood, soul, and divinity) is present and offered to them under the sacramental signs of bread and wine.

Catholic- It's original meaning of "general" or "universal" has taken on a variety of applications in the course of Christian history. In general, today the term "Catholic" refers to those Christians who profess a continued tradition of faith and worship and who hold to the Apostolic succession of bishops and priests since the time of Christ.

Charity- the infused supernatural virtue by which a person loves God above all things for his own sake, and loves others for God's sake.

Church- The people of God, the community of the followers of Jesus Christ, and the sign of Christ in the world.

Conflict resolution- It is the answering or solving of a problem or conflict.

Communion- "union with"; The act of being united with Christ and his church by - personal union with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Creed- A pledge of commitment to God by the community. The Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest creeds of the Christian community.

Dignity- It is the quality or state of being worth, honored, or esteemed.

Disciple- A word meaning one who has learned or been taught. The disciples were dedicated followers of Jesus.

Faith- As a virtue, the power of the mind to accept as true all that God has revealed, as an act the conscious assent of the mind to what God has revealed. Faith is a free gift of God by which we believe and trust him.

Four Marks of the Church- The characteristics of the church which identify her as the true church, belonging entirely to Christ, and serving as His instrument of salvation in the world: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Gospel- A word that means "Good News" or "Glad Tidings." The Good News is that God sent Jesus, God's only Son, to proclaim that all people may belong to the kingdom of God.

Grace- The participation of life and love of God offered to everyone.

Independence- The freedom for dependence upon others as for government or financial support. A spirit of self-reliance.

Interdependence- The state of being within dependence and independence.

Liturgy- The work the people of the church do together when we pray and worship God.

Lord- The title given to Jesus to signify his divine power.

Mass- The Eucharist. The two main parts of the Mass are the liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Messianic prophecy- The prophecy concerning the coming of our savior, which were all literally fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Messiah- The title that means “the Anointed One,” or “the Christ.” Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Anointed One promised by God.

Ministry- from the Latin word for “service” ; in the New Testament, the saving work of Jesus which is continued by the members of his church.

New Covenant- The new holy agreement God made with all people through the saving actions of his son Jesus Christ.

Non-violence- The abstention from violence as a matter of a principle.

Parish- A community of Catholics who gather at the same church for Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and other activities. Usually a parish is made up of people who live in the same neighborhood. The leader of a parish is called a pastor, which means “shepherd.” Many parishes, together, make up a diocese or archdiocese.

Reformation- A religious, social, and political upheaval (1517-1648) that divided Western Christendom and created world Protestantism.

Sacrament- Outward signs of grace, instituted by Christ, and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.

Sacraments of Healing- Reconciliation and Anointing of the sick - the Church's two sacraments of healing and forgiveness

Sacraments of Initiation- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - the Church's three sacraments of welcome and belonging.

Sacraments of Vocation- Marriage and Holy orders - the Church's two sacraments of commitment with God to order the community and to nurture the growth of the community.

Saint Paul- The most dynamic of Christ's apostles, even though he wasn't one of the original twelve. He was originally name Saul, but changed to Paul after the conversion. He was a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cicilia, and his family were Pharisees. He was called the "Apostle to the Gentiles."

Salvation- The free act of God which sets people free from sin and its consequences for a loving relationship with God which begins now and will last for all eternity.

Savior- One who brings salvation freedom from slavery of all kinds. Jesus Christ is the Savior of humanity, bringing God's life to his people.

Son of God- The second Person of the Holy Trinity, who became man to suffer and die for the redemption of mankind.

Son of Man- The most frequently used title of Christ in the New Testament, occurring eighty-two times and, all but once in the Gospels.

Vocabulary Words for Level VI (Ages 14-18)

Abortion- Either the removal of a nonviable embryo or fetus from the womb or the deliberate killing of a nonviable embryo or fetus in the womb.

Authority- The right of a society to direct and compel the members to co-operate toward the attainment of the end of that society. Ultimately all authority in a society comes from God, but in different ways depending on the kind of society.

Beatitude- The teaching of Jesus that shows us how to love God and others and how to create true happiness for ourselves and others.

Capital Punishment- The death penalty imposed by the state for punishment of grave crimes. It is certain from scripture that civil authorities may lawfully put malefactors to death.

Catholic Social Doctrine- It was developed in the nineteenth century when the Gospel encountered modern industrial society with its new structures for the production or consumer goods, its new concept of society, the state of authority, and the new forms of Labor and Ownership.

Celibacy- The state of being unmarried and, in church usage, of one who has never been married. Catholicism distinguishes between lay and ecclesiastical celibacy, and in both cases a person freely chooses for religious reasons to remain celibate.

Chastity- The virtue which tempers, regulates and moderates our sexual desires, thoughts and actions. Chastity moderates desires for legitimate marital acts for the good of the union of the spouses; outside marriage, chastity restrains sexual desires, thoughts and actions in total.

Church Law- Law that binds the whole church - bind all those for whom they are made

Compassion- The sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.

Conscience- A dictate of the practical reason or a personal judgment which decides, on the basis of general moral values and principles, that an act one is about to do is morally good or evil because it does or does not conform to God's law of love.

Culture- The act of developing the intellectual and moral faculties, especially by education.

Euthanasia- The deliberate killing of a disabled, dying or chronically ill person by

positive means to enable the person to escape from suffering. .

Great Commandment- You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Human Rights- The rights regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons.

Infatuation- The feeling of extravagant love or admiration.

Love- Defining love broadly, it may be understood as any strong affection, closeness, or devotion to things or persons.

Marriage- is one of the seven sacraments of the church. Through this sacrament, a man and a woman are united as husband and wife. Married couples are called by the church to be visible signs of the union that exists between Jesus Christ and his church. Certain conditions must be met in order that a marriage be considered valid by the church. The man and woman must be of legal age and neither should have been married previously, unless a church annulment of the previous marriage has been granted; both partners must be able and willing to have sexual intercourse; both must be willing to have children, if possible. The couple may not be blood-relations.

Masculine- referring to what it means to be a male as God intended.

Moral decision-making process- The gathered information with which every organization uses to make a moral decision, one must apply for each action to predict the outcomes of each possible alternative and make a decision for the best.

Mortal sin- The deliberate, conscious and free transgression of a moral law, involving very serious matter, and resulting in the loss of grace and separation from God.

Ordination- The act of consecrating men to be the sacred ministers for the worship of God and for the sanctification of all people is known as ordination.

Original Sin- Refers to two things that must be kept distinct: first, the actual personal sin of the first human beings; second, the consequences of that action for all subsequent human beings.

Prejudice- In moral philosophy a preconceived opinion formulated without consideration of known facts and usually based on erroneous knowledge. It leads to wrong judgements and renders a person blind to reason and closed to convincing argument. It often violates justice because prejudiced people tend to ignore others' rights. Prejudice is the common basis for sinful rash judgement.

Pro-life- The name of activities and attitudes that promote rather than negate life.

Reconciliation- The act or state of re-establishing friendship between God and a human being or between two persons. Reconciliation with God is necessary after a person has lost the divine friendship through grievous sin. It requires repentance on the part of the sinner and forgiveness on the part of God.

Religious life- It recommends to all the disciplines of fasting, mortification, and custody of senses; and it requires of all religious habit which as a symbol of consecration, must be simple and modest, at once poor and becoming.

Sexual abuse- Refers to the use of someone for sexual purposes whether or not consent is alleged to have been given.

Sexuality- Term used to designate the entire experience that a man or woman may have living as a male or female person in a particular society.

Social justice- The virtue that inclines one to cooperate with orders in order to help make the institutions of society better to serve the common God.

Solidarity- Unity that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards.

Stewardship- In biblical usage the management of whatever a person is entrusted with not only to preserve but profitably administer for his master, ultimately for God. Christ proposed the faithful steward as model for the responsible Christian.

The poor- People who experience any of the various hardships resulting from the lack of life's necessities.

Catholic Terms (Adult)

Abraham- was one of the first of the great ancestors and founders of the Hebrew people. Abraham was the husband of Sarah and the father of Isaac.

Alb- A full length white linen vestment secured with a cincture used at Mass.

All Souls' Day- Is a day set aside by the church, usually November 2nd, on which we recall and pray for the dead who are in purgatory.

Altar- A table or stand on which sacrifice is offered. In Catholic Churches, the table on which the sacrifice of Mass is offered.

Amice- A short, oblong vestment of white linen, worn beneath the Alb to cover the shoulders of the priest while celebrating Mass.

Ascension- Christ's going up to heaven forty days after his resurrection from the dead.

Assumption- The doctrine of Mary's entrance into heaven, body and soul.

Basilica- A lengthy oblong religious edifice, rectangular in shape with an apse at one end.

Bethlehem- is twelve miles southeast of Jerusalem. In the center of the village, with its 30,000 persons, is the church of Nativity, whose sanctuary is directly above the traditional cave where Christ was born.

Blasphemy- Speaking against God in a contemptuous way, scornful, or abusive way.

Blessings- As found in scripture, it means praise, the desire that good fortune go with a person or thing, dedication of a person or thing to God's service and a gift.

Burse- A stiff pocket about twelve inches square in which the folded corporal is carried to and from the altar.

Cantor- The chief singer of an ecclesiastical choir, who leads the singing and often selects the music.

Cardinal- A highly official of the Roman Catholic Church ranking next to the Pope. He is a member of the Sacred College and is appointed by the Sovereign Pontiff to assist and advise him in the government of the church.

Cathedral- The official church of a bishop, where his permanent episcopal throne is erected.

Chasuble- A sleeveless outer garment worn by a priest at Mass. It is worn over all other vestments and is made of silk, velvet, or other rich material usually decorated with symbol.

Chrism- A consecrated mixture of olive oil and balsam.

Cincture- It is the end of the cord, either white or the color of the day, used to gather the alb at the waist.

Confession-The voluntary self-accusation of one's sins to a qualified priest in order to obtain absolution from him.

Corporal- A square white linen cloth on which the Host and Chalice are placed during Mass.

Creation- God's free activity which he brings all things into existence.

Creator- The title referring to God as maker of all things from nothing. By an act of his will, he sustains and directs the universe.

Cruets- The vessels used to hold the wine of water for the celebration of the Mass.

Custodia- (child custody) Immediate charge or control of a child or children, usually by divorced parents or separated.

David- Called the greatest of Israel's kings. He was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons. Because of his bravery and strong leadership, he is remembered by many Christians and Jews as the most ideal ruler of the Hebrew people.

Deacons- They are the people who are ordained by bishops to rank in the Catholic Church hierarchy just below a priest.

Diocese- A "particular Church, in which and from the one and only Catholic Church exist." A diocese is composed of all the Catholics usually within the boundaries of a specific geographic territory.

Easter Triduum- It's that period in the liturgical year which Christians consider to be the most sacred. It lasts from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening.

Emmanuel- Hebrew for "God is with us or may God be with us"

Evangelization- An all-inclusive term used to describe the entire range of activities by which the Church proclaims and communicates to the world the saving message of Christ.

Free Will- The power of the will to determine itself and act of itself, without compulsion from within or coercion from without.

Funeral Pall- A heavy cloth covering for a funeral casket, hearse, or tomb.

Genuflect- to touch the knee to the ground or floor in worship

Good Samaritan- (parable) one ready and generous in helping those in distress.

Gospels- One of the four authentic accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which the Church teaches have been divinely inspired. They are the gospels according Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Heaven- The place and condition of perfect supernatural happiness. This happiness consists essentially in the immediate vision and love of God, secondarily in the knowledge, love, and enjoyment of creatures.

Hell- The state and place of eternal punishment for the fallen angels and human beings who die deliberately estranged from the love of God.

Holy- exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness.

Holy Communion- The sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ received by the faithful, usually during Mass.

Holy Days- Also called days of precept, Holy Days are feasts of such importance in the liturgical calendar that attendance at Mass is required.

Immaculate Conception- Blessed Virgin Mary was perceived, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of God omnipotent and because of the merits of Jesus Christ the Savior of the human race, free from all stain of original sin.

Israelite- A decedent of the Hebrew patriarch Jacob; native or inhabitant of the ancient northern kingdom of Israel.

John the Baptist- The son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, John was a few months older Jesus and destined to become his forerunner.

Joseph- The second youngest of Jacob's twelve sons. He was Jacob's favorite.

Joshua- Son of Nun, an Ephraimite. A military leader and hero whose name first appeared in the Old Testament when he won a great victory for Moses.

Laity- The faithful who aren't in Holy Orders and don't belong to a religious state approved by the Church.

Lector- is appointed to read the word of God in the Liturgical assembly.

Liturgy of the Hours- The group of psalms, hymns, prayers, biblical, and spiritual readings formulated by the Church.

Lunette- Consists of two hinged pieces of metal in the form of a crescent, between which the Host is placed for use in the monstrance for solemn exposition of the Eucharist.

Magnificat- The Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary first recited it on her visit to Elizabeth after the Annunciation and her conception of Christ.

Matrimony- Marriage, but only a more appropriate term for legal and religious use. It is the proper term for the sacrament of marriage, and refers more to the relationship between husband and wife, rather than to the ceremony or the state of marriage.

Monstrance- (emblem) A symbol of the Blessed Sacrament since the monstrance is the sacred vessel which contains the consecrated Host when or carried in procession.

Moses- The greatest figure of the Old Testament, the founder of Israel, lawgiver, leader, and proponent of monotheism.

New Testament- In the sense of new dispensation, it is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and includes all that Christ did and said during his visible stay on earth.

Ordained Minister- Authorized server of God in the service of others, according to specified norms revealed by Christ and determined by the Church.

Parable- A short story based on a familiar life experience used to teach a spiritual lesson. It resembles the fable and the allegory.

Pastor- An individual priest or a corporate person to whom a parish has been entrusted by a bishop, with the rights and responsibilities conferred by canon law and the statutes of the diocese.

Penance- The virtue or disposition of heart by which one repents of one's own sins and is converted to God. Also the punishment by which one atones for sins committed either by oneself or by others. Another word for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Peter- The first Pope and leader of the Apostles.

Pharisees- An active, vociferous, religious, Jewish sect in the centuries before and after Christ appeared on earth.

Pope- Title of the visible head of the Catholic Church. He is called Pope because his authority is supreme and because it is to be exercised in a paternal way, after the example of God.

Prodigal Son- parable of Jesus about a man who leaves home and becomes a wastrel, repents, comes home, and is forgiven.

Prophets- The biblical term means one who spoke, acted, wrote under the extraordinary influence of God to make known the divine counsels and will.

Psalms- A sacred hymn or praise, usually sung or chanted and taken in whole or in part from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament; originally in a harp song.

Purgatory- The place or condition in which the souls of the just are purified after death and before they can enter heaven.

Purificator- A small piece of white linen, marked with a cross in the center, used by the priest in the Celebration of Mass.

Pyx- Any metal box or vessel in which the Blessed Sacraments is kept or carried.

Redemption- The salvation of humanity by Jesus Christ.

Roman Catholics- The faith, worship, and practice of all Christians in communion with the Bishop of Rome, whom they acknowledge as the Vicar of Christ and the visible head of the Church founded by Christ.

Rosary- A devotional prayer, mental, and vocal, honoring the Blessed Mother of God.

Sacramental- Objects or actions that the church uses after the manner of sacraments, in order to achieve through the merits of the faithful certain effects, mainly of a spiritual nature.

Sacrarium- Sanctuary in a temple where sacred objects are held.

Saint- Name given in the New Testament to Christians generally, but in early restricted to persons who were eminent for holiness.

Samaritans- The people of Samaria who were originally Jews, but had intermarried with pagan Assyrians, who had conquered Israel in 622 BC.

Sanctuary- The part of the church containing the altar.

Sermon on the Mount- The most comprehensive discourse of Jesus reported in the New Testament. It was delivered to a multitude on one of the hills near Capernaum. It extends over three chapters in Matthew's Gospel. The sermon outlined the kind of life that a true follower of Christ should live if he seeks the kingdom.

Service- In general, performing one's religious duty as a creature towards God, and fulfilling one's moral responsibility of meeting the needs of others.

Solomon- The third king of Israel, son of David and Bathsheba, ruled his country from 961-922 BC.

Soul- The spiritual immortal part in human beings that animates their body.

Stations of the Cross- A devotion performed by meditating on the Passion of Christ, successively before fourteen stations of the Christ.

Stewardship- The management of whatever a person is entrusted with, not only to preserve, but profitably administer for his master, ultimately for God.

Stole- A liturgical vestment composed of a strip of material, several inches wide, and worn around the neck by priests, and bishops; at the left shoulder like a sash by deacons, for the celebration of Mass, administration of sacraments, and ceremonies of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tabernacle- A cupboard or boxlike receptacle for the exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Temptation- Solicitation to sin, whether by persuasion or offering some pleasure. It may rise from the world, flesh, or the devil.

Thurible- A metal vessel for the Ceremonial Burning of Incense, also known as Censer.

Trinity- The term used to denote the central doctrine of Christian religion. Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Vestments- Special garments worn by the clergy, in conformity with Church regulations, at the celebration of Mass, administration of the sacraments, in procession, when giving blessings, and in general whenever exercising the priestly duties.

Virtue- A good habit that enables a person to act according to right reason and enlightened faith.

Vocation- A call from God to a distinctive state of life, in that the person can reach holiness.

Works of Mercy- Human actions that are impelled by love of God and other human beings.