

Glossary

UNIT ONE

Abba: The Hebrew word for Father. Jesus taught us to call God “Abba, Father” when we pray.

Ambassador: A person from one nation who represents his nation in a foreign land. Jesus is the ambassador of God’s Kingdom. As disciples of Jesus, we too are ambassadors of the Kingdom of God.

Baptism: The first Sacrament of Initiation. In Baptism we are born into new life in Jesus. We need Baptism to go to Heaven.

Consubstantial: Of the same substance. We say in the Nicene Creed that Jesus is “consubstantial with the Father,” which means that Jesus is one with the Father. The Persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, are each fully God.

Creed: A statement of belief. We profess our faith in the Trinity and what the Church believes and teaches every time we pray the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed.

Crucifixion: A form of punishment used by the Romans where a person is nailed to a cross to hang until he dies. Jesus suffered crucifixion and died on the Cross to save us from sin.

Divine: Of God. Jesus is fully divine, which means He is fully God.

Faith: A gift from God that helps us to believe in Him and live as He wants us to live. It is our response what God has revealed of Himself and all that He tells us through the Church.

False God: Someone or something that is worshipped instead of God. For example, a pagan god, money, or fame.

Incarnation: The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, assumed a human nature in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Iniquity (sin): A deliberate offense against God. It is something we say, think, do, or fail to do that is against the eternal law of God.

Intellect: A person’s ability to know and understand. Human beings have an intellect.

Kingdom: The place where a king rules. Jesus announced the coming of God’s Kingdom on earth.

Mystery: A truth about God that we can come to know only with God’s help.

Nature: What something is. Unlike any other person, Jesus has two natures: human and divine. Jesus is fully human and fully divine.

Peace: Living in harmony with others, including God. Jesus often greeted His disciples saying, “Peace be with you.” This meant that He meant no harm and did not feel anger or hatred towards anyone. We offer one another a sign of peace at every Mass.

Person: A unique individual. The Holy Trinity is three Persons in One God. Each Person of the Trinity is a unique individual, and fully God. Each of us are human persons, unique individuals created in the image and likeness of God, even before we are born.

Proceed: To come forth from. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Reign: The rule and authority of a king. A king rules by making and enforcing laws and by judging his people by those laws. God is king of the universe and He rules over all things.

Reverence: Honor or respect given to someone or something. The Second Commandment requires us to use God's name with reverence.

Theological Virtues: Special virtues God gives directly to us that help us grow in a good relationship with the Holy Trinity. They are faith, hope, and love.

Trinity: Christian belief revealed to us by God that He is three Persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Virtue: A habit of doing what is good. We build virtues through our own efforts and with God's grace.

Will: A person's ability to choose and act based upon knowledge and understanding. Human beings have free will.

Wonder and Awe: The feeling of being amazed and of admiration. The Holy Spirit helps us to feel wonder and awe towards God and His love for us.

Yahweh: The sacred name of God, which means, "I AM," or "I AM who AM." God revealed His name to Moses in the Burning Bush.

UNIT TWO

Christ: The Greek word for "anointed one." See Messiah.

Church: The community of disciples founded by Jesus that will exist until the end of time. The Church is at the same time human and divine. It is the gathering of God's people on earth and it is the mystical Body of Christ. The Church is also the Temple of the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the Body of Christ and unites its members.

Corporal Works of Mercy: Jesus taught us that we must love our neighbor by performing Corporal (and Spiritual) Works of Mercy. Corporal means "body." The corporal works of mercy help us meet a person's physical needs. They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, ransom the captive, and bury the dead.

Disciple: Student. The disciples were followers, or students, of Jesus. Jesus had thousands of disciples. All Christians are His disciples today.

Dominion: The power or rule of a king. The Prophet Isaiah (and other Old Testament prophets) foretold of the Messiah's dominion over all things that would last forever.

Foreshadow: How an earlier person, thing, or idea points to a later person, thing, or idea. In Scripture, there are many things in the Old Testament that foreshadow things in the New Testament. Jesus did many things during His public ministry that foreshadowed His Passion and Death on the Cross.

Gospel: Good News. Jesus preached the Good News, or Gospel message, of salvation and that now was the time for God's Kingdom to begin on earth.

Grace: The free gift of God's life within us. We receive grace in the Sacraments.

Intercede: To stand up for another person or ask for something for her when she is in need or in trouble. Our Blessed Mother Mary intercedes for us as Queen of Heaven.

Kingdom of Heaven: (Also called the Kingdom of God) God's reign or rule over all things. The Church is the seed, or beginning, of the Kingdom here on earth. The Kingdom will be fulfilled in Heaven.

Marriage: A lifelong commitment of one man and one woman who promise to love and be faithful to each other, and to raise children in the Christian faith. Marriage is one of the seven Sacraments.

Messiah: The Hebrew word for "anointed one." God had promised the Chosen People that He would send the Messiah to free them from sin. Jesus is God's promised Messiah and Savior.

Miracle: A supernatural act of God that demonstrates His power over all things. Jesus performed many miracles because He is God. Jesus' miracles invited people to believe in Him and showed the power of God. Jesus' miracles were also signs of the Kingdom of God.

Parable: A short story that uses characters or situations that we can relate to in order to teach us a deeper lesson. Parables help to explain something in a way that is easier for us to understand. Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God using parables.

Repent: To be sorry and ask for forgiveness. Jesus called us to repent and believe in the Gospel because the Kingdom of God was at hand.

Spiritual Works of Mercy: Jesus taught us that we must love our neighbor by performing Spiritual (and Corporal) Works of Mercy. The spiritual works of mercy help us meet a person's spiritual needs. They are: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead.

UNIT THREE

Body of Christ: The People of God make up the Body of Christ. A body has many parts, just like the People of God is made up of different people with different gifts and talents. Though we are all different, as the Body of Christ we are one body with Christ as our head.

Charity (Love): The Theological Virtue by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

Conserve: To protect from harm or destruction. Caring for God's creation requires us to conserve our natural resources.

Creation: Everything that God has made. We have the responsibility to care for God's creation.

Dignity: Worthy of honor or respect. All human beings from unborn babies to the elderly have equal dignity as children of God.

Enemy: A person (or group of people) who is actively against someone and may try to do him harm. Jesus taught us to love our enemies by forgiving them.

Faith: The Theological Virtue by which we believe in God and all that He has revealed to us, as well as all that His Church teaches us to believe.

Forgive: To stop feeling anger towards someone who has harmed you. Forgiveness involves wishing well for your enemy. Jesus taught us to forgive our enemies. Jesus forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Confession.

Gratitude: Thankfulness. We honor our parents by being thankful to them.

Honor: To show great respect to someone. The Fourth Commandment requires us to honor our parents. We do this by being obedient to them and by being grateful to them for giving us life and for all they do and have done for us.

Hope: The Theological Virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of God and eternal life, and place our trust in all of God's promises to us.

Leprosy: A skin disease during Jesus' time. People with leprosy were made to live outside their city or village because leprosy was easy to catch.

Levite: A member of the tribe of Levi, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Levites played important roles in religious services at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Natural Resources: The things of nature available to us that we use to make or build everything else. (For example, water, trees, fossil fuels, and so forth.)

Obedience: Respecting and following the rules of someone with authority. We honor our parents by obeying or following what they tell us.

Respect: To give others the care and consideration that is due to them. We owe some people more respect than others. For example, the Fourth Commandment requires us to honor (or give great respect to) our parents. All people deserve respect as persons made in the image of God. In the Great Commandment, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors.

Samaritan: A member of a group of people living in Israel during the time of Jesus. The Jewish people looked down upon the Samaritans and would not speak to them in public.

Sins of omission: Sins that result from not doing something we should do. It is a sin of omission when we do not help our neighbor in need.

Temple: A dwelling place for God. The Temple was God's dwelling place on earth in the Old Testament. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and the coming of the Holy Spirit, He dwells in us. Therefore our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

The Ten Commandments: God's Law given to Moses in the Old Testament. The Ten Commandments require us to act in certain ways that follow the Law of God. Failure to follow any of the Ten Commandments is a mortal sin. The gravity, or seriousness, of sins can be more or less great. For example, murdering someone is graver than stealing. A sin is also more or less grave based on who we wrong. If we set out to physically harm our parents, that is more grave than if we set out to physically harm a stranger. But both would be mortal sins.

The Two Great Commandments: Jesus' teaching that "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." These two commandments are a summary of all Ten Commandments.

UNIT FOUR

Absolution: Formal forgiveness of sin given the priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, who acts in the person of Jesus Christ.

Act of Contrition: A formal prayer telling God we are sorry for our sin, want His forgiveness, and need His help to do better next time. We say an act of contrition before receiving absolution when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Angel: A heavenly creature who is a pure spirit. Angels are servants and messengers of God.

Apostle: A person who is sent out as a representative of someone else. Jesus chose twelve men to be His Apostles. They preached Jesus' message of salvation and worked miracles in His name. Jesus gave the Apostles special authority and made them the first leaders (bishops) of the Church.

Bishop: The leader of a particular diocese and a main teacher of the Catholic faith. A bishop also makes the Sacraments available to the people of his diocese. The bishops of the Church are the successors to the Apostles. They guard and protect the teachings of the Church to make sure they are handed on faithfully.

Conscience: The gift God gave human beings to be able to use reason in order to judge right from wrong. Conscience is God's voice in our hearts. We have a responsibility to educate ourselves and inform our conscience with prayer and God's word, so that we can do good and avoid evil. A poorly-formed conscience will lead us to sin.

Cornerstone: A large, strong stone put at the bottom corners of a building to make it stable. Jesus is called "the cornerstone" because He is the foundation of our entire Catholic Faith.

Covenant: A permanent bond of family relationship. God entered into six major covenants with mankind throughout Salvation History.

Emmanuel: God is with us. The prophets of the Old Testament used this title to explain that God would come to us and be with us. This title was given to Jesus at His birth. Jesus is God and fulfills the meaning of this title.

Examination of Conscience: A list of statements of questions that helps us to identify and confess all of our sins. We should always review an Examination of Conscience before meeting with a priest for Confession.

Family of God: A title for the Church. By our Baptism, we are made sons and daughters of God and members of His family, the Church.

Jesus: Hebrew word for "God saves." Jesus was the name given to the second Person of the Holy Trinity when He was born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus' Passion: Jesus' suffering and Death on the Cross for our salvation.

Lamb of God: A title given to Jesus that describes His sacrifice to free us from sin. Just like the sacrifice of the Passover lamb freed the Israelites from slavery, Jesus's sacrifice frees us from death and sin in a new Passover.

Lord: Someone who has authority over others. Jesus is Lord of all. Because He is God, He has authority over all things.

Mortal Sin: Serious sin that we choose to commit even though we know it is wrong. Moral sin destroys our relationship with God and completely rejects His love for us.

Original Sin: The first sin of Adam and Eve that brought pain, suffering, and death into the world. Because we are all descendants of Adam and Eve we are all born with Original Sin in our souls. We need to be baptized to remove the stain of Original Sin. The effects of Original Sin remain, however. For example, we tend to sin, we suffer, and die.

Passover: An important Jewish feast that celebrates how God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The original Passover required the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, spread its blood over their doorposts, and share a sacred meal of unleavened bread and wine and the flesh of the lamb. If they followed these instructions, they would be passed over by the angel of death.

Penance: An outward sign of expressing sorrow for our sins. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the priest will give an act of penance to make up for our confessed sins, such as a prayer to say.

Pope: The bishop of Rome and successor of St. Peter. The pope has the special responsibility of being the head of the entire Church on earth. He unites and guides all of the world's bishops and leads all of God's people on earth. He is Christ's chief representative on earth.

Resurrection: A return to life after death. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after His Crucifixion. His Resurrection defeated sin and death so that we might someday go to Heaven and live eternally with God.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: A Sacrament that gives us a chance to confess our sins when we are truly sorry and receive forgiveness from God through a priest. This Sacrament reunites us with God and His Church when we seek forgiveness for our sins.

Sanctifying Grace: The free gift of God's love and life given within our souls given to us by the Holy Spirit. Sanctifying grace heals us of sin and makes us holy. We receive sanctifying grace at our Baptism.

Savior: One who brings salvation. Jesus is our Savior. He saves us from sin and death by His Death on the Cross and Resurrection.

Shepherd: One who tends and feeds a flock of sheep. Jesus is called the "Good Shepherd" because Jesus loves us, cares for us, and leads us just as a shepherd cares for and leads His flock.

Sin: A deliberate offense against God. It is something we say, think, do, or fail to do that is against the eternal law of God.

Son of God: The Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, Son of the Father. He is God Himself. God the Father loves us so much He sent His only Son to save us from sin and bring us to eternal life in Heaven.

Son of Man: A title of Jesus' that tells us that He was fully human. He often called Himself the Son of Man to make it clear that He was God Incarnate. In other words, Jesus is fully God and fully human.

Temple of the Holy Spirit: A title for the Church. A temple is a place where God dwells. The Holy Spirit dwells in the Church and guides the Church to holiness. The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church, and unites all of its members.

Venial Sin: Less serious sin that hurts our relationship with God, but does not destroy it.

UNIT FIVE

Absolution: The fourth step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The priest prays the prayer of forgiveness (absolution), and we are welcomed back into our full relationship with Christ.

Anointing: Rubbing or marking with oil. Holy oil is spread on our foreheads in Baptism and Confirmation, and again in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Baptism: The first Sacrament we receive. Baptism makes us members of the Church, forgives our sins, and gives us new life in Christ. It is necessary for salvation.

Breaking of the Bread: Another title for the Mass used in the New Testament.

Communion: A title for the Eucharist. When we receive the Eucharist we are united to Jesus Himself. We are made members of the one Body of Christ. Our membership in the Body of Christ that began in Baptism is renewed, strengthened, and deepened by Holy Communion.

Confession: The second step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We confess our sins to a priest. The priest acts in the person of Christ, and we show we are truly sorry as we pray the Act of Contrition.

Confirmation: The Sacrament of Initiation that strengthens the outpouring of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism. Confirmation also gives to us special strength to spread and protect our Catholic faith.

Contrition: Sorrow. We must be truly sorry for our sins in order to be forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The priest will ask us to pray an act of contrition after we confess our sins as sign of our sorrow.

Conversion: The first step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We recognize all that we have done to hurt our heavenly Father, are truly sorry for our actions, and resolve not to sin again. The examination of conscience can aid us in recognizing our faults.

Eucharist: The Sacrament in which we receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is spiritual food for the soul. It is not merely a symbol, but is Jesus' true flesh and blood.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Holy Oil: A blessed and perfumed oil that is used to anoint a person at Baptism and Confirmation.

Lamb of God: Jesus is the Lamb of God whose sacrifice on the Cross freed us from sin and spiritual death. Just as the Israelites had to eat flesh of the Paschal Lamb for the sacrifice to be complete, Jesus gave us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist at the Last Supper for us to receive the blessings of the Passover of the New Covenant.

Last Supper: The last meal shared between Jesus and His disciples. It took place on the night before He died on the Cross. Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Laying on of Hands: Placing hands upon another person's head. In Confirmation, the bishop places his hands on the head of the person receiving the Sacrament as a sign of being chosen.

Liturgy: "Public work," or "a service on behalf of the people." In Christian tradition it is the participation of the People of God in "the work of God," or our salvation from sin. It is our public worship as Christians. The Mass is the greatest example and model of the liturgy.

Liturgy of the Eucharist: The second part of the Mass in which we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. In this part of the Mass, the priest prays the words of consecration and changes the bread and wine in the Body and Blood of Christ. We also come to the altar of the Lord and receive Holy Communion.

Liturgy of the Word: The first part of the Mass in which we receive the written Word of God. In this part of the Mass, the Scriptures are proclaimed and the priest teaches us in his homily. We also join together in prayer for others and profess our faith.

Mass: The liturgical celebration and memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead. At every Mass, the priest changes the bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood in the Eucharist. The Mass is divided into two sections: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Memorial: A way of remembering the past. The word "remember" means "to make present again." In the Eucharist, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross is made present to us again.

Presbyter: A priest.

Sacrament: A sign of God's grace that gives the grace that it signifies. Jesus founded seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Holy Matrimony.

Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. These Sacraments introduce us to and make us members of the Church. They strengthen us for our life's journey and give us a share in Christ's mission of the salvation of all souls.

Satisfaction: The third step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We approach Jesus with humility. The priest gives us a penance for the wrong we have done. We perform our penance, to repair not only our relationship with our heavenly Father but also our relationships with those we have hurt.

Symbol: Something that stands for or represents something else.

Transubstantiation: The word used to describe the change of the bread and wine at Mass into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

UNIT SIX

Annunciation: A Marian feast celebrated every year on March 25th. On this feast day, we celebrate the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would be the Mother of God. The Gospel story of the Annunciation can be found in Luke 1:26-38.

Assumption: According to tradition, at the end of Mary's earthly life, she was assumed, or taken up, into Heaven body and soul. Mary is now in Heaven with her son, crowned Queen of Heaven and seated at His right hand. Mary's Assumption into Heaven reminds us of how all the members of Christ's Church will rise again! The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption every year on August 15th.

Betrothed: Engaged to be married. Mary was betrothed to Mary a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

Brown Scapular: Two small pieces of cloth connected by a cord worn around the neck. Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock and gave him this special sacramental to wear as a sign that we are faithful God and our baptismal promises. It is an outward sign showing that the wearer has asked to be protected and to be guided closer to Jesus. Those who wear the scapular and are faithful to Jesus in all things are promised salvation.

Fiat: Latin for “let it be done,” or “yes.” Mary responded to the Angel Gabriel’s announcement that she would be the Mother of God by saying, “May it be done to me according to your word.”

Magnificat: The prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God Mary prayed when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the Annunciation. This prayer is found in Luke 1:46-55. In this prayer, Mary said that her soul “magnifies” the Lord.

Magnify: To enlarge or increase. Mary said that her soul “magnifies” the Lord. Everything in Mary’s life increased the greatness of God here on earth.

Marian Altar: An altar or sacred space set aside to honor Mary. These can include paintings or statues of Mary, flowers, sacramentals such as miraculous medals and Rosary’s, and other ways of honor Our Lady.

Marian Feast: A special day in the Church that honors Mary and celebrates an important moment in her life. There are many Marian feast days, such as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th, and Mary, the Mother of God on December 1st.

Miraculous Medal: A sacramental medal with an image of Mary imprinted on it. Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and asked her to make a medal with Mary’s picture on it. Around the picture are the words of this prayer, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.” Mary said that all who wear this medal around their neck with confidence will receive many graces.

Rosary: A special prayer in which we reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries: important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Using a chain of beads, we make the Sign of the Cross and recite the Apostles’ Creed while holding the crucifix; then we pray one Our Father, three Hail Mary’s, and a Glory Be. Next, we recite the Our Father on each large bead, the Hail Mary on each of the ten smaller beads, and finish with the Glory Be. That completes one decade. Before we begin each decade, we say the mystery for that decade and think about it as we pray the prayers. After five decades, we pray the Hail Holy Queen and make the Sign of the Cross.

Sacramental: Objects or actions that are sacred signs of God's grace which prepare us to receive His grace and cooperate with it. A blessing is a sacramental, as well as objects such as medals, crosses, scapulars, and rosaries when they are blessed by the Church.

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God: A Marian feast celebrated every year on January 1st. On this feast day, we honor Mary's "yes" to God's plan that she would be the Mother of God.

UNIT SEVEN

Angelus: A traditional prayer led by the Pope every Sunday afternoon. From his window, the pope will lead the people gathered in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican in this prayer. Afterwards, he will give a brief message or teaching.

Ascension: Forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus went up to, or ascended into, Heaven in His glorified body. There He is seated at the right hand of the Father in all His glory.

Charism: A gift of grace from God that helps us follow God's plan for us. The Holy Spirit gives people the grace to run soup kitchens, teach catechism classes, and do other such acts of service. The Holy Spirit helps people to lead music and to read at Mass. The Holy Spirit uses all the good works of people to make the Church healthy and strong and energetic.

Diocese: Geographic areas into which the Church is organized throughout the world. Each diocese is made up of many parishes, and is led by a bishop.

Four Marks of the Church: Four defining characteristics of the Church given to her by Jesus. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The Holy Spirit working in and through the Church today helps the Church fulfill these marks.

Hierarchy: The leadership of the Church. The pope is the head of the Church on earth and the bishop of Rome. He works together with all of the world's bishops to teach all that Jesus commanded and make disciples of all the world.

Holy Spirit: The third Person of the Holy Trinity. He proceeds from the Father and the Son and is worshiped and glorified as fully God. The Holy Spirit fills us with His gifts and guides us to holiness in the Church.

Magisterium: The teaching authority of the Church. The Holy Spirit assists the Church in teaching the truth to the faithful. When the pope and all of the world's bishops proclaim to all Catholics a very important truth about faith or morals, the Holy Spirit ensures that this teaching is free from any mistakes or falsehoods. This way, we can be sure of the truth.

Nicene Creed: The profession of faith said at every Sunday Mass. In the Creed, we profess belief in the Holy Trinity and in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Parish: A local community of Christian faithful led by a pastor. In our parishes, we receive the Sacraments and all of God's gifts, everything we need to know, love, and serve God.

Pastor: A priest who leads and cares for a parish. He is assigned to be pastor by the bishop of his diocese.

Pentecost: The day when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles and the Church was born. Fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection (10 days after His Ascension into Heaven), Mary and the Apostles had gathered in the upper room and were filled with the Holy Spirit, who came in a rush of wind and appeared as tongues of fire over their heads. The Apostles were strengthened by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel in many languages to the gathered crowd. 3,000 people were baptized and entered the Church that day. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.

Priest: Co-workers with their bishops who serve the faithful by building up and guiding the Church. Priests preach the Gospel of Christ and make available the Sacraments to the People of God, especially the Holy Eucharist. In a special way, priests act in the person of Christ, making Jesus present to us, when they present the Sacraments.

Ruah: Hebrew word for “breath,” “air,” or “wind.” It is also a word for “spirit.” The Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as the “breath” of God.

Successor: One who follows or comes after. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

Tradition: The mode of transmission of the Word of God. The Word of God was given to the Apostles by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Apostles in turn handed it on to their successors, the bishops. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Church has kept the Word of God whole and safe over the centuries so we can know and believe in the whole Faith today. Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture make up a single deposit – or one gift – of the Word of God. We accept and honor Sacred Tradition equally with Sacred Scripture.