

glossary

A

absolution the forgiveness we receive from God through the priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Absolution places us in the state of grace and ready to receive other sacraments. [absolución]

Advocate Jesus' name for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comforts us, speaks for us in difficult times, and makes Jesus present to us. [Defensor]

apostolic the Mark of the Church that indicates that Jesus continues to lead the Church through the pope and the bishops. The pope and the bishops are the successors of the Apostles. [apostólica]

Assumption Mary's being taken, body and soul, into Heaven. Mary had a special relationship with her Son, Jesus, from the very beginning when she conceived him. Because of this relationship, she enjoys a special participation in Jesus' Resurrection and has been taken into Heaven where she now lives with him. We celebrate this event in the Feast of the Assumption on August 15. [Asunción]

B

Beatitudes the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. The Beatitudes are eight ways of living the Christian life. They are the fulfillment of the commandments given to Moses. These teachings present the way to true happiness. [Bienaventuranzas]

C

Cardinal Virtues the four virtues that help a person live in relationship with God and others: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. [virtudes cardinales]

catholic one of the four Marks of the Church. The Church is catholic because Jesus is fully present in it, because it proclaims the fullness of faith, and because Jesus has given the Church to the whole world. The Church is universal. [católica]

charity a virtue given to us by God that helps us love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves [caridad]

chastity being faithful to one's sexuality in conduct and intention. Chastity helps us live out our sexuality in a proper manner. [castidad]

Chrism a perfumed oil, consecrated by a bishop, that is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Anointing with Chrism signifies the call of the baptized to the threefold ministry of priest, prophet, and king. [crisma]

Christ a title that means "anointed one." It is from a Greek word that means the same thing as the Hebrew word *Messiah*, or "anointed." It is the name given to Jesus as priest, prophet, and king. [Cristo]

Church the people of God throughout the whole world, the people of a diocese (the local Church), or the assembly of those called together to worship God. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. [Iglesia]

Collect the opening prayer at Mass or other liturgy. A collect is addressed to God and asks for God's presence and grace. [Colecta]

conscience the inner voice that helps each of us judge the morality of our own actions. It guides us to follow God's law by doing good and avoiding evil. [conciencia]

Corporal Works of Mercy kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their everyday, material needs. Corporal Works of Mercy include feeding the hungry, finding a home for the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison, giving alms to the poor, and burying the dead. [obras de misericordia corporales]

counsel the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps seek advice and accept the advice of others. Counsel is also known as right judgment. [consejo]

D

disciple a person who has decided to follow the teachings of Jesus and live them every day [discipulo]

E

Ecumenism the movement to bring unity to separated Christian denominations [ecumenismo]

F

faith a gift of God that helps us believe in him. We profess our faith in the Creed, celebrate it in the sacraments, live by it through our good conduct of loving God and our neighbor, and express it in prayer. It is a personal adherence of the whole person to God, who has revealed himself to us through words and actions throughout history. [fe]

faithfulness the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in our ability to keep promises and remain loyal to God and those to whom we are committed [fidelidad]

fear of the Lord the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us recognize God's greatness and our dependence on him. The gift of fear of the Lord is sometimes called wonder and awe. [temor del Señor]

fortitude the strength to choose to do the right thing even when that is difficult. Fortitude is one of the four central human virtues, called the Cardinal Virtues, by which we guide our conduct through faith and the use of reason. Fortitude is also one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that gives us the ability to live as a follower of Jesus, stand up for our beliefs, and live a good Christian life. [fortaleza]

Fruits of the Holy Spirit the demonstration through our actions that God is alive in us. Saint Paul lists the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Church Tradition has added goodness, modesty, and chastity to make a total of 12. [frutos del Espíritu Santo]

G

generosity the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in the willingness to give even when at one's own cost. [benignidad]

gentleness the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in the ability to be gracious, peaceful, and forgiving instead of being rough or angry. [mansedumbre]

Gifts of the Holy Spirit the permanent willingness, given to us through the Holy Spirit, that makes it possible for us to do what God asks of us. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are drawn from Isaiah 11:1–3. They include wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, and wonder and awe. Church Tradition has added reverence to make a total of seven. [dones del Espíritu Santo]

goodness the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in our love for all people and our loving actions toward them. [bondad]

grace the gift of God, given to us without our meriting it. Grace is the Holy Spirit alive in us, helping us live our Christian vocation. Grace helps us live as God wants us to. [gracia]

H

holy the Mark of the Church that indicates that the Church is one with Jesus Christ. Holiness is closeness to God, and therefore the Church is holy because God is present in it. [santa]

hope the confidence that God will always be with us, make us happy now and forever, and help us live so that we will be with him forever. [esperanza]

I

Immaculate Conception the Church teaching that Mary was free from Original Sin from the first moment of her conception. She was preserved through the merits of her Son, Jesus, the Savior of the human race. It was declared a dogma of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854 and is celebrated on December 8. [Inmaculada Concepción]

indelible the quality of being permanent and unable to be erased or undone. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders have an indelible character. [indeleble]

infallible the inability to be in error or to teach something that is false. On matters of belief and morality, the Church is infallible because of the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The pope, in union with the bishops, can teach infallibly on matters of faith and morals. [infallible]

J

joy a deep and constant gladness in the Lord that circumstances cannot destroy. It comes from a good relationship with God and others—a relationship of genuine love. [gozo]

justice the virtue that guides us to give to God and others what is due them. Justice is one of the four central human virtues, called the Cardinal Virtues, by which we guide our Christian life. [justicia]

K

kindness the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in generous acts of service to others [longanimidad]

Kingdom of God God's rule over us, announced in the Gospels and present in the Eucharist. The beginning of the kingdom here on earth is mysteriously present in the Church, and it will come in completeness at the end of time. [reino de Dios]

knowledge one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift helps us know what God asks of us and how we should respond. [ciencia]

L

Last Judgment the final judgment of all human beings that will occur when Christ returns in glory and all appear in their own bodies before him to give an account of all their deeds in life. In the presence of Christ, the truth of each person's relationship with God will be laid bare, as will the good that each person had done or failed to do during his or her earthly life. At that time God's kingdom will come into its fullness. [Juicio Final]

Liturgy of the Eucharist the part of Mass in which the bread and wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We then receive Christ in Holy Communion. [Liturgia de la Eucaristía]

Liturgy of the Word the part of Mass in which we listen to God's Word from the Bible and consider what it means for us today. The Liturgy of the Word can also be a public prayer and proclamation of God's Word that is not followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist. [Liturgia de la Palabra]

love the fruit of the Holy Spirit, also called *charity*, seen in selfless acts of care and service toward others. [amor]

M

Magisterium the living, teaching office of the Church. This office, through the bishops and with the pope, provides an authentic interpretation of the Word of God. It ensures faithfulness to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals. [Magisterio]

Messiah a title that means "anointed one." It is from a Hebrew word that means the same thing as the Hebrew word *Christ*. Messiah is the title given to Jesus as priest, prophet, and king. [Mesías]

modesty the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in the ability to be moderate and controlled in our actions, especially our conversation and physical appearance. [modestia]

mortal sin a serious decision to turn away from God by doing something that we know is wrong. For a sin to be mortal, it must be a very serious offense, the person must know how serious it is, and the person must freely choose to do it anyway. [pecado mortal]

N

Nicene Creed the summary of Christian beliefs developed by the bishops at the first two councils of the Church held in A.D. 325 and 381. It is the Creed shared by most Christians, in the East and in the West. [Credo Niceno]

O

one one of the four Marks of the Church. The Church is one because of its source in the one God and because of its founder, Jesus Christ. Jesus, through his Death on the cross, united all to God in one body. [una]

Original Sin the consequence of the disobedience of the first human beings. They disobeyed God and chose to follow their own will rather than God's will. As a result, human beings lost the original blessing God had intended and became subject to sin and death. In Baptism we are restored to life with God through Jesus Christ although we still experience the effects of Original Sin. [pecado original]

P

particular judgment a judgment made by Christ received by every person at the moment of death that offers either entrance into heaven (after a period of purification, if needed) or immediate and eternal separation from God in hell. At the moment of death, each person is rewarded by Christ in accordance with his or her works and faith. [juicio particular]

Paschal Mystery the work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church, and we experience its saving effects in the sacraments. In every liturgy of the Church, God the Father is blessed and adored as the source of all blessings we have received through his Son in order to make us his children through the Holy Spirit. [Misterio Pascual]

patience the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in enduring love for others despite suffering, difficulties, and disappointments. [paciencia]

peace the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in persons who remain calm and serene without becoming anxious or upset. [paz]

piety the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us love and worship God. Piety is also known as reverence. [piedad]

prudence the virtue that directs us toward the good and helps us to choose the correct means to achieve that good. When we act with prudence, we carefully and thoughtfully consider our actions. Prudence is one of the Cardinal Virtues that guide our conscience and influence us to live according to the Law of Christ. [prudencia]

Purgatory a state of final cleansing of all our human imperfections after death to prepare us to enter into the joy of God's presence in Heaven. [purgatorio]

R

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) the formal process by which adults become members of the Church. RCIA includes different types of spiritual formation that lead to Baptism, Confirmation, and receiving Holy Communion for the first time at the Easter Vigil. [Ritual de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (RICA)]

S

sacraments the seven official rites through which God's life enters our lives in the liturgy through the work of the Holy Spirit. Christ's work in the liturgy is sacramental because his mystery is made present there by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us three sacraments that bring us into the church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. He gave us two sacraments that bring us healing: Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. He also gave us two sacraments that help members serve the community: Matrimony and Holy Orders. [sacramentos]

sanctifying grace the gift of God, given to us without our earning it, that introduces us to the intimacy of the Trinity, unites us with its life, and heals our human nature wounded by sin. Sanctifying grace helps us respond to our vocation as God's adopted children, and it continues the work of making us holy that began at our Baptism. [gracia santificante]

self-control the fruit of the Holy Spirit seen in the ability to be disciplined in one's desires and respectful of the dignity and integrity of others. [continencia]

Spiritual Works of Mercy the kind acts through which we help our neighbors meet their needs that are more than material. The Spiritual Works of Mercy include instructing, admonishing, counseling, comforting, forgiving, bearing wrongs patiently, and praying for others. [obras de misericordia espirituales]

sponsor a person who supports, guides, and presents a person for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A sponsor must be 16 years old, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and live a Christian life. [padrino o madrina]

stewardship the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care, especially the goods of creation, which are intended for the whole human race. The sixth Precept of the Church makes clear our part in stewardship by requiring us to provide for the material needs of the Church, according to our abilities. [corresponsabilidad]

T

temperance the Cardinal Virtue that helps us control our attraction to pleasure so that our natural desires are kept within proper limits. This moral virtue helps us choose to use created goods in moderation. [templanza]

Ten Commandments the 10 rules given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai that sum up God's law and show us what is required to love God and our neighbor. By following the Ten Commandments, the Hebrews accepted their Covenant with God. [Diez Mandamientos]

Theological Virtues the three virtues of faith, hope, and charity that are gifts from God and not acquired by human effort. The virtue of faith helps us believe in him, the virtue of hope helps us desire eternal life and the Kingdom of God, and the virtue of charity helps us love God and our neighbor as we should. [virtudes teologales]

Torah the Hebrew word for "instruction" or "law." It is also the name of the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. [Torá]

Trinity, Holy the mystery of the existence of God in the three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, whole and entire. Each is distinct only in the relationship of each to the others. We follow Jesus, God the Son, because God the Father calls us and God the Holy Spirit moves us. [Trinidad, Santísima]

U

understanding one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift helps us make the right choices in life and in our relationships with God and with others. [entendimiento]

V

venial sin a choice we make that weakens our relationship with God or other people. Venial sin wounds and lessens the divine life in us. If we make no effort to do better, venial sin can lead to more serious sin. Through our participation in the Eucharist, venial sin is forgiven when we are repentant, strengthening our relationship with God and others. [pecado venial]

virtue a firm attitude or way of acting that enables us to do good. [virtud]

W

wisdom one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom helps us understand the purpose and plan of God and live in a way that helps bring about this plan. It begins in wonder and awe at God's greatness. [sabiduría]