

Glossary

A-B

adoration *page 217*

Adoration is a form of prayer that declares God is the source of all. We acknowledge God is Almighty Creator, on whom we depend for everything.

almsgiving *page 209*

Money, food, or material things given to the poor as an act of penance or charity is almsgiving.

Anointing of the Sick *page 129*

The Anointing of the Sick is the Sacrament of Healing that strengthens our faith, hope, and love for God when we are seriously ill, weakened by old age, or dying.

Baptism *page 93*

Baptism is the Sacrament of Christian Initiation in which we are joined to Jesus Christ, become members of his Church, and are reborn as God's adopted children. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and Original Sin and personal sins are forgiven.

Beatitudes *page 181*

The Beatitudes are the teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount that describe the attitudes and actions of people blessed by God; a word meaning "ways of happiness."

biblical inspiration *page 21*

This is the Holy Spirit guiding the human writers of Sacred Scripture so that they would faithfully and accurately communicate what God intended to reveal.

C-D

canon *page 21*

The word in general means "standard" or "official list." Thus, the canon of Scripture is the official list of books included in the Bible.

canonization *page 181*

The process by which the Pope declares that a deceased member of the faithful lived a life of heroic virtue and is to be honored as a Saint is canonization.

charism *page 65*

A charism is a grace of the Holy Spirit given to build up the Church and to help the Church fulfill her work in the world.

charity *page 172*

To love as God loves is what we call charity, or *caritas* in Latin. This is the standard by which all of us are to live by, and as Saint Paul says, charity is the greatest of the three Theological Virtues (read 1 Corinthians 13:13).

chastity *page 144*

When we exercise self-control with God's grace in our relationships, the Holy Spirit forms the virtue of chastity in us. This means that we can appropriately integrate the gift of our human sexuality according to God's calling for us. In other words, we respect each other as persons, and not as objects to be used.

Christ *page 49*

This title of Jesus identifies him as the Messiah, the Anointed One, whom God sent to save all of humanity.

Christian initiation *page 93*

Christian initiation is the liturgical process by which a person becomes a full member of the Church.

Church *page 73*

The Church is the new People of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Bride of Christ, called together in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

communion *page 137*

Communion is the unity in Christ of all the members of the Church, the Body of Christ; the word is from two Latin words meaning "sharing with." Full communion refers to full initiation into the Church.

complementarity *page 145*

Complementarity is living with and for each other as equal in dignity and unique in gender, helping each other according to God's plan for both genders.

Confirmation *page 101*

Confirmation is the Sacrament of Christian Initiation that strengthens the grace of Baptism and in which our life in Christ is sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

conjugal love *page 145*

Conjugal love is the unique expression of sexual love between a husband and a wife, who freely give their whole selves to each other.

conscience *page 165*

Conscience is the gift of God that is part of every person that guides us to know and judge what is right and wrong.

consecrate *page 101*

To consecrate is to set aside and dedicate for a holy purpose.

contemplation *page 217*

Contemplation is a form of prayer without using words, in which we focus our minds and hearts on God alone.

counsel *page 64*

Counsel, or right judgment, is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This gift, or grace, helps a person sense the moral truth about how to live. The gift of counsel is the ability to judge correctly the daily activity of our lives according to God's will. The source of this gift is the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to form our consciences properly.

Covenant *page 21*

This the solemn commitment of fidelity that God and the People of God made with one another, which was renewed in Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant.

covet *page 201*

To covet is to unjustly desire what rightfully belongs to someone else.

creed *page 13*

A creed is a statement of beliefs, a profession of faith, a summary of the principal beliefs of the Church.

diligence *page 84*

Diligence is the persistent ability to combat laziness. Diligence is related to the cardinal virtue of fortitude. Saint Peter gives advice to a Christian community, to be diligent, or vigilant and steadfast in faith (read 1 Peter 5:5-11). Full participation at Mass requires diligence.

Divine Revelation *page 29*

Divine Revelation is God making himself and his divine plan of creation and salvation known over time.

Eucharist *page 109*

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ; the Sacrament of Christian Initiation in which we receive the Real Presence of Christ and are most fully joined to Christ and to the Church.

faith *page 13*

Faith is one of the three Theological Virtues. It is the gift of God's invitation to us that enables us to know and believe in him and the power God gives us to respond freely to his invitation.

faithfulness *page 108*

This fruit of the Holy Spirit is the steadfast commitment a Christian demonstrates as an act of his or her faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Lord, and Savior. Often faithfulness to God involves a struggle, but Jesus shows us the way to remain faithful to God, especially when it involves sacrifice.

fortitude *page 100*

Fortitude is one of the four Cardinal Virtues. It is the strength of mind and will to do what is good in the face of adversity or difficulty. It enables a person to be a steadfast witness for Christ.

generosity *page 208*

This fruit of the Holy Spirit comes from doing charitable works. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, the generosity we show to others is a reflection of loving others as God loves us.

gentleness *page 128*

When we exercise the virtue of temperance, the Holy Spirit provides us with this fruit, which is related to self-control. A gentle person is one who pardons injury and is free from harshness, even in the face of injury or illness. A sense of gentleness is a sense of calming peace and care in the way we treat others and ourselves.

Golden Rule *page 173*

This is the rule to live by that is knowable by human reason. It is to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Gospels *page 65*

The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament that pass on the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ and in the saving events of the Paschal Mystery.

holiness *page 157*

The quality, or condition, of a person who is living in communion and in right relationship with God, with others, and with all of creation; being in the state of grace is holiness.

hope *page 216*

Hope is one of the three Theological Virtues by which we desire and trust that God will fulfill his promises, especially the promise of eternal happiness. Because of the Resurrection, Christianity is a religion of hope.

hospice care *page 129*

Hospice care is a ministry of caring for the terminally ill by offering them gentle end-of-life care that respects the dignity of the human person according to Church teachings.

humility *page 48*

Humility helps us see and accept the truth about God and ourselves. A humble person acknowledges that God is the source of life and author of all that is good. Humility is often described as “poverty in spirit” when the humble person completely trusts in God.

I-J-K-L**idolatry** *page 193*

Idolatry is worshiping someone or a creature or thing (money, pleasure, power, etc.) instead of God the Creator.

Incarnation *page 49*

The Incarnation is the belief of the Church that the Son of God became fully human in all ways except sin, while remaining fully divine.

joy *page 180*

One of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, joy demonstrates that we live according to the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23). Joy results from moral living and believing in the hope of eternal life.

justice *page 36*

Justice is one of the four Cardinal Virtues. Justice is the habit of consistently giving what is due to God and to our neighbor. We give God what is due to him when we worship him alone. Our worship of God includes loving our neighbor and respecting the dignity of every human person. Through Christian justice, we participate in preparing the way for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Kingdom of God *page 73*

The Kingdom of God is the fulfillment of God’s plan for all creation in Christ at the end of time when Christ will come again in glory.

knowledge *page 20*

Part of the gift of faith is the desire to know God better. By accepting God’s gift of faith, the Holy Spirit perfects our faith with gifts, such as wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. In other words, part of our response in faith is to know God more fully. The light of reason aids us in our journey to love, serve and know God.

liturgy *page 85*

Liturgy is the work by the Church of worshipping God. Liturgy includes words, signs, symbols, and actions used to give praise and thanks, and honor and glory to God the Father.

Lord *page 49*

This title of Jesus indicates his divine sovereignty, or power.

M-N-O**Mass** *page 109*

Mass is the main sacramental celebration of the Church at which we gather to listen to God’s Word and through which we share in the saving Death of Christ and give praise and glory to God the Father.

Matrimony *page 145*

The Sacrament of the Church that unites a baptized man and a baptized woman in a lifelong bond of faithful love as a sign of Christ’s love for the Church is Matrimony.

meditation *page 217*

Meditation is a form of silent prayer in which we listen to God through our thoughts and imagination, using Scripture, art, and music.

mercy *page 56*

This fruit of charity is the loving kindness and compassion shown to one who offends us. Even though our sins damage our relationship with God, he still loves us. Throughout his life, Jesus taught how the love of God is one of mercy. Jesus, the Son of God, suffered and died for our sake. Truly the Paschal Mystery reveals the depths of God’s mercy for us.

modesty *page 92*

Modesty is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These are signs that a person is cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit. A modest person protects his or her inner self. Modesty encourages a person to respect the dignity of every human person including oneself.

morality *page 165*

Morality refers to the goodness or evil of human acts. The morality of human acts depends on the object, intention, and circumstances of the action.

mortal sin *page 121*

A mortal sin is a serious failure in our love and respect for God, our neighbor, and ourselves. For a sin to be mortal, it must be gravely wrong, we must know it to be gravely wrong, and we must freely choose it.

murder *page 201*

The direct and intentional killing of an innocent person is murder.

natural law *page 173*

It is the foundation of moral life for everyone. It enables us by human reason to know what is good and what is evil.

Ordination *page 137*

Ordination is the Sacrament of Holy Orders in which a baptized man is consecrated to serve the Church as a bishop, priest, or deacon.

original holiness *page 29*

Original holiness is that first state of grace in which Adam and Eve shared in God's divine life. They were therefore in a perfect state of grace before the Fall.

original justice *page 29*

Original justice is that first state of grace before the Fall, when Adam and Eve and all of creation were in harmony.

Original Sin *page 37*

Original Sin is the sin of Adam and Eve by which they lost the state of original holiness, and by which death, sin, and suffering entered into the world.

P-Q**Paschal Mystery** *page 57*

The Paschal Mystery is Jesus' passing over from life on Earth through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to a new and glorified life with the Father.

Passion *page 57*

The Passion is the suffering of Jesus on his way to the Cross and his Death on the Cross.

patience *page 136*

One of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit is patience, which is the result of virtuous living. Being patient does not mean doing nothing. Patience involves the wisdom of knowing how to wait for truth while actively seeking grace.

peace *page 72*

Peace is one of the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Peace on Earth is a reflection of the peace of Christ. Christ has reconciled humanity with God, and made the Church the sacrament of unity and peace. Disciples of Jesus are called to be peacemakers.

Pentecost *page 65*

Pentecost is the liturgical feast and holy day when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the birth of the Church.

perseverance in faith *page 12*

This gift is the ability to remain steadfast in one's beliefs because of the strength and Gifts of the Holy Spirit working within us. This gift is also helpful when someone is struggling with difficulties and doubts.

piety *page 192*

When we worship God, we exercise the gift of piety. It is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which helps us give devotion to God. The attitudes of reverence and respect accompany piety and pious activity.

prudence *page 164*

This Cardinal Virtue is also referred to as wisdom. Saint Thomas Aquinas defined prudence as "right reason in action." With experience comes wisdom, and prudence is often the guide for growing in wisdom.

reparation *page 209*

The process of righting a wrong or making amends is reparation.

Sacraments *page 85*

Sacraments are the seven sacred signs and causes of grace given to the Church by Christ to continue his saving action among us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Salvation *page 57*

Salvation is the deliverance of humanity from the power of sin and death by God through Jesus Christ, who died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

sanctify *page 29*

To sanctify is to put one in that state of grace in which sin is removed and we are made holy.

sanctifying grace *page 93*

Sanctifying grace is the grace that heals our human nature, wounded by sin, by giving us a share in the divine life of the Holy Trinity.

self-control *page 120*

Self-control is a Fruit of the Holy Spirit that comes from a steadfast commitment to God. A person with self-control demonstrates that God's will comes first in life. Self-control helps us do what is good and just. When others see self-control in us, we become witnesses for Christ by placing the needs of others before our own and following the will of God the Father, in whom we place our trust.

Shema *page 173*

The Shema is a prayerful rule revealed by God in the Covenant that there is only one God, and the Lord is God.

sin *page 37*

Sin is freely choosing to do what we know is against God's will or freely choosing not to do something that we know God wants us to do.

stewardship *page 209*

Stewardship is the actions of responsibly caring for what God has given.

temperance *page 200*

One of the four Cardinal Virtues, temperance includes other virtuous acts and attitudes such as chastity, self-control, and responsible living according to God's plan for life and love. This virtue helps us to moderate our actions so that we do what is good and right.

temptation *page 37*

Temptation is anything that tries to move us to do or say something that we know is wrong or prevents us from doing something that we know is good and that we ought to do.

Theological Virtues *page 157*

The virtues of faith, hope, and charity; gifts of God that enable us to live a life of holiness, or a life in communion with the Holy Trinity, are the Theological Virtues.

understanding *page 156*

This gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to know ourselves better as we grow in our relationship with God. Saint Augustine said of this gift, "That I may know You, may I know myself." Ruth in the Old Testament understood the needs of others, and her actions showed it (read Ruth 1:11-18).

venial sin *page 121*

A venial sin is less serious than a mortal sin; it is a sin that does not have all three conditions necessary for a sin to be mortal.

wonder and awe *page 28*

Often this Gift of the Holy Spirit is referred to as "fear of the Lord." This gift of awe before God enables us to be aware of God's mystery and majesty. We are humbled by his almighty power, perfect goodness, and unconditional love. Most sacred art reflects this kind of reverence to God and aids us in the worship due to God.

Works of Mercy *page 157*

Virtuous actions that we do to help others in need are the Works of Mercy. They are grouped as Corporal (bodily needs) and Spiritual (spiritual needs).

worship *page 193*

Worship is the honor and respect we give to God above all else; faith in, hope in, and love for God above all else.

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