

Name _____

Unit 5 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A

apocalyptic literature A literary form that uses highly dramatic and symbolic language to offer hope to a people in crisis.

Apostolic Succession The uninterrupted passing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles directly to all bishops. It is accomplished through the laying on of hands when a bishop is ordained in the Sacrament of Holy Orders as instituted by Christ. The office of bishop is permanent, because at ordination a bishop is marked with an indelible, sacred character.

Ascension The “going up” into Heaven of the Risen Christ forty days after his Resurrection.

B

Beatitudes The teachings of Jesus that begin the Sermon on the Mount and that summarize the New Law of Christ. The Beatitudes describe the actions and attitudes by which one can discover genuine happiness, and they teach us the final end to which God calls us: full communion with him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Beloved Disciple A faithful disciple in the Gospel of John who is present at critical times in Jesus’ ministry. The Beloved Disciple may have been the founder of the Johannine community.

Body of Christ A term that when capitalized designates Jesus’ Body in the Eucharist, or the entire Church, which is also referred to as the Mystical Body of Christ.

breviary A prayer book that contains the prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours.

C

Catholic letters The eight non-Pauline letters in the New Testament that were addressed to the universal Church.

D

Deposit of Faith The heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It has been passed on from the time of the Apostles. The Magisterium takes from it all that it teaches as revealed truth.

devotional prayers Also known as devotions, these are personalized prayers that have developed outside, but should lead to, the liturgy of the Church.

Doctor of the Church A title officially bestowed by the Church on saints who are highly esteemed for their theological writings, as well as their personal holiness.

dogma Teachings recognized as central to Church teaching, defined by the Magisterium and considered definitive and authoritative.

E

Ecumenical Council A gathering of the Church’s bishops from around the world to address pressing issues in the Church. Ecumenical Councils are usually convened by the Pope or are at least approved by him.

epistle Another name for a New Testament letter.

Eucharistic Prayer The part of the Mass that includes the Consecration, beginning with the Preface and concluding with the Great Amen.



Evangelists From a Greek word meaning “messenger of good news,” the title given to the authors of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

G

Gentile A non-Jewish person. In Sacred Scripture, the Gentiles were the uncircumcised, those who did not honor the God of the Torah. Saint Paul and other Evangelists reached out to the Gentiles, baptizing them into the family of God.

Gospel Translated from a Greek word meaning “good news,” referring to the four books attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are the principal source for accounts of Jesus Christ’s life and teaching and work of salvation.

H

homily A brief liturgical sermon that explains the Scripture readings, helps the People of God accept Sacred Scripture as the Word of God, and encourages them to put the teachings of Scripture into practice in their daily lives.

I

Incarnation From the Latin, meaning “to become flesh,” referring to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God, becoming man. In the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became truly man while remaining truly God.

infancy narratives The accounts of Jesus’ birth and early childhood.

K

kerygma A Greek word meaning “proclamation” or “preaching,” referring to the announcement of the Gospel or the Good News of divine salvation offered to all through Jesus Christ. *Kerygma* has two senses. It is both an event of proclamation and a message proclaimed.

Kingdom of God The culmination or goal of God’s plan of salvation, the Kingdom of God is announced by the Gospel and is present in Jesus Christ. The Kingdom is the reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence of that, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. The fullness of God’s Kingdom will not be realized until the end of time. Also called the Reign of God or the Kingdom of Heaven.

L

lectio divina A Latin term meaning “divine reading.” *Lectio divina* is a form of meditative prayer focused on a Scripture passage. It involves repetitive readings and periods of reflection and can serve as either private or communal prayer.

liturgy The Church’s official, public, communal prayer. It is God’s work, in which the People of God participate. The Church’s most important liturgy is the Eucharist, or the Mass.

Liturgy of the Eucharist This term refers to the second part of the Mass that includes the offertory, the prayers of consecration and invocation of the Holy Spirit, the reception of Communion, and the dismissal.

Liturgy of the Hours Also known as the Divine Office, the official public, daily prayer of the Catholic Church. The Divine Office provides standard prayers, Scripture readings, and reflections at regular hours throughout the day.

M

Magisterium The Church’s living teaching office, which consists of all bishops, in communion with the Pope, the bishop of Rome.

morality Refers to the goodness or evil of human acts. The morality of an act is determined by the nature of the action, the intention, and the circumstances.



miracles Signs or wonders, such as healing or the control of nature, that can be attributed to divine power only.

P

parables Short stories that use everyday images to communicate religious messages. Jesus used parables frequently in his teaching as a way of presenting the Good News of salvation.

Paschal Mystery The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

prayer Lifting up of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from him. The five basic forms of prayer are blessing, praise, petition, thanksgiving, and intercession. In prayer, we communicate with God in a relationship of love.

Q

Quelle Also called the Q Source, a theoretical collection of ancient documents of the teachings of Jesus shared among the early followers of Christianity; believed by Scripture scholars to be a source for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

R

Rosary A devotional prayer that honors the Virgin Mary and helps us meditate on Christ's life and mission. We pray the Rosary using rosary beads, which are grouped into "decades." Each decade consists of praying the Lord's Prayer followed by ten Hail Mary's and the Glory Be while meditating on an event from Christ's life and mission.

ruminare To think deeply about something; to contemplate, meditate on, ponder over, chew on.

S

Sacred Tradition The process of passing on the Gospel message. Sacred Tradition, which began with the oral communication of the Gospel by the Apostles, was written down in Sacred Scripture, is handed down and lived out in the life of the Church, and is interpreted by the Magisterium under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sanhedrin An assembly of Jewish religious leaders—chief priests, scribes, and elders—who functioned as the supreme council and tribunal during the time of Jesus.

Stations of the Cross A devotion for prayer and reflection, popular during Lent, that retraces the events of Jesus' Passion and death in fourteen "stations," represented by artistic depictions. Most Catholic churches have artistic representations of the fourteen Stations of the Cross. Also called the Way of the Cross.

synoptic Gospels The name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, because they are similar in style and content.

V

Via Dolorosa Latin for "way of sorrow," referring to the path Jesus journeyed in the last hours of his life, which is commemorated in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross.



Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

Passion The suffering of Jesus during the final days of his life: his agony in the garden at Gethsemane, his trial, and his Crucifixion.

pastoral From the Latin *pastor*, meaning “shepherd” or “herdsman”; refers to the spiritual care or guidance of others.

Pauline letters Thirteen New Testament letters attributed to Saint Paul or to disciples who wrote in his name. The letters offer advice, pastoral encouragement, teaching, and community news to early Christian communities.

Pharisee A Jewish sect at the time of Jesus known for its strict adherence to the Law.

prologue A separate introduction at the beginning of a play, story, or long poem.

Trinity From the Latin *trinus*, meaning “threefold,” referring to the central mystery of the Christian faith that God exists as a communion of three distinct and interrelated Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to human reason alone and is known through Divine Revelation only.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

A–G

All Saints’ Day A feast day commemorating all of the saints of the Church, both known and unknown, celebrated on November 1. Also known as the Feast of All Saints.

All Souls’ Day A holy day in the Church set aside for honoring the faithful departed, celebrated on November 2.

apostasy The act of renouncing one’s faith.

Diaspora In general, the movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland.

genocide The systematic and planned extermination of a national, racial, ethnic, or cultural group.

H–J

Holocaust In the Old Testament, this refers to a sacrifice consumed by fire. In the twentieth century, “the Holocaust” is the widely used term to designate the attempted extermination of the Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War (1939–1945).

Holy of Holies The most holy place in the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Only the High Priest could enter, and he only once a year.

intercession A prayer on behalf of another person or group.

Jews The term used to refer to all of the physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob (Israel) as well as to the patriarchs Abraham and Isaac and their wives. Originally referred specifically to the members of the tribe of Judah.

Judaism This word (which has been traced to Judah, the fourth son of Jacob and the tribe descended from him) refers to the monotheistic religion of the Jewish People who trace their origin to Abraham and whose religious observance is based on the Torah and Talmud.



L–R

Liturgy of the Word This term refers to the first part of the Mass that includes the introductory rite, the readings from Scripture, the homily, and the prayers of the faithful.

martyr A person who suffers death because of his or her beliefs. The Church has canonized many Christian martyrs as saints.

mystery The very nature of God, who is beyond understanding; or a specific doctrine revealed by God that is beyond full human understanding.

proverb A short saying that is easy to recall and communicates an astute observation on human life or expresses a religious truth.

Psalter The Book of Psalms of the Old Testament, which contains 150 Psalms.

Purgatory A state of final purification or cleansing, which one may need to enter following death and before entering Heaven.

redemption, redemptive From the Latin *redemptio*, meaning “a buying back,” referring, in the Old Testament, to Yahweh’s deliverance of Israel and, in the New Testament, to Christ’s deliverance of all Christians from the forces of sin.

resurrection of the dead The raising of the righteous on the last day, to live forever with the Risen Christ. The resurrection of the dead means that not only our immortal souls will live on after death, but also our transformed bodies.

S–Z

saint Someone who has been transformed by the grace of Christ and who resides in full union with God in Heaven.

Samaritan An inhabitant of Samaria. The Samaritans rejected the Jerusalem Temple and worshipped instead at Mount Gerizim. The hostility between Jews and Samaritans is often recounted in the New Testament.

synagogue This word (from the Greek *synagōgē* meaning “meeting” or “assembly”) refers to the worship assemblies of Jews to celebrate the Sabbath; Jesus is depicted in the Gospel of Luke (see 4:14–30) as beginning his Galilean ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth.

vanity Something worthless, trivial, or pointless.

