

SELECTED GLOSSARY



7TH AND 8TH GRADE GUIDELINES

AD / BC

From the Latin, *Anno Domini* or Year of the Lord, “AD” refers to years that come after the birth of Jesus Christ. The abbreviation of Before Christ, “BC,” refers to the time in history before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Agnostic

The view that the existence of God, the divine, or the supernatural, is unknown or unknowable.

Atheism

The denial in theory and/or practice that God exists; atheism is a sin against the virtue of religion required by the first of the ten commandments of the law (2124-5).

Baptism (of Water)

The first of the seven sacraments, and the “door” which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose from the dead. Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water or pouring water on the head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (977, 1213 ff.; 1275, 1278)

Baptism of Blood

The obtaining of the grace of salvation by suffering martyrdom for the faith of Christ.

Baptism of Desire

The perfect contrition of heart, and every act of perfect charity or pure love of God which contains, at least implicitly, a desire of baptism. It may also be described as a full and deep desire to belong to God and be with God.

Baptism (Emergency)

Administered to a person in danger of death; can be performed by one who is not the ordinary minister of the sacrament (bishop, priest, or deacon). In a case of necessity, any person, even a non-Catholic or non-Christian, who has the necessary intention (“to do what the Church does” through the rite of baptism) may baptize.

Bishop

One who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which unites and incorporates him into the community of all bishops throughout the world, and a successor of the Apostles. (1557; cf. 861, 886).

Cardinal

A high ranking bishop who ranks next below the pope and is appointed by him to assist him as a member of the College of Cardinals; his duties include participating in Papal consistories and Papal conclaves.

Character (Sacramental; Permanent)

An indelible spiritual mark on a person’s soul which is the permanent effect of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, by which a person is given a new permanent configuration to Christ and a specific standing in the Church; these sacraments may only be received once (1272, 1304, 1582).

Chrism (Sacred)

It is the fragrant oil, consecrated by the bishop, which signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. Chrism is used for consecration in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders (1241, 1289, 1291, 1294).

Consubstantial

From the Nicene Creed, we pray Jesus is “begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.” This means the Son and the Father are of the same substance, nature, or essence.

Contemplation

A form of wordless prayer in which mind and heart focus on God’s greatness and goodness in affective, loving

adoration; to look on Jesus and the mysteries of his life with faith and love (2628, 2715).

Covenant

A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees. The Bible refers to God's covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses as leader of the chosen people, Israel. In the Old Testament or Covenant, God revealed his law through Moses and prepared his people for salvation through the prophets. In the New Testament or Covenant, Christ established a new and eternal covenant through his own sacrificial death and Resurrection. Christianity is the new and definitive Covenant which will never pass away (56, 62, 66).

Deacon; Diaconate (Permanent)

Holy Orders include the bishops (episcopate), priests (presbyterate), and deacons (diaconate). The deacon is ordained not to priesthood but for ministry and service. Deacons are ordained to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity. In the Roman Catholic Church, the permanent diaconate was reestablished by the Second Vatican Council (1569, 1571).

Disciple

Those who accept Jesus' message to follow him and his teachings are called his disciples. Jesus revealed to his disciples the mystery of the Kingdom and gave them a share in his mission, his joy, and his sufferings.

Doctor of the Church

A title given by the Catholic Church to saints whom they recognize as having been of particular importance, especially regarding their contribution to theology or doctrine.

Ecumenism

Promotion of the restoration of unity among all Christians, the unity which is a gift of Christ and to which the Church is called by the Holy Spirit. For the Catholic Church, the Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council provides a charter for ecumenical efforts (816, 820-22).

Episcopate

Pertaining to the office of the bishop (Greek: episkopos), hence Episcopal consecration, the Episcopal college, Episcopal conferences (883, 887, 1557). "Episcopate" is a collective noun referring to all those who have received sacramental ordination as bishops.

Exorcism

The public and authoritative act of the Church to protect or liberate a person or object from the power of the devil (e.g., demonic possession) in the name of Christ (1673). A simple exorcism prayer in preparation for Baptism invokes God's help in overcoming the power of Satan and the spirit of evil (1237).

Fundamentalist (Approach to Scripture)

Fundamentalist interpretation starts from the principle that the Bible, being the word of God, inspired and free from error, should be read and interpreted literally in all its details. But by "literal interpretation" it understands a naively literalist interpretation, one which does not take into account the Bible's historical origins and development, or the use of any other scientific method for the interpretation of Scripture. It is not an approach that is supported by the Catholic Church (from "Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" by the Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1994).

Gentiles

The term that commonly means non-Jew. Other groups that claim Israelite heritage sometimes use the term to describe outsiders.

Grace

The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children. As sanctifying grace (grace received from the sacraments), God shares his divine life and friendship with us in a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that enables the soul to live with God, to act by his love. As actual grace, God gives us the help to conform our lives to his will. Sacramental grace and special graces (charisms, the grace of one's state of life) are gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian vocation (1996, 2000; cf. 654).

Heresy

The belief or opinion contrary to Catholic doctrine. (2089; cf. 465)

Laity

It is the body of the baptized faithful, as distinct from the clergy.

Litany

A liturgical prayer consisting of a series of petitions recited by a leader alternating with fixed responses by the congregation. A solemn prayer of supplication; a public or general supplication to God, especially in processions.

Magisterium

The living, teaching office of the Church, as promulgated by the pope and bishops, whose task it is to give an authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture) or in the form of Tradition. This body of knowledge, the Magisterium, ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles and their successors in matters of faith and morals (85, 890, 2033).

Martyr

One who is a witness to the truth of the faith, in which the martyr endures death to be faithful to Christ. Those who die for the faith before having received Baptism are said to have received a "baptism of blood," by which their sins are forgiven and they share in the death and resurrection of Christ (1258, 2473).

Materialism

A belief system that maintains the only or the highest values or objectives lie in material well-being and in the furtherance of material progress.

Monastic Life (Monasticism)

A religious way of life where one lives in a monastery and devotes oneself fully to God through prayer and spiritual works.

Pagan

A term first used by early Christians for populations of the Roman Empire who practiced polytheism (belief in many Gods) and who did not believe in the God of the Bible.

Presbyter (Priest); Presbyterate

Presbyters or priests are co-workers with their bishops and are dedicated to assist their bishops in priestly service to the People of God (1567). Through the ministry of priests, the unique sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church (1554, 1562).

Relativism

A belief system that maintains there is no universal or objective truth. Each point of view has its own truth and denies the existence of absolute values.

Schism

The public refusal of submission to the Pope by a strongly opposed faction of the Church (2089). The formal division within the Church over some doctrinal difference and refusal of submission to the Pope.

Secularism

The view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs or public education.

Temptation

An attraction, from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandments of God. Jesus himself during his life on earth was tempted, put to the test, to manifest both the opposition between himself and the devil and the triumph of his saving work over Satan (538).

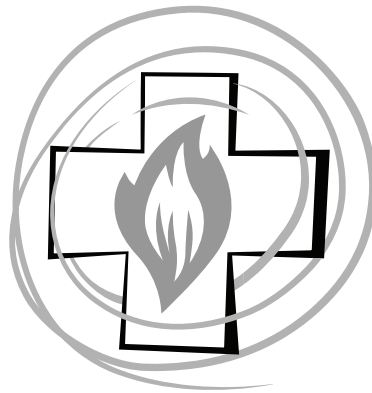
Tradition

The living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible), are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ (75-82, CCC).

Triune; Trinity

The mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The truth of the Holy Trinity was revealed to us by Jesus. The mystery of the Trinity could not be known without divine revelation. It is at the very root of the Church's living faith as expressed in the Creed. One cannot with one's own mind understand the mystery of the Trinity. (232, 237, 249, 253-6).





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