

Vocabulary for Unit 4

Apostles: The general term apostle means “one who is sent” and can be used in reference to any missionary of the Church during the New Testament period. In reference to the twelve companions chosen by Jesus, also known as “the Twelve,” the term refers to those special witnesses of Jesus on whose ministry the early Church was built and whose successors are the bishops.

beatific vision: Directly encountering and seeing God in the glory of Heaven.

blasphemy: Speech or actions that show disrespect or irreverence for God; also, claiming to have the powers of God or to be God.

chief priests: These were Jewish priests of high rank in the Temple. They had administrative authority and presided over important Temple functions and were probably leaders in the Sanhedrin.

corruptible: Something that can be spoiled or contaminated or made rotten, especially to be made morally perverted.

Evangelists: Based on a word for “good news,” in general, anyone who actively works to spread the Gospel of Jesus; more commonly and specifically, the persons traditionally recognized as authors of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

exegesis: The study and proper interpretation of the Scriptures.

Gnosticism: A group of heretical religious movements that claimed salvation comes from secret knowledge available only to the elite initiated in that religion.

mortal sin: An action so contrary to the will of God that it results in complete separation from God and his grace. As a consequence of that separation, the person is condemned to eternal death. For a sin to be a mortal sin, three conditions must be met: the act must involve grave matter, the person must have full knowledge of the evil of the act, and the person must give his or her full consent in committing the act.

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

procurator: A word used to describe Roman governors. These men had administrative and legal authority over a province or region of the Roman Empire.

redemptive love: Love that is willing to give everything, even one's own life, for the sake of redeeming, saving, or setting free another person.



Resurrection: The passage of Jesus from death to new life “on the third day” after his Crucifixion; the heart of the Paschal Mystery and the basis of our hope in the resurrection from the dead.

sanctifying grace: The grace that heals our human nature wounded by sin and restores us to friendship with God by giving us a share in the divine life of the Trinity. It is a supernatural gift of God, infused into our souls by the Holy Spirit, that continues the work of making us holy.

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

sign: The Johannine name for a miracle of Jesus.

theological virtues: The name for the God-given virtues of faith, hope, and love. These virtues enable us to know God as God and lead us to union with him in mind and heart.

venial sin: A less serious offense against the will of God that diminishes one’s personal character and weakens but does not rupture one’s relationship with God.

