

# Discover!

Finding Faith in Life

## Key Words

**A**

**absolution** being completely forgiven of our sins

**Advent** means “coming”; the season of preparation for the feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world and into our hearts

**Advocate** helper or advisor; a name Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit

**Alleluia** means “Praise the Lord!”

**anoint** to mark something or someone as chosen or sacred; to mark with oil in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

**B**

**baptismal promises** a series of questions and answers about faith; promises made by a person receiving one or more of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation or, in the case of infants, by their parents and godparents, and renewed by the entire Church at Easter

**C**

**common good** the good of everyone, not just an individual or a few people

**conversion** a change, especially a spiritual change, in attitudes, actions, or viewpoints

**covenant** an unbreakable promise or vow that unites God and an individual, or two people

**crozier** a bishop’s staff, curved at the top to resemble a shepherd’s crook; a symbol of the bishop’s responsibility to represent Christ the Good Shepherd

**D**

**discernment** prayerfully listening to God and paying attention to where God might be leading us

**E**

**Easter Vigil** the liturgy that is celebrated on the Saturday evening before Easter

**F**

**free will** the God-given ability to choose how to live our lives and whether to love God and creation

**fruits of the Spirit** qualities that help us to become better people, more like Jesus

**G**

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit** spiritual gifts that help us to figure out what is good and right, and then to do it

**grace** God’s free and undeserved gift that we receive in the sacraments; God’s own life in us

**H**

**Holy Souls** those who have died and may still be waiting to enter Heaven

**humility** from the Latin word *humus*, meaning “Earth”; “down to Earth”; seeing ourselves truthfully, recognizing that we depend on God and on other people

**I**

**incarnate** means “in flesh”; in Jesus Christ, God became *incarnate* as a human being, in all things but sin

**inherent** a permanent, unchanging characteristic that has been part of something for its entire existence

**initiation** the process of joining a group; for example a series of steps a person must take to show a commitment to the beliefs, values, or goals of a group

**Israelites** God’s Chosen People, descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

**K**

**Kingdom of God** rule of God over the hearts of people; also called the “Reign of God”

**M**

**Magnificat** Mary’s song of praise to God, from the first words in Latin, “My soul praises”

**martyr** from the Greek word for “witness”; someone who dies for his or her faith

**mestiza** in Latin America, a woman descended from both the Spanish and native peoples; the masculine form is *mestizo*

**missionary** a person who shares God’s love, and the message of Jesus’ saving work, with others

**Mystical Body** the Church; oneness in Christ with everyone else who has been baptized and receives Holy Communion; includes all those in Heaven, on Earth, and in Purgatory

**O**

**ordained** a man (deacon, priest, or bishop) who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in response to God’s call to serve the Church

**Original Sin** the sin that was passed on to each of us from Adam and Eve because of their disobedience to God

**P**

**parable** a story with a message and Jesus’ preferred way of teaching

**penance** prayers or actions to make up for our sin and to show that we are sorry

**Pentecost** the Sunday in the Church calendar when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the beginning of the Church’s mission

**Purgatory** means “purification”; a state of being in which those who have died are purified of all sin so that they are ready to enter Heaven

**R**

**Real Presence** the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in his Body and Blood under the appearances of bread and wine

**right to life** the right to live from the beginning of life (before birth) to natural death

**ruah** means “breath”; the Hebrew name for *spirit*

**S**

**Sacraments at the Service of Communion** the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony that build the Church, the communion of believers, and serve others

**Sacraments of Christian Initiation** the sacraments that make us full members of the Catholic Church—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist

**sacred chrism** olive oil that is mixed with balsam and has been blessed by the bishop; used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders

**solidarity** one of the principles of Catholic social teaching, recognizing that we are all united, connected, and called to care for one another

**T**

**tilma** a cloak worn by men of the Aztec peoples of Mexico, made of a material similar to burlap

**transubstantiation** a change of substance, taking place through the power of the Holy Spirit when the priest repeats Jesus’ words, “This is my Body. . . . This is my Blood.” (*Roman Missal*)

**Triduum** means “three days”; the primary celebration of the entire Church Year starting with Holy Thursday evening and ending at Vespers (Evening Prayer) Easter Day

**triptych** means “three folds”; a type of art that uses three panels

**U**

**ultimatum** a final condition or demand

**V**

**vocation** God’s specific plan for each of us to help build the Kingdom; the way we are individually called to love and serve God and other people

**vulnerable** in danger of being mistreated, threatened, or harassed