

Heresy — The rejection of one or more revealed truths by one who has been baptized, and has professed the Christian religion.

Holiness — A mark of the Church, because she teaches a holy doctrine and is distinguished by the eminent holiness of so many thousands of her children. Also a personal title of the Supreme Pontiff.

Holy Spirit — The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is equal to Them; for He is the same Lord and God as They are.

Holy Spirit, Sins Against — 1. Presumption; 2. Despair; 3. Resisting the known truth; 4. Envy of another's spiritual good; 5. Obstinacy in sin; 6. Final Impenitence.

Holy Water — Water mixed with a little salt, and blessed by a priest. It is used to bless persons and things, and to drive away evil spirits.

Host — 1. The bread (unleavened), which is offered and consecrated at Mass. 2. Christ under the appearance of bread after the consecration.

Hyperdulia — See *Dulia*.

Idolatry — Setting up anything in the place of God.

Immaculate Conception — The privilege of the Blessed Virgin who, through the merits of her Divine Son, was conceived without the least guilt or stain of original sin.

Incarnation — God the Son taking to Himself the nature of man; “the Word was made flesh.”

Indulgence — A remission granted by the Church of the temporal punishment, which often remains due to sin after its guilt has been forgiven. By a *partial* indulgence, part of the temporal punishment of sin is remitted; by a *plenary* indulgence, the whole is remitted to persons rightly disposed.

Indult — A license granted by the Pope authorizing an exception from the common law of the Church.

Infallibility, Papal — That the Pope cannot err when he speaks *ex cathedra*, i.e., when speaking as Shepherd and Teacher of all Christians, he defines a doctrine, concerning faith or morals, to be held by the whole Church.

Inspiration of Scripture — A supernatural impulse by which God directed the authors of canonical books to write down certain matter predetermined by Him.

Jesus Christ — God the Son made man for us. He is truly and was always God, having one and the same nature with God the Father from all eternity: He is truly man from the time of His Incarnation, having a body and soul like ours. Thus there are two natures in Jesus Christ, the nature of God and the nature of man; but

there is only One Person, which is the Person of God the Son. The name of Jesus means savior.

Judgment, General — The judgment of all mankind when Christ comes again at the last day.

Judgment, Particular — The judgment of everyone at death, as well as at the Last Day: “It is appointed for men to die once and after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).

Keys, Power of the — The power of binding and loosing given by Christ to St. Peter (Matt. 16:18-19), and through him and his successors to the bishops and priests of the Church.

Last Things — The four to be ever remembered are Death, Judgment, Hell and Heaven.

Latria — (From the Greek meaning absolute submission), the honor and worship due to God alone.

Limbo — A theoretical place where unbaptized infants and any others, who die in original sin, but not actual sin, spend their eternity in natural happiness, but without the vision of God. (Not a defined doctrine).

Limbo, of the Fathers — A place of rest where the souls of the just who died before Christ were detained, because none could go to heaven before our Savior.

Marks of the Church — The Church has four marks by which we may know her: she is One; she is Holy; she is Catholic; she is Apostolic.

Martyr — From the Greek for a witness; one who voluntarily endures death for the Faith, or for some other virtue relating to God.

Mass — THE Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, really present on the altar under the appearances of bread and wine, and offered to God for the living and the dead. It is one and the same Sacrifice with that of the Cross, inasmuch as Christ, who offered Himself a bleeding Victim on the Cross to His Heavenly Father, continues to offer Himself in an unbloody manner on the altar, through the ministry of His priests.

Matrimony — The Sacrament, which sanctifies the contract of a Christian marriage, and gives a special grace to those who receive it worthily.

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Simple Dictionary for Catholics

A-M

Actual Grace — The supernatural aid necessary for any good action.

Actual Sin — Every sin, which we ourselves commit. Actual sin is divided into MORTAL and VENIAL sin.

Advent — First or second coming of Christ; the penitential season before Christmas.

Agape — A name given to the brotherly feasts of the early Christians.

Alleluia — From two Hebrew words meaning, “Praise the Lord,” an ejaculation used during joyful seasons. St John heard the angels singing it in heaven (Rev. 19:1), and in St. Jerome's time children were taught it as soon as they could speak, and the Christian peasants in Palestine sang it at the plow. It is always used in the Mass between the Epistle and Gospel except during times of penance.

All Souls — The commemoration of all the faithful departed on November 2nd: the Mass that is for the dead.

Altar Breads — Unleavened wheatened bread, in the form of wafers, especially prepared for consecration during Mass.

Anathema — A thing accursed (See 1 Cor. 19:22).

Angelus — A devotion in memory of the Incarnation practised morning, noon, and night, the signal being given by a bell: also called the Ave Maria.

Antichrist — The great enemy of Christ and persecutor of the Church, who is to come before the end of the world (2 Thess. 2:3-8).

Apocrypha — Those books claiming an origin that might entitle them to a place in the Canon, or once supposed to be Scripture, but finally rejected by the Church.

Apostle — From the Greek, signifying envoy.

Apostolic — A mark of the Church, because she holds the doctrines and traditions of the Apostles, and because, through the unbroken succession of the Pastors, she derives her Orders and her mission from them.

Ash Wednesday — The first day of Lent, when ashes are blessed and placed upon the heads of each of the people with the words “Remember, man, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Ave Maria — The chief prayer to the Blessed Virgin which the Church uses, the first part consisting of the inspired words of the Angel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth (Luke 1); the second part added by the Church under

the guidance of the same Holy Spirit. This prayer is said so frequently to recall to our minds the Incarnation of God the Son, and to honor the Blessed Mother.

Baptism — A Sacrament which cleanses us from original sin (and from actual sin in case of adults); it also makes us Christians, children of God and members of the Church. It is necessary for salvation (John 3:5). The ordinary minister is a priest, but any layperson may baptize in case of necessity.

Bible — The ordinary name, since St. Chrysostom for the collection of Books of the Old and New Testament.

Blasphemy — Any word or speech insulting to God.

Blessings — 1. Which set apart a person or thing for the service of God. 2. Which invoke the blessing of God on persons or things. Numerous forms of blessings are authorized for different objects. A simple blessing is given by the sign of the cross. Rosaries, crucifixes, and medals must be blessed by those having faculties for the purpose, before the owner can gain the indulgences attached to their possession or use.

Calvary — 1. The mount where Christ was crucified. 2. A complete representation of the Crucifixion, with figures of our Lady, St. John, and the two thieves.

Canon Law — The rules or laws relating to faith, morals, and discipline, prescribed or proposed to Christians by ecclesiastical authority.

Canon of Scripture — list of inspired books accepted on the authority of the Church: the name canon may be given because they were a rule for the faith, or because these books were admitted by the rule of the Church.

Canonization —The public testimony of the Church to the sanctity and glory of one of the faithful departed. This testimony is issued in the form of a judgment, decreeing to the person in question the honors due to those who are reigning with God in heaven. By this decree the person is inscribed in the book of the Saints and invoked in public prayers; churches are dedicated to God in their memory and their feasts kept, and public honors are paid to their relics. This judgment of the Church is infallible.

Cardinal — A name first given (in the 4th century) to priests having charge of the Roman parish churches or “titles,” and now to the immediate counselors and assistants of the Sovereign Pontiff, whose election rests with them.

Cassock —The long black garment, which is the ordinary dress of priests and clerics.

Catacombs — Underground passages and chambers, especially used in the neighborhood of Rome, used by

the early Christians for concealment and also for worship and burial.

Catechism — A summary of Christian doctrine.

Cathedral — The church in which the bishop of a diocese has his chair (*cathedra*) or throne, and performs the chief pontifical functions of the year.

Chalice — A vessel of precious metal in the form of a cup, especially consecrated to contain the Precious Blood of Jesus at Mass.

Chaplet —A general term for the rosary and other devotions, which are said on beads.

Chasuble — The outer and chief vestment worn by the priest at Mass.

Commandments of the Church — The chief ones are: 1. "You shall attend Mass on Sundays, and all Holy days of obligation. 2. "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." 3. You shall humbly receive your Creator in holy communion at least during the Easter season." 4. "You shall keep holy the holy days of Obligation." 5. "You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence." 6. "You shall provide for the material needs of the Church." The bishops of the United States also stress as duties worthy of all Catholic Christians that they “join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.”

Communion of Saints — All the members of the Church, in heaven, on earth, and in purgatory are in communion with each other, as being one body in Jesus Christ.

Conclave — The assembly of the Cardinals for the election of a new pope.

Confession — To accuse ourselves of our sins to a priest; an ordinary name for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confirmation — A Sacrament by which we receive the Holy Spirit, in order to make us strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ. The ordinary minister is the bishop.

Consecration — The form of words by which bread and wine in the Mass are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Deacon —The second of the Holy Orders. His duty is to administer at the altar, to baptize, and to preach.

Decalogue —The Ten Commandments.

Dogma — A truth contained in Scripture or Tradition, and proposed by the Church for the belief of the faithful.

Dulia — (From a Greek word for service), the honor and devotion we give to Saints. That being given to the Mother of God, being something higher is called hyperdulia.

Easter —Festival of the Resurrection of Christ.

Eminence —The title of a Cardinal.

Eucharist, Holy — The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, together with His Soul and Divinity, under the appearances (*species or accidents*) of bread and wine. When the words of consecration ordained by Jesus Christ are pronounced by the priest in the Holy Mass, a conversion is made of the whole substance of the bread into the Body, and of the whole substance of the wine into Blood; which conversion the Catholic Church calls Transubstantiation. Under either kind alone Christ is received whole and entire and a true sacrament.

Evangelical Counsels — Voluntary poverty, perpetual chastity, and entire obedience.

Excommunication — An ecclesiastical censure by which any one is deprived of the communion of the Church. Formal sentence is ordinarily required, but in certain cases it is incurred at once by the commission of a forbidden act (*ipso facto*).

Faculties — The approbation and authorization given to a priest, enabling him to hear confessions or exercise other functions requiring jurisdiction.

Fathers of the Church — The most eminent Christian writers and teachers of the first twelve centuries.

Free Will — The power of choice.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit — Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity.

Gehenna —A name for hell, from the valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem.

Genuflection — Bending of the knee. This is always done when passing before the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. If the Blessed Sacrament is exposed the genuflection is made with both knees.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit — Fear of the Lord, Piety, Knowledge, Fortitude, Counsel, Understanding, and Wisdom.

God — The Supreme Spirit, who alone exists of Himself, and is infinite in all perfections.

Good Friday — The day on which the Church commemorates the passion of Christ.

Grace — The supernatural gift of God, freely bestowed on us for our sanctification and salvation. We obtain it chiefly by prayer and the Sacraments.

Guardian Angels — Angels divinely appointed to protect and guide each individual soul throughout life.

Heaven — The place where the good shall see, love, and enjoy God forever in glory and happiness.

Hell — The prison where the fallen angels and lost souls are tormented eternally.