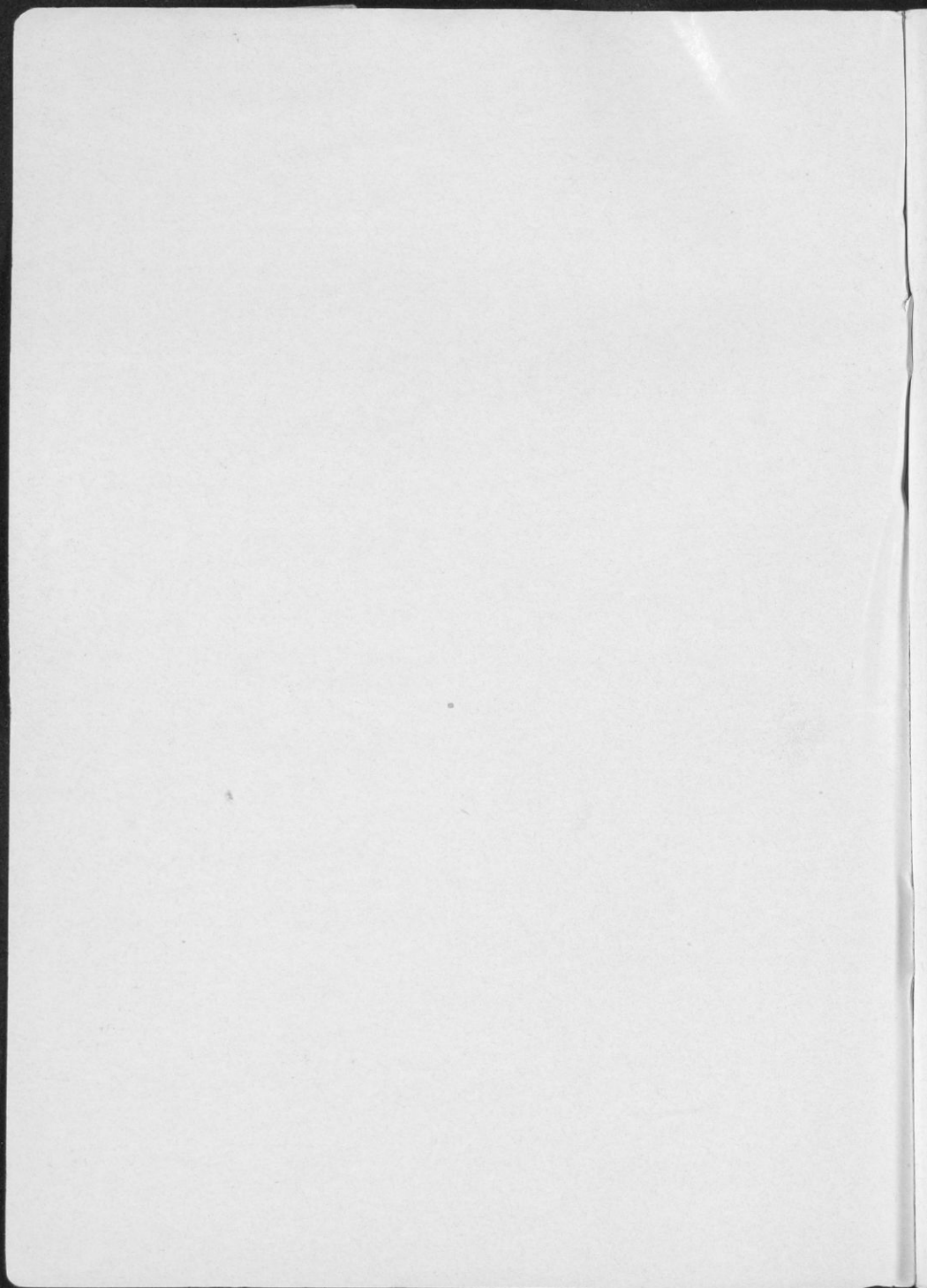


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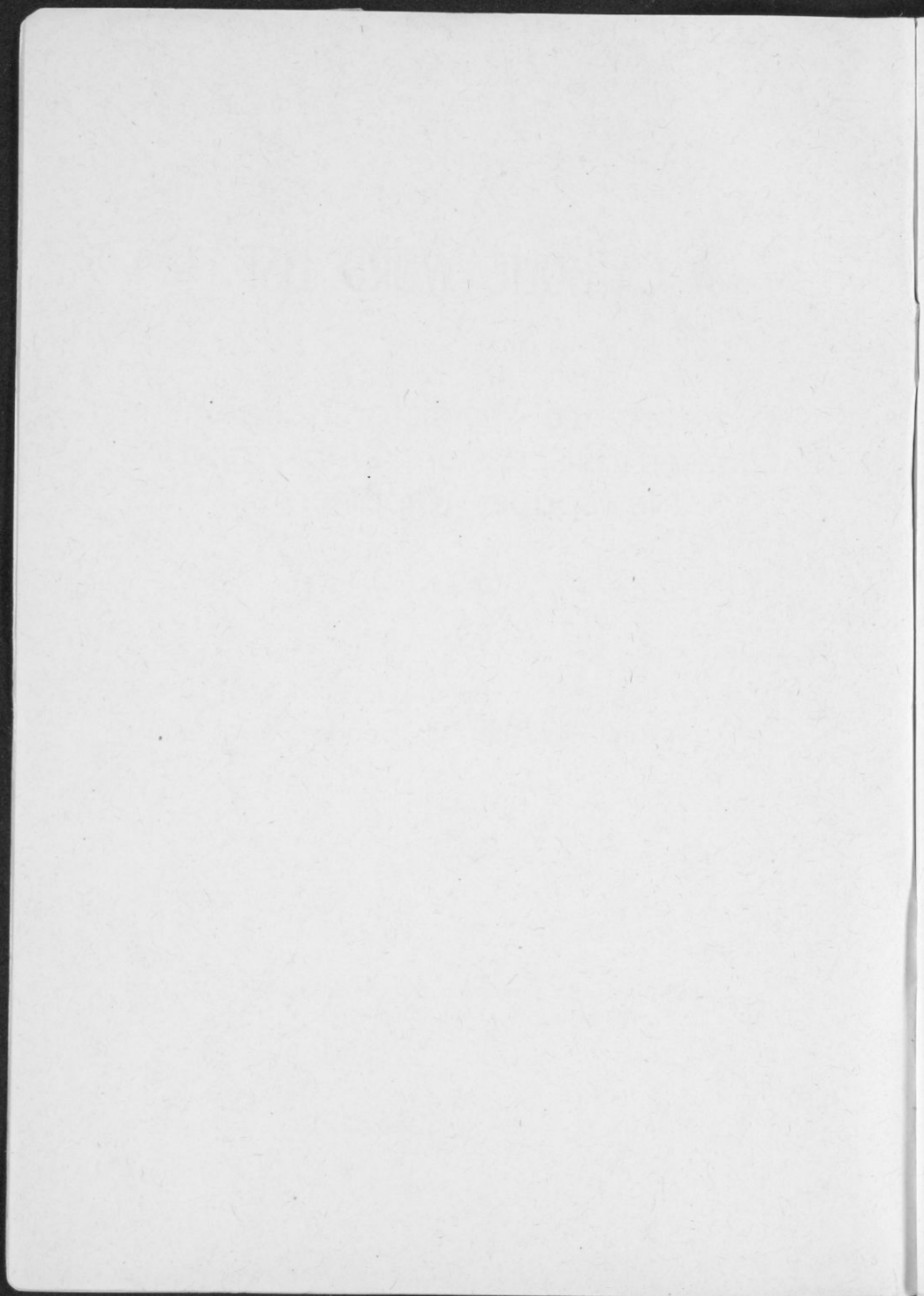
A CATHOLIC WORD LIST

A REFERENCE WORK FOR RELIGION
CLASSES, DISCUSSION CLUBS, AND
NEWSPAPER REPORTERS

By Rev. Rudolph G. Bandas



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By
Rev. Rudolph G. Bandas

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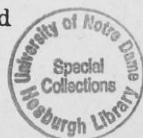
A CATHOLIC WORD LIST

A

- Abdess—** the superioress of nuns who holds an office corresponding to that of an abbot in communities of men. She bears a ring, pectoral cross, and pastoral staff which symbolize her dignity. She has full domestic authority but unlike the abbots has no spiritual powers.
- Abbey—** a monastery governed by an abbot or abbess.
- Abbot—** the superior, or head, of Benedictines, Cistercians, or other monks. He is elected for life, is blessed by the bishop after election, wears a ring and pectoral cross, may pontificate at mass, using the crosier and throne, he may confer minor orders, and has complete authority over his monks who live as a family in a settled location.
- Ablutions—** that part of the Mass after Communion when the priest removes drops of the Precious Blood from the interior of the Chalice by having wine poured into it, and when he removes particles of the Sacred Host which may be on his thumbs and forefingers by having wine and water poured over them into the Chalice.
- Abraham's bosom—** The Limbo of the just or of the fathers, a place where the souls of the just men after expiating their venial sins and temporal penalties in purgatory had to wait until heaven was reopened to them by the Redemption (Luke XVI, 22). It is often found used to designate heaven itself.
- Absolution—** the power to forgive sins conferred by Christ upon the Apostles and their succes-

- sors (John XX, 23) and exercised by the priest in the sacrament of Penance. Also the prayers said for a dead person after a requiem mass.
- Absolution, conditional—* the priest not being certain whether the penitent has fulfilled all the conditions necessary for receiving absolution validly, gives absolution dependently upon the fulfillment of such conditions.
- Abstinence—* not eating flesh meat.
- Acolyte—* the highest of the four minor orders. The special duty of acolytes is to carry the candles and bring up the wine and water at the celebration of mass. The name is commonly applied to anyone serving mass.
- Action, Catholic—* the participation of the laity in some manner in the hierarchical apostolate.
- Actual grace—* is that help of God which enlightens our mind and moves our will to shun evil and do good.
- Actual sin—* is any thought, word, or deed which is contrary to the law of God.
- Adeste Fideles—* the Latin name of a Christmas hymn. The English translation is "Come, all ye faithful."
- Ad limina visits—* visits of the bishops to the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome every three to ten years. On the occasion of these visits the bishops give a report on their dioceses to the Pope.
- Advent—* a period of four weeks of preparation and penance before Christmas. It recalls the thousands of years of waiting before the arrival of the promised Redeemer, commemorated by Christmas.

- Affinity*— the relationship existing between a wife and her husband's relatives, and between the husband and his wife's relatives. This relationship is an impediment to marriage, affecting persons of every degree in the direct line of the relationship and as far as the second degree in the collateral line.
- Age of reason*— refers to that age at which a person is able to distinguish right from wrong. (Usually seven years.)
- Alleluia*— A Hebrew word meaning "praise the Lord."
- Alpha and Omega*— the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; the words are often attributed to Christ, the beginning and the end of all things.
- Altar*— Structure or table on which the Sacrifice of the Mass is offered.
- Altar breads*— little wafers made of white unleavened wheaten flour.
- Altar, privileged*— an altar to which the Apostolic See has attached a plenary indulgence which every time mass is offered on it, may be gained by the person for whom the mass is offered.
- Altar of repose*— the side altar at which is kept the second host consecrated on Holy Thursday to be consumed at the Mass of the Presanctified on Good Friday.
- Amen*— a Hebrew word meaning assent ("so be it").
- Amendment, purpose of*— an essential part of contrition by which we resolve to sin no more.
- Amice*— a rectangular piece of white linen cloth which the priest draws over his head and



- shoulders and wears under the alb when saying mass.
- Angelic Doctor*— a title given to St. Thomas Aquinas because of the angelic quality of his mind and sanctity of his life.
- Angelical Salutation*— another name for the prayer, "Hail Mary," which repeats the angelic greeting of the archangel Gabriel to Mary the Mother of God.
- Angelus*— A prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It consists of saying the Hail Mary three times, each time in connection with certain words by which the Angel ("Angelus") announced the Incarnation to Mary. During the Easter season it is replaced by the prayer, "Queen of Heaven, Rejoice," which is called the *Regina Coeli* in Latin.
- Anglican Orders*— The invalid orders (ordination of priests and bishops) conferred by bishops of the Anglican Church. They were pronounced invalid by Pope Leo XIII in 1896.
- Annunciation*— the message of the angel informing the Blessed Virgin that she was chosen to be the Mother of God. The Incarnation took place on this same occasion. The event is commemorated on March 25.
- Annulment*— a declaration that in a particular case there never was a valid marriage.
- Apocryphal books*— books which at one time or another pretended to be inspired but which were never accepted as such by the Catholic Church, and were never placed in the Bible.
- Apologetics*— a theological study which establishes by arguments from reason the foundations on which the Catholic faith is based.

- Apostasy*— Total rejection of the Catholic Faith by one who has been baptized.
- Apostle-ship of Prayer*— A pious association founded in France in 1844. Its object is to promote the practice of prayer and of offering oneself to God, praying for the intentions of the Holy Father, and receiving Holy Communion monthly and even weekly.
- Apostolic Delegate*— One who represents the Roman Pontiff in a country whose government has no diplomatic relations with the Holy See.
- Ascetical Theology*— A theological study which treats of virtue and perfection and the means by which they are to be attained.
- Apse*— The semi-circular end of a church where the sanctuary is located.
- Archdiocese*— A diocese ruled by an Archbishop.
- Archbishop*— The bishop of an archdiocese, who has certain authority, as determined by canon law, over the bishops of a section of the country usually called a province.
- Archpriest*— The archpriest was the representative of the bishop in the territory or any subdivision of the territory of the bishop.
- Ark of the Covenant*— The oblong chest, kept in the holy of holies of the Jewish Temple in which were the two tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments. It also contained the rod of Aaron and a dish of manna. It disappeared in 587 B.C. after the fall of Jerusalem.
- Asperges*— The ceremony of sprinkling the people with holy water before the principal mass on Sunday. During the ceremony is sung the

- antiphon from which the ceremony takes its name, "Asperges me Domine", ("Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord") from Psalm 50, 9. During the Paschal season the Antiphon "Vidi Aquam" ("I have seen water") from Ezechiel 47, 2 is sung instead.
- Assistant at the Pontifical Throne—* Patriarchs, Archbishops, or Bishops, who have been appointed by the Pope to belong to the Papal Chapel. They rank after the Cardinals and have a special place around the papal throne.
- Assistant Priest—* A helper or assistant to the parish priest; a curate. Also, the first minister in dignity assisting the bishop at a pontifical mass.
- Assumption—* The teaching of the Church that Mary's body, without undergoing the corruption of the grave, was reunited to her glorious soul, and that in this state Mary was taken into heaven.
- Athanasian Creed—* Composed during the life of St. Athanasius (died 343) but not by him. An official statement of Christian doctrine principally regarding the Holy Trinity and the Incarnation in opposition to the heresy of Arius.
- Atone-ment—* (At-one-ment). The act of uniting man to God which Jesus Christ as mediator effected by His loving obedience which culminated in His passion and death.
- Aureole—* Two Meanings—
 1. In Christian art it is the halo surrounding sacred persons, and representing the glory of the person depicted.
 2. In theology a distinguishing reward given in Heaven to those who have withstood heroically their trials on earth, as, for example, virgins, martyrs.

- Ave Maria*—The first words of the Hail Mary in Latin; sometimes called the Angelic Salutation.
- Azymes*— The Jewish feast of the Passover during which unleavened bread alone was eaten.

B

- Baldachino*— The canopy over the main altar; also canopy carried over the Blessed Sacrament in procession, or canopy over bishop's throne. The word comes from Baldacco, the Latin for Bagdad, whence originally came materials used in constructing these canopies.
- Banns of marriage*— Announcement of an intended marriage on three different Sundays or holydays in the church or churches of the parties, in order that those who know of any existing impediment to the marriage, may bring it to the attention of the pastor making the announcement.
- Baptism of blood*— Martyrdom for Christ or His Church which, being a perfect act of charity, removes sin from the soul and gives sanctifying grace. It does not imprint the sacramental character.
- Baptism of desire*— A perfect act of contrition or love of God which contains implicitly the desire to do everything that God has ordained for our salvation and therefore the desire to receive baptism. It does not imprint the sacramental character.
- Baptismal vows*— A promise to renounce Satan, his works, and his pomps, made by the person baptized or by his sponsors for him.
- Baptistery*— In the early centuries a special building or a part of the church used for administering baptism and usually dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Today, that part of the church containing the baptismal font.

- Basilica*— A title of honor conferred by the Holy See on certain churches because of their architectural beauty, age and historical connections (Rome, Bethlehem, Assisi) and on some of the principal churches in a nation. The title carries certain ceremonial rights for the priests of such a church.
- Beatification*— Declaration by the Pope, as Head of the Church, that a member of the Church is to be regarded as dwelling in heaven and as deserving of public veneration.
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament*— An exposition of the Holy Eucharist for adoration on the altar, and the blessing of the people in the form of a cross with the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament.
- Bination*— Offering of the Sacrifice of the Mass twice on the same day by the same priest.
- Biretta*— A stiff square cap with three ridges and a tuft on the top worn by the clergy.
- Bishop*— A successor of the Apostles, the supreme ecclesiastical ruler of a diocese.
- Bishop, Auxiliary*— A bishop appointed by the Holy See to assist a ruling Bishop on account of the latter's age, ill-health, or great amount of work. He has no rights to succeed the bishop whom he assists.
- Bishop, Coadjutor*— A bishop appointed by the Holy See to assist a bishop who is incapacitated from performing his duties himself, for example, because of insanity. He has the right of succession.
- Bishop, titular*— Since neither the Auxiliary Bishop nor the Coadjutor Bishop has a real diocese, he bears the title of a diocese which once existed but whose territory is now pagan.

- Black-friars*— Name given to the Dominicans because of the black cloak and hood which they wear over their white habit.
- Blessed Sacrament*— A title given to the Eucharist to indicate its primacy among all sacraments.
- Boat (of incense)*— A container, so called because of its shape, which holds the incense before it is put into the censer.
- Breviary*— The book containing the prayers which priests and those in sacred orders or nuns must say daily.
- Bull*— A name given to the most solemn and important letters of the Pope. So named from the "bulla" or seal attached to the letter.
- Burse*— A square case made of two pieces of cardboard, bound together on three sides, and containing the folded corporal. The outer side is covered with silk of the same material and color as the vestments.

C

- Calumny*— Destroying another's good name and reputation by deliberately telling a lie about him. One guilty of calumny must repair the harm he has done.
- Calvary*— A hill near Jerusalem where Christ was crucified. The Latin word "Calvaria" means skull, and the hill was so called because in shape it resembled a head or a skull.
- Candlemas Day*— Another name given to the feast of the Presentation or Purification on February 2. The name is derived from the blessing and distribution of candles before the principal mass on that day.
- Candles*— A sacramental used in all the Church's lit-

- urgical services. The candle must be of pure beeswax. It is a symbol of Christ the Light of the World.
- Candle, Paschal*— The large candle lighted at important services on the Gospel side of the altar between Holy Saturday and Ascension Day. It typifies the Risen Christ, the Light of the World.
- Candles, Votive*— Candles lighted before statues, shrines, relics, etc. They symbolize a votive offering given to Our Lord or to a saint.
- Canon Law*—A collection of the laws of the Church. The New Code of Canon Law is divided into five sections and contains in all 2414 canons of laws.
- Canon, of Mass*— The principal and solemn part of the Mass, beginning with the prayer "Te Igitur" ("We therefore") after the "Sanctus" ("Holy") and ending with the Amen before the "Pater Noster" ("Our Father"). The Greek word "Canon" means the "rule", and the "Canon of the Mass" is that part of the Mass which is so fixed that it is usually said without any change.
- Canon of Scripture*— The list of books which the Church has placed in the Bible as inspired.
- Canonization*— A Declaration of the Holy See decreeing that a person who has already been beatified be regarded as a Saint and venerated everywhere. Two major miracles through the intercession of the person occurring after the beatification are necessary for canonization.
- Canopy*— An ornamental covering of cloth, wood or metal above an altar, throne, statue, etc.

- Capital Sins*— Evil inclinations or sinful habits. The name comes from the Latin word "caput", meaning head. Capital sins are the sources of many other sins. They are seven in number: Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, Sloth.
- Cappa Magna*— The "great cape" used by a Bishop at processions and solemn functions. It is a cloak covering the whole person reaching down to the feet in front and ending behind in a long train.
- Cardinal*— A counsellor and assistant to the Pope in the government of the Church. Cardinals are equal in rank to princes and are often spoken of as Princes of the Church. They fill a vacancy in the papacy by electing a successor to the deceased Pope.
- Cardinal virtues*— The four moral virtues of justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude. So called because all other virtues hinge upon them. The word "Cardinal" comes from the Latin word "Cardo", meaning hinge.
- Cassock*— A close fitting garment, worn by clerics, reaching to the heels and fastened down the front with buttons. The word comes from the Italian "casacca" meaning "great coat".
- Catacombs*— Underground burial places and underground places of worship during the persecutions in the early centuries.
- Catafalque*— A framework of wood outside of the Communion railing covered with a black pall, surrounded by six candles, and symbolizing the corpse at a requiem mass.
- Catechumen*— One receiving instruction in Christian Doctrine and preparing for Baptism.

- Catechetics*— The method to be followed in the religious instruction of youths from their earliest years until the full attainment of a mature religious life.
- Cathedraticum*— Contributions from parishes as a tribute in recognition of the jurisdiction of the bishop who rules from his "cathedra" or seat of authority.
- Celebrant*— The one who carries out the principal part of the religious services, as distinguished from the others who assist him.
- Celebret*— ("Let him celebrate")—A document, issued by a bishop or religious superior, showing that the one who carries it is a priest and deserving of being permitted to say Mass.
- Celibacy, of the clergy*— A law of the Church forbidding all those in major orders to marry and binding them to observe perfect chastity.
- Censor of books*— ("Censor Librorum") A priest appointed by the bishop to examine books to see that they contain no erroneous or false teachings. When a publication contains nothing against faith or morals, the censor attaches to it the words "Nihil obstat" ("there is no objection").
- Chained Bibles*— Prior to the invention of printing, Bibles were very rare and expensive, and were often chained to the pillars of the churches or libraries to prevent their being stolen. Enemies of the Church often contend that the Church chained the Bibles in order to prevent their being read by the people.
- Chalice*— A gold or silver cup for the wine to be consecrated in the Mass.
- Chancellor*— The priest in charge of the diocesan chancery office.

- Chancery office*— The bishop's office which carries on the administration of the diocese and handles diocesan business.
- Character (of Sacraments)*— A spiritual and indelible mark impressed upon the soul by the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. It is the supernatural power to receive or do something sacred.
- Chasuble*— The uppermost vestment, covering all the rest, worn by the priest at Mass.
- Chrism (holy)*— A mixture of olive-oil and balm, blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday, and used in the administration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, and the anointing of chalices, churches and altars in the ceremony of consecration.
- Churching (of women)*— The saying of a prayer of thanksgiving to God by a priest over a woman who has given birth to a child, and the imparting of a blessing to her. The rite carries no idea whatsoever of a taint or of a purification.
- Ciborium*— A sacred vessel, resembling the chalice in shape, containing the consecrated Hosts for the communion of the faithful.
- Cincture*— A double cord girdle worn by clerics around the waist to gather up and hold the alb in place close to the body, and thus secure easy movement of the feet.
- Circumcision*— A cut in the flesh by which a child was made a member of the Jewish faith, a partaker of the privileges of the Jews, and became subject to the Mosaic Law.
- Circuminsession*— The mutual indwelling of the Three Divine Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost—one in another because of their oneness of nature.

- Collation*— The light meal (about 8 ounces) allowed on fast days.
- Collect*— The short prayer said by the priest before the Epistle of the Mass, and expressing the spirit of the feast of the day. It consists of an invocation, petition, and conclusion. In the early ages it was known as the prayer of the assembled or "collected" people
- College, Sacred*— The body of the Cardinals of the Church who act as advisers to the Sovereign Pontiff with a dean at its head and an administrator who has charge of its small revenues.
- Commemoration*— A recitation of only a part of the prayers of a lesser feast in conjunction with the prayers of a higher feast which has replaced the lesser feast.
- Common (of the Mass)*— The prayers which are the same in every Mass or "common" to every Mass. The Ordinary of the Mass.
- Common (of Saints)*— That part of the Missal (or the breviary) in which are found the Masses (or prayers) assigned to Saints who have no special ones assigned to them.
- Communion, Holy*— Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Communion of Saints*— The spiritual union in Christ between the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the saints in Heaven.
- Compline*— The concluding part or prayer in the breviary.
- Concelebration*— The saying of the same Mass and the consecration of the same bread and wine by several priests together.
- Conclave*— The place where the Cardinals assemble to

- elect a new Pope, or the assembly of the Cardinals itself which elects the Pope.
- Concordat*— A treaty or agreement between the Holy See and a civil power in regard to religious matters.
- Conferences (clergy)*— Periodical meetings of the priests of a diocese or of a deanery within the diocese to discuss theological questions.
- Consanguinity*— Blood-relationship constituting within certain degrees a diriment impediment to marriage.
- Consecration, at Mass*— The celebrant's actions and words at Mass by which the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Consistory*— An assembly of Cardinals and sometimes of others summoned by the Pope to discuss Church affairs of great importance.
- Consultors*— The official advisers of the Bishop in matters of diocesan administration.
- Convent*— A house in which Sisters dwell.
- Cope*— A long vestment, reaching to the heels, open in front, fastened at the breast with a clasp, semicircular in shape, and worn by the priest in nearly all public functions in which the chasuble is not used.
- Coram Episcopo*— ("In the presence of a bishop"). A Mass "coram episcopo" is one which the bishop does not say himself but at which he assists from the throne.
- Corporal*— A square or rectangular piece of white linen cloth, spread on the altar over the altar stone, and large enough to contain the chalice, Host, and ciborium.
- Corpus Christi*— ("Body of Christ"). Feast celebrated in honor of the Blessed Sacrament on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

- Cosmology*— A study of the origin, nature, and purpose of the world.
- Council (ecumenical)*— A meeting of the Bishops and theological scholars from the entire Church summoned and presided over by the Pope.
- Cowl*— A long ample garment worn over the head by the members of certain religious orders.
- Crema-tion*— The conversion by fire of a dead body into ashes; forbidden by the laws of the Church.
- Credence table*— A small table on the Epistle side of the altar on which are placed the cruets, towel, chalice, candles of the acolytes, etc. The old Latin word "credentia" meant a side table.
- Criteriaology*— A branch of psychology dealing with the means and laws governing the attainment of truth.
- Crosier*— The bishop's staff.
- Cross, pec-toral*— A golden cross worn on the breast by bishops, abbots and certain prelates.
- Cross pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*— (Cross "for Church and Pope") a reward given to both men and women since Leo XIII's time for services to the Church and to the Holy See.
- Cruets*— Small vessels or flasks, made of glass, crystal or metal, and containing the water and wine used at mass.

D

- Dalmatic*— Vestment worn by Deacon at High Mass, and by a bishop under the chasuble at a Pontifical Mass.
- Day Hours*— All the hours of the Breviary or Divine office except Matins; a book containing the same.
- Deacon*— The second of the Major Orders. A deacon's duty is to minister at the altar, to

- baptize, and to preach; at High Mass he sings the Gospel and assists the priest.
- Dean*— A priest having the oversight of a section of a diocese, known as a deanery and embracing several parishes.
- Deadly Sins*, *Seven*— A common though less accurate name for the capital sins.
- Debt, Marriage*— The marriage relation due between husband and wife.
- Decade (Rosary)*— One mystery of the ordinary rosary consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory.
- Decalogue*— The ten Commandments of God.
- Degradation*— A rite whereby a cleric in punishment is deposed from his office, is deprived of his clerical dress, and is reduced to the lay state. A degraded priest retains his priestly character and remains bound by the obligations of the priesthood.
- Demon*— An evil spirit; a fallen angel.
- Deo Gratias*— A formula of thanksgiving, used frequently in the Mass and in the breviary, and meaning "Thanks be to God."
- Deposition, Mass of*— Mass celebrated at the end of the Forty Hours devotion.
- De Profundis*— First two words of Psalm 129, which is one of the seven penitential psalms; the Church uses this psalm principally in her prayers for the dead.
- Desecration*— A criminal act violating the sanctity of a holy place or thing.
- Detraction*— Injury to our neighbor's character by making known without a sufficient cause his real but secret faults.

- Deuterocanonical Books*— Those books of the Old Testament which were placed in the Bible after the other books. They are: Tobias, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, and the two Books of Machabees, together with fragments of Esther and Daniel. These are not found in the Protestant Bible.
- Dialogue Mass*— A low Mass at which the responses ordinarily made by the server are recited by all those present.
- Dies Irae*— The sequence or hymn in the Mass for the dead.
- Diocese*— A definite territory with its population governed by a Bishop.
- Diocesan Clergy*— Priests organized under the Bishop of the Diocese.
- Diriment Impediment*— A hindrance arising either from the natural law or from the law of the Church and making a marriage null and void unless a dispensation is first granted by the bishop. A dispensation can be granted only in certain instances and for sufficient reasons.
- Discipline of the Secret*— The practice of the early Church of keeping the knowledge of the mysteries and of some of the sacraments from the heathen and from the catechumens, in order to protect these sacred things from irreverence through ignorance or lack of appreciation and esteem for their sacred character.
- Disparity of Cult*— A marriage impediment arising between one who is not baptized and one who is baptized in the Catholic Church, or converted to the Church.
- Dispensation*— Suspending the law in a particular case.

- Divine Office, The*—The text of the Breviary consisting of psalms, prayers, hymns and readings. The recitation of this text by all clerics in major orders constitutes the public and official prayer of the Church.
- Doctor of the Church*—Title conferred by the Pope or a General Council on a saint whose writings show profound learning and freedom from error.
- Dogma*—A revealed truth contained in Scripture or Tradition, and infallibly accepted or defined by the Church.
- Dom*—Title given to professed monks of the Benedictines, Carthusian, and Cistercian Orders, and to members of several other orders. It is an abbreviation for the Latin "dominus" meaning "master" (Mr.). In Italy the title "Don" is used.
- Domestic Prelate*—Honorary distinction conferred by the Holy See on a priest, by which he is made a member of the Pontifical family and granted certain privileges of dress. His title is "Right Reverend Monsignor."
- Dominus vobicum*—R. Et cum Spiritu tuo: "The Lord be with you. R. And with thy spirit." An ancient form of Christian greeting occurring eight times in the Mass and before the principal prayers in the Breviary.
- Douay Bible*—The popular English version or translation from the Latin of the Holy Scriptures. The Old Testament was published at Douay in 1610 and the New Testament at Rheims in 1582.
- Dowry*—Property which a woman brings to a religious community to be invested for her support until death.
- Doxology*—A prayer expressing praise and glory to God.

E

- Easter Duty*— The obligation of Catholics to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist during Easter time, that is, from the first Sunday in Lent to Trinity Sunday.
- Ecstasy*— A state in which the soul is so wholly occupied with God that the activities of the senses are suspended: conferred by God upon some saints.
- Elevation*— The raising of the Sacred Host and Chalice at Mass for the adoration of the faithful.
- Ember days*— Days of fast and abstinence instituted for the purpose of doing penance and obtaining God's blessing upon the clergy during the season specified for the ceremonies of ordination. The Ember days are: the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays following the first Sunday of Lent, Pentecost, the feast of the exaltation of the Cross (September 14), and the third Sunday of Advent.
- Eminence*— The title of a Cardinal, who is spoken of as, "His Eminence," and addressed as "Your Eminence."
- Emmanuel*— A name given to Our Lord by the prophet Isaias and meaning "God is with us."
- Encyclical*— A letter addressed by the Pope to Bishops and the faithful of the entire Church, in order to re-affirm the truth of the age-old doctrines of the Church in the face of new errors, and to show how they are to be applied in the changed conditions of modern life.
- Episcopate*— 1. The fulness of the priesthood received by a bishop at his consecration. 2. The period of time during which a Bishop rules. 3. The body of Bishops taken as a whole.

- Epiphany*— The name of the feast celebrated on January 6, which commemorates the manifestations of Our Lord. Three events are celebrated: The visit of the Magi to Bethlehem; The Baptism of Christ; The miracle of the marriage feast of Cana.
- Epistle*— A selection from Scripture read at Mass after the oration. At Solemn High Mass it is sung by the Sub-deacon.
- Eschatology*— That branch of the study of Theology which deals with the doctrines of the last things, namely, death, judgment, heaven or hell.
- Ethics*— The science which lays down the laws of right conduct in the light of reason directing man according to the natural law.
- Eucharist*— The Sacrifice and Sacrament which contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.
- Eucharistic Congress*— A gathering of clergy and laity for the purpose of adoring and glorifying Christ in the Eucharist, discussing the means of spreading knowledge, love and devotion to the Eucharist, and establishing the kingship of the Eucharistic Christ over society.
- Euthanasia*— A deliberate painless killing, or hastening the death of a person who is incurable or in great pain.
- Evangelist*— One of the authors of the four Gospels, namely, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- Evolution*— The gradual development of forms of life from the lowest to the most highly organized form.
- Ex Cathedra*— (Latin) "From the chair," "from the episcopal throne". The pronouncements of the Pope on questions of faith and morals in

- his official capacity as Teacher of all Christians.
- Excommunication*— A punishment by which a Christian is deprived of the Sacraments, Christian burial and the prayers of the Church, because of some serious offense which he has committed.
- Exegesis*— The interpretation of passages of Sacred Scripture.
- Exorcism*— Prayers and ceremonies used by the Church to drive out devils from persons, places or things.
- Exposition, Mass of*— The Mass celebrated at the beginning of Forty Hours devotion when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

F

- Faculties*— The powers granted by the Holy See to bishops, or by bishops to priests, for the exercise of the sacramental power for which jurisdiction is lacking.
- Faith*— As an *act* is an assent of the mind, under the command of the will, and under the influence of God's grace, to revealed truths because of the authority of God revealing. As a *supernatural virtue* faith disposes the mind to believe as true the things revealed by Him, not because of the intrinsic truth of the things as perceived by human reason, but because of the authority of God revealing.
- Fall (of Adam)*— Adam's mortal sin of pride and disobedience by which he lost for himself and the whole human race the supernatural gifts (indwelling of the Blessed Trinity, sanctifying grace), and the preternatural gifts (freedom from ignorance, suffering and death) which God had bestowed on him.

- Fast*— the refraining from food before receiving Holy Communion; this fast begins at midnight and is called the Eucharistic fast. The other fast permits only one full meal a day, with small quantities of food in the morning (about two ounces) and evening (about eight ounces).
- Fathers of the Church*— Men distinguished to an extraordinary degree for their knowledge, holiness, and correctness of teaching, who during the early centuries transmitted to others or wrote down the teachings which came down to them orally from Christ and from the Apostles.
- Ferial*— A week day, especially one neither a festival nor a fast.
- First-born*— The first boy born to Jewish parents. He was called "first born" whether there were other children born after him or not.
- Fisherman's ring*— A ring bearing the figure of St. Peter fishing from a boat and encircled with the name of the pope. This ring is broken upon the Pope's death.
- Flectamus genua*— From the Latin which means "Let us bend the knee." It is a prayer chanted by the deacon during Solemn Mass on Ember Days and certain days of Lent.
- Forbidden times of Marriage*— The periods extending from the beginning of Advent until Christmas Day, and from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday inclusively.
- Forty-hours devotion*— Solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for forty hours, in memory of the forty hours which Christ's body remained in the tomb.

- Frankincense*— (“finest incense”) One of the gifts offered to Christ by the Magi.
- Freemasonry*— A society, forbidden to Catholics under pain of excommunication, because of its oath of absolute secrecy and blind obedience, because of its religious ritual, and because of its plotting against Church and state.
- Friar*— (“brother”) A member of one of the so-called mendicant (living by begging alms) orders, such as the members of the Franciscan, Dominican, and Carmelite orders.
- Frontal*— Also called the antependium—a veil covering the front of the altar. It is usually of the same color as the vestments of the day.
- Fruits of the Holy Ghost*— Charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency, and chastity. They are those final products of grace in the soul which are characterized by a certain spiritual suavity and joy.
- Fruits of the Mass*— The general fruit in which all the faithful share; the special fruit which is applied to those for whom the Mass is said; the most special fruit which belongs to the celebrant himself.

G

- Gate of heaven*— A title applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary because through her Christ, Who merited heaven for us, came into the world, and because all the graces, with the aid of which we hope to attain heaven, come to us through her mediation.
- Gates of hell*— The devil and all the powers of evil.
- Gaudete Sunday*— The third Sunday of Advent, so named from the opening word of the Introit of that day's Mass, “Gaudete,” meaning “Rejoice.”

- Genealogies*— Family trees; the records of the descendants from one family.
- General Confession*— A confession of all the sins of one's past life, even the ones which have been confessed before, or a confession of all the sins since the last general confession.
- General of an Order*— The highest Superior of the whole Order, usually elected for some fixed term by representatives from different provinces or branches of the Order.
- Gentiles*— In Biblical usage, one who is not a Jew.
- Gifts of the Holy Ghost*— Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, with the aid of which one more readily cooperates with the inspirations of the Holy Ghost and thus avoids evil and does good.
- Gift of tongues*— The gift given to the Apostles to speak one language and to be understood by different nationalities in their own tongue; also the gift of being able to speak or understand many languages.
- Gloria in excelsis Deo*— "Glory be to God in the highest!" The opening words of the prayer usually sung or said in the Mass after the Kyrie Eleison.
- Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto*— "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost," the first part of a short prayer to the Holy Trinity, called the Doxology.
- Godparents*— Sponsors at Baptism who make the promises for the child and have the obligation of watching over the Christian education of the child if the parents neglect it or if they die; and those who place their hand on the shoulder of the recipient of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- God's Acre*—A cemetery blessed for those who are entitled to Christian burial.
- Golden rose*— An ornament in the shape of a rose which is blessed by the Pope every year on Laetare Sunday, and sometimes sent by him to Churches, Catholic rulers, or other people of distinction.
- Golden rule*— “Do unto others as you would wish them to do to you.”
- Grace*— A supernatural gift given to men or angels for the purpose of fitting them for eternal life.
- Gradual*— Verses and responses from Scripture said or sung after the Epistle at Mass, formerly sung on the step of the altar. The name comes from the Latin word “gradus” (step).
- Gregorian chant*— Plain chant, or that church music said to owe its final arrangement to Pope Gregory the Great (604).
- Gregorian Mass*— Thirty successive Masses said for a deceased person. It is believed that the soul will be released from Purgatory as soon as they are said.
- Gregorian Water*— Holy Water used in the Consecration of a Church, containing wine, salt, and ashes, and taking its name from Pope Gregory I who prescribed its use.
- Gremial veil*— A cloth placed over the knees of the bishop during various ceremonies. It is usually of the same material and color as the vestments.
- Grille*— An enclosure constructed of wrought iron or bronze, separating the cloister of nuns from the outside.

H

- Habit, religious*— The clothes or uniform proper to a Religious Order.
- Habitual grace*— A supernatural gift, inherent in the soul, making it just, holy, and pleasing to God.
- Haceldama*— (Aramaic— The burying place for strangers bought with the money which Judas received for betraying Christ.
- the field of blood*)—
- Hagiology*— Books and other records treating of the lives and actions of saints and holy people.
- Halo*— In representations of holy persons, a bright circle or disk surrounding the head, and symbolizing virtue, grace, and sanctity.
- Hanc igitur*— The opening Latin words of the prayer in the canon of the Mass, "We therefore beseech Thee, O Lord, graciously to accept this oblation", in which God is asked to accept our oblation and to dispose our days in peace. As the priest says this prayer he elevates and spreads his hands over the bread and wine.
- Hearse*— A vehicle for conveying the dead to the grave.
- Heathen*— In Biblical usage one not a Jew, in Christian usage one not acquainted with the truths and principles of revelation.
- Heaven*— The place and state where we shall see the Triune God face to face, and enjoy the companionship of the Blessed Virgin and the saints.
- Hell*— The place and state where demons and damned souls are forever deprived of the vision of God, and are tortured by a fire which is real and capable of affecting the

- damned according to the measure of their sinfulness.
- Hell, "He descended into"—* Not the hell of the damned, but the Limbo of the Just or of the Fathers of the Old Testament, who had expiated their venial sins and temporal penalties in purgatory, and were now awaiting the coming of the Redeemer. The Creed calls the Limbo of the just "hell" because in biblical language any place lower than heaven was called "hell."
- Help of Christians—* A title of Our Lady added to the Litany of the Blessed Virgin after the victory of the Christians over the Turks in the battle of Lepanto in 1571.
- Heortology—* The science and study of the origins, history and meaning of Church feasts and celebrations.
- Heresy—* The rejection of one or more revealed truths, infallibly defined by the Church, by one who had been baptized and had professed the Christian religion.
- Heretic—* One, who, having been baptized, deliberately and knowingly rejects a doctrine taught by the Catholic Church.
- Hermeneutics—* The principles which govern the right interpretation of the Sacred Scriptures.
- Heroic Act of Charity—* An act by which a Catholic offers to God for the souls in purgatory all indulgences and all the satisfactory works he performed during life, and all the prayers offered for him after death.
- Heroic Virtue—* The practice of virtue in an extraordinary and heroic manner; the practice of virtue with exceedingly great promptness, readiness and perfection.

- Hierarchy*—The ranks and orders of the Catholic Clergy in successive grades, with special reference to those who have the episcopal office.
- High Mass*—A sung Mass without the assistance of a deacon or subdeacon.
- High Priest*— A chief priest; the head of the Jewish priesthood.
- Hindering impediment*— A cause or fact which makes a marriage unlawful although not invalid.
- His Holiness* A title of respect and honor reserved to the (title of)— Pope.
- Holy Child-ety of)*— An organization which strives to interest Catholic children in the temporal welfare and eternal salvation of pagan babies and children in the whole world.
- Holy Hour*—An hour spent in prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.
- Holy Office*—A Congregation composed of six Cardinals and the Pope, acting as a final court of appeal in matters concerning doctrine and morals.
- Holy of holies*— The innermost section of the Jewish tabernacle and temple where the Ark of the Covenant was kept.
- Holy Oils*—These are of three kinds: Oil of Catechumens: used in blessing fonts, consecration of churches, ordaining priests, etc. Oil of the sick: used in Extreme Unction. Chrism or oil mixed with balm: used in Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and other consecrations and blessings.
- Holy Orders*— A sacrament by which bishops, priests, and other ministers of the Church are ordained

and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties. There are seven steps by which a cleric advances in succession to the priesthood: Ostiarius (Porter), Exorcist, Lector, Acolyte, Sub-deacon, Deacon, Priest. The first four are called Minor Orders and the last three are called Holy Orders.

- Holy Water*— A sacramental consisting of water mixed with salt and blessed by a priest; used to bless persons and things.
- Hope*— A divine virtue by which we firmly trust that God will give us eternal life and the means to obtain it.
- Hosanna*— A Hebrew word, taken from the Psalms, meaning, "O Lord, save, we pray."
- Host*— 1. The unleavened bread which is consecrated at the Mass.
2. Christ present under the appearance of bread after the Consecration of the Mass.
- House of God*— Refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary in whose womb Christ dwelt; may also refer to a Catholic church wherein Christ dwells.
- House of Gold*— a title given to the Blessed Virgin signifying that she was adorned with the most precious gifts and virtues.
- Humeral Veil*— From Latin "humerus", meaning shoulder. It is an oblong veil (about 8 by 3 feet) worn over the shoulders by the Subdeacon at a Solemn Mass, by a priest at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and during processions.
- Hyperdulia*— A special veneration, above that paid to the saints and less than that paid to God, given to the Blessed Virgin because of her dignity as Mother of God.

- Hypostatic Union*— The union of the human and divine natures in the one person of Christ.
- Hyssop*— The leafy twigs of a plant used for sprinkling in Jewish ceremonies; a sprinkler for holy water.

I

- Idol*— A created thing or person to which divine worship is paid.
- Idolatry*— Divine worship given to anyone or anything but the true God.
- I. H. S.*— Abbreviation of the name of Jesus as it was written in Greek.
- Illicit*— That which is unlawful or forbidden. For example a marriage between a Catholic and a validly baptized Protestant, without a dispensation, is illicit though not invalid.
- Image*— A representation or likeness of any person, sculptured, drawn, painted, or otherwise made perceptible to our sense of sight. The veneration given to images is referred to the person whom they represent.
- Images, The Veiling of*— The practice of the Church of covering all the crosses, pictures, and statues with unadorned purple veils before the First Vespers on Passion Sunday. The veils are removed from the crosses on Good Friday and the others on Holy Saturday morning.
- Imitation of Christ*— A devotional treatise sometimes called "The Following of Christ," published in 1418 and generally attributed to Thomas a Kempis. It is a series of counsels of perfection in four books.
- Immaculate Conception*— The doctrine that the creation of Mary's soul, its adornment by sanctifying grace, and its infusion into Mary's body, were all simultaneous. In other words, Mary's soul

A CATHOLIC WORD LIST

- was never for a moment without sanctifying grace, never for an instant with original sin.
- Immersion*—Method of Baptism employed in the early Church, by completely immersing the candidate into water. It is still considered as valid Baptism, but it is no longer used in the Western Church.
- Immortality*—The survival of the soul after its separation from the body at death and its continued conscious existence for all eternity.
- Immovable Feasts*—Feasts which are assigned to a certain day in the month, such as the feasts of the different saints.
- Impassibility*—The immortality of the body and its permanent freedom from all sufferings and afflictions.
- Impeccability*—Sinlessness; Christ was sinless because the Person which worked through His human will was divine, and a divine Person cannot sin; Mary was sinless because she had a "fullness of grace."
- Impediments (to marriage)*—Obstacles which render a marriage unlawful or invalid.
- Imposition of Hands*—An action denoting the conferring of a blessing, power or grace. It is an essential part of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders, and is also used in administering the Sacraments of Extreme Unction and Baptism, in several blessings, and in the Consecration of the Mass.
- Impotency*—A physical inability to carry out the marriage act. If it exists before the marriage and is incurable, it makes the marriage invalid. Sterility, however, is not an impediment to marriage.

- Impri-
matur*— Latin word meaning “let it be printed” usually placed at the beginning or end of a publication to indicate that the publication contains nothing against faith and morals and that it has the approval of the bishop.
- Imprimi
Potest*— Latin words meaning “it may be printed” by which the Superior of a religious order approves a publication by a member of the order.
- Impro-
peria*— Reproaches addressed by Christ to all men in the person of the Jews, and usually sung by the choir during the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.
- Indissolu-
bility of
Marriage*— A property of a valid marriage whereby it cannot be broken except by the death of one of the parties.
- In Petto*— From the Italian meaning “in the breast” or “secretly”, refers to an occasional decision of the Pope to withhold from publishing the name of a new Cardinal.
- Incarna-
tion*— (From the Latin word “caro” meaning “flesh”). The taking of a human nature by the Word or the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- Incense*— A granulated resin or vegetable gum which when burnt on coal in the censer produces a fragrant sweet-smelling smoke. Its burning is a symbol of the zeal by which we should be consumed; its fragrance of a pure and virtuous life; and its smoke of our prayers by which we should continually tend and ascend to God.
- Index of
Forbidden
Books*— List of books harmful to faith and morals, which Catholics are *not* permitted to read without a special permission from the Bishop.

- Indulgence*—A remission granted by the Church of the temporal punishment which remains due to sin, after its guilt has been forgiven. If it remits all punishment is it called plenary. An indulgence may be partial, i. e., part of the temporal punishment of sin is remitted to persons rightly disposed.
- Indulgence, Apostolic*—Indulgences attached by the Pope or his delegate to crucifixes, rosaries, medals, and other images.
- Indult*—A permission to do something not allowed by the common law of the Church, such as the Workingman's Indult granted in regard to abstinence.
- Indwelling of the Holy Ghost*—A special presence of the Holy Ghost and the whole Trinity in the soul of one in the state of sanctifying grace.
- Infallibility*—The inability of the Pope, speaking either alone or together with all the bishops of the Church, to err when he proclaims a teaching of faith or morals.
- Infidel*—One who has never been baptized; one who rejects Christianity as divine revelation.
- Infused Virtues*—Virtues which come into the soul together with sanctifying grace, as the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
- Innocence, original*—The state of Adam and Eve before the fall.
- Inquisition*—An ecclesiastical organization for discovering and preventing heresy.
- I. N. R. I.*—An inscription found atop the crucifix meaning, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.
- Inspiration*—Divine aid given by the Holy Ghost to the authors of the books of the Bible whereby

these writers rightly understood and then faithfully wrote down the divine truths communicated to them.

- Installation*— The giving possession of an office with the usual rites or ceremonies.
- Interdict*— A penalty inflicted by the Pope or bishop upon a group barring them from the use of the sacraments, religious services, and Christian burial.
- Internuncio*— An Envoy of the Pope to minor countries; ranking below nuncio.
- Interpellations*— Examining the attitude of a non-baptized and non-converted party by the other party who has been baptized and converted, in regard to the willingness of the first party to consent to the continuation of their marriage union.
- Introit*— From the Latin term "introitus" meaning "entrance"; the first prayer that the priest reads from the Missal after the prayers at the foot of the altar. It is usually part of a psalm.
- Irregularity*— A disqualification for receiving Holy Orders; or the infraction of the rules governing the performance of clerical functions, making the cleric unfit for carrying out further clerical functions.
- Israel*— ("Strong against God") name given by the angel to Jacob, because he had wrestled against an angel of God. The descendants are the Jewish people.
- Ite, Missa est*— "Go, the Mass is ended," words occurring before the last Gospel.

J

- Joys of the Blessed Virgin*— The happy or joyful events in Mary's life, namely the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Epiphany, the Finding in the Temple, the Resurrection, and the Ascension.
- Jubilee*— A period of special remission of the temporal penalties due to sin proclaimed from time to time by the Pope. At present this period occurs every twenty-five years.
- Judgment (General)*— The final judgment by Christ after the general resurrection, when every deed of man will be made known to all, and when man will be rewarded or punished not only in soul but also in the risen body.
- Judgment (Particular)*— A sentence by God in the form of an illumination of the soul immediately after death whereby the soul's lot is determined for all eternity.
- Judgment (Private)*— The teaching of Luther that each private individual, as opposed to the infallible authority of the Church, can explain the Bible by himself and for himself and fashion his life accordingly.
- Jurisdiction*— The legislative, judicial, and executive powers of the Church over her members whereby she guides her children to eternal salvation.
- Justice*— A virtue whereby we give to everyone what is his due. In the Bible the word often denotes the state of sanctifying grace.
- Justification*— The indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in the soul together with the infusion of sanctifying grace, of the virtues and of the gifts of the Holy Ghost. This state cannot coexist with guilt in the soul.

K

Keys, Power of— The powers of the Church as centered in the Pope; from the words of Our Lord addressed to St. Peter the first Pope: "I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." (Mtt. XVI, 16).

Kiss of Peace— A sign of fraternal charity which has come down to us from the old liturgies. It is given in a solemn Mass immediately after the 'Agnus Dei' of the Mass. The celebrant kisses the Altar, puts his hands upon the Deacon's arms, both incline their heads slightly, left cheek to left cheek; the priest says 'Pax tecum' (peace be to you), and the deacon answers 'Et cum spiritu tuo' (and with thy spirit).

Kyrie Eleison— Greek words meaning 'Lord Have Mercy on Us', and occurring in the Mass immediately after the Introit.

L

Laetare medal— A medal presented annually on Laetare Sunday by the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, to a Catholic layman who distinguished himself by his services for Church and State.

Laetare Sunday— Fourth Sunday in Lent, also called Rose Sunday, because rose vestments may be substitute for violet on that day; named from the first word of the Introit of the day, "Laetare," meaning, "Rejoice."

Lamentations— A book of the Old Testament in which the prophet Jeremias mourns over the destruction of Jerusalem, over the ruins of the temple, and over the plight of his people. Part of these are sung at the Tenebrae services,—on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week.

- Latria*— The supreme homage and religious worship due to God alone.
- Laudate Dominum*— Psalm 116, which is sung after Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. These first words of the psalm mean, "Praise the Lord."
- Lauds*— The second hour of the breviary or Divine Office.
- Lavabo*— ("I shall wash") The washing of the priest's hands after the Offertory of the Mass; it signifies the purity of heart required for the worthy celebration of the Mass.
- Law, eternal*— The divine plan, existing in God's mind from all eternity, for directing the whole universe to its end.
- Law, natural*— The eternal law impressed on the minds and the hearts of men, telling them to do good and avoid evil.
- Lay brother*— A member of a religious order who does not receive holy orders and who does not say the breviary, but who is occupied with the secular affairs of the monastery, as, for example, the care of the buildings, farms, etc.
- Lectern*— A high movable reading desk supporting the books used during liturgical services.
- Lector*— Second of the Minor Orders, conferring the right and duty of reading the lessons in church.
- Legate, papal*— An envoy of the Pope sent as his special, personal representative to a sovereign or government or to a special church function to act with the same power as if the Pope himself were present.

- Lent*— The forty days' fast before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday at noon.
- Levites*— Members of the tribe of Levi who served as assistants to the Jewish priests; Christian clerics below the order of priest.
- Licentiate*— A degree in Theology which comes after the degree of Bachelor and prepares one for the degree of Doctor.
- Ligamen*— An existing valid marriage union constituting an invalidating obstacle to another marriage by either party.
- Light of Glory*— A supernatural quality elevating and strengthening the mind so that it may be able to behold God face to face in heaven.
- Little Hours*— The shorter hours of the breviary or Divine Office, namely, Prime, Terce, Sext, and None.
- Little Office*— Form of prayer resembling in composition the breviary or Divine Office, but much shorter and on the whole varying very little. The most common is the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin.
- Liturgy*— The public official service of the Church, consisting of all the public rites, ceremonies, and prayers of the Church, and especially the Sacrifice of the Mass.
- Low Mass*— Mass that is read or recited by the priest.
- Low Sunday*— The English name for the Sunday immediately after Easter, it is called "low" in contrast with the "high" feast of Easter of the preceding Sunday.
- Lunette, Lunula*— A round receptacle, usually with glass sides, containing the Benediction Host, and inserted into the monstrance during Benediction.

M

- Madonna*— An Italian word meaning “My Lady”, a title given to the Blessed Virgin in art and in devotions.
- Magi*²— The wise men from the East (Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar) who brought gifts to Jesus in Bethlehem after having followed the star.
- Magnificat*— (“Anima mea Dominum”): “My soul doth magnify the Lord” (Lk. I, 46)—opening line of the hymn in which the Blessed Virgin gave expression to her own exalted dignity as Mother of God on the occasion of her visit to Elizabeth.
- Major Orders*— The orders of subdeaconship, deaconship and priesthood.
- Maniple*— A vestment about a yard long and three inches wide, worn on the left arm of those in major orders during Mass, so that it falls in equal length on both sides. The ends of the maniple are trimmed with fringe or tassels.
- Manna*— A miraculous food sent by God to the Jews during their journey to the promised land; a type of the Eucharist.
- Mantelletta*—A sleeveless cloak with opening for the arms, and covering the whole rochet or surplice.
- Marks (of the Church)*— Qualities or properties which are proper to the true Church and distinguish it as the Church of Christ from other Churches. The Church has four marks: It is One. It is Holy. It is Catholic. It is Apostolic.
- Martyrology*— A list of Martyrs and Saints according to the calendar with brief notices of their life and death, also of the feasts of Our Lord celebrated during the year.

- Mass*— The unbloody sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ made present on the altar by the priest's words of consecration. It is a renewal of the Sacrifice of the Cross.
- Mass of the Catechumens*— The Mass from the beginning until the Offertory, at which part the Catechumens were permitted to assist during early days.
- Mass of the Faithful*— The Mass from the Offertory to the end, the sacrifice proper, to which in primitive times only the baptized faithful were admitted.
- Mass of the pre-sanctified*— Mass said on Good Friday with the Host consecrated on Holy Thursday.
- Master of Ceremonies*— One who directs the ceremonies at a solemn Mass and at other liturgical services.
- Master of Novices*— One who trains the novices of a religious order or congregation.
- Matins*— From the Latin "Matutinum" meaning "morning"; the principal and longest part of the breviary, formerly recited very early in the morning.
- Matrimonial Court*— A group of priests appointed by the bishop to discuss the validity of a marriage when nullity is petitioned.
- Matrimony*— A sacrament uniting a Christian man and woman in lawful marriage.
- Maundy Thursday*— A name given to the Thursday in Holy Week; "Maundy" comes from "Mandatum", the first word of the ceremony of the washing of the feet.
- Mediator*— One who intervenes between two persons or parties to reconcile them. Christ was the mediator between God and man.

- Mediatrix of all Graces*— The Blessed Virgin Mary as dispenser of all graces given to us by the Risen Christ. Some say that Mary intercedes for each and every grace given to us by Christ. Others go further and assert that no grace is given to us unless it first passes through Mary's hands.
- Meditation*— Application of the imagination and mind to the consideration of a particular divine truth, followed by a resolution of the will to put the truth into practice in specific situations of our daily life.
- Memento*— "Be mindful"; A recalling of the faithful departed made soon after the consecration at Mass. A memento of the living made at Mass at the beginning of the Canon.
- Mensa*— (Latin: "a table") The flat top of an altar.
- Metaphysics*— A philosophical science which treats of the principles underlying all things, such as being, cause, substance, etc.
- Metropolitan*— An Archbishop who presides over a province and has other bishops under him.
- Minor orders*— Lower ranks of the sacred ministry which must precede major orders, namely: porter, reader, exorcist, acolyte.
- Miserere*— The first Latin word of Psalm 50. ("Miserere mei Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam." 'Have mercy on me O God, according to thy great mercy') Psalm 50 is a penitential Psalm.
- Missa Cantata*— (Sung Mass) A Mass sung, but without the help of a deacon and subdeacon.
- Missal*— Book containing all the Masses for the entire year.
- Mitre*— A head-dress worn by bishops, abbots, and in certain cases by other distinguished ecclesiastics.

- Mixed Marriages*— Marriage between a Catholic and a validly baptized member of a heretical or schismatic sect or a false religion.
- Monastery*— Dwelling place of members of a religious order who are given to the contemplative life and recite the Divine Office in common.
- Monk*— A member of a religious order, who has the vows of obedience, poverty, and chastity, and who lives according to the rules of his community.
- Monotheism*— Belief that there is only one God.
- Monsignor*— A title given to the members of the Pope's household. The title is sometimes conferred as an honor on priests living outside of Rome.
- Monstrance*— A vessel which holds the Blessed Sacrament during Benediction and processions.
- Moral theology*— A theological branch which considers the character of actions not only in the light of the natural law, but also in the light of Christian revelation and of the positive law of the Church.
- Mortal sin*— (From Latin word *mors* meaning "death"): a serious offense against God's law; called "mortal" because it brings supernatural death to the soul; the requisites for mortal sin are serious matter, sufficient knowledge, and full consent of the will.
- Motu proprio*— (Latin phrase meaning "of one's own accord"): a decree issued by the Pope in his own name without the advice of the cardinals or others.
- Movable feasts*— Feasts which occur earlier or later in different years, being governed by Easter Sunday, which is always the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring.

- Mozzetta*— A cape with a small hood, closed in front by a row of small buttons. It is short enough to allow the rochet to be almost fully seen. It signifies authority and is worn by a bishop in his own diocese.
- Mystery*— A truth which cannot be comprehended by reason, but is not contrary to reason, and which has been revealed by God. The three great mysteries are the Incarnation, the Trinity, and the Eucharist.
- Mystical rose*— A term applied to Our Blessed Lady in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. The rose is the queen of flowers. The red rose is a symbol of Mary's perfect love of God, the white rose of her Immaculate Conception.
- Mystical theology*— That branch of theology which treats of the progress of the soul in spiritual life and prayer.

N

- Natural Theology*— A branch of philosophy which establishes by arguments drawn from reason alone—without any reference to the Bible—the existence of God, His main attributes, and His relations to the world.
- Nave*— That part of the Church reserved for the faithful; from the Latin *navis* meaning "ship," applied to the church because of its shape.
- Ne Temere*— The opening words of a decree issued by Pius X in 1907, stating that thereafter all marriages of Catholics of the Latin Church to be valid, must take place before a qualified parish priest or his delegate and two witnesses.
- Nihil Obstat*— The words printed in the front part of a book by which the censor of books indi-

- cates that he has examined a given work and found nothing in it contrary to faith and morals.
- Noble Guard*— The highest rank in the Pope's military organization. The Commandant must be a Roman Prince and the members must be of the nobility. A certain number of the Noble Guards always accompany the Pope at a public function.
- Nocturn*— A division of Matins in the breviary or Divine Office. Each nocturn consists of three psalms with their antiphons, a versicle and response, the Our Father, an absolution, a blessing, and three lessons, each with its responsory.
- None*— The hour of the Divine Office appointed to be said at the ninth hour, i. e., between noon and 3 P. M. In practice it is said earlier.
- Novena*— Prayers for special graces extending over a period of nine days, in imitation of the Apostles who in prayer awaited the descent of the Holy Ghost.
- Novice*— One who has been confirmed in a religious vocation as a postulant, and is now preparing by a series of tests and exercises for the religious profession.
- Novitiate*— The period or state of being a novice, or the place where novices are trained.
- Nun*— A member of a religious order or congregation of women. Nuns, in the strict sense, are those who have solemn vows; Sisters those who have simple vows.
- Nuncio*— A legate of the Holy See sent as an ambassador to a foreign government as a permanent diplomatic agent.

- Nuptial blessing*— Pronouncing of the solemn blessing over a bride and bridegroom during the Mass.
- Nuptial Mass*— The wedding Mass for the bride and bridegroom.

O

- O Salutaris (Hostia)*— "O Saving Victim," etc. The hymn sung at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. It forms the last two stanzas of the hymn "Verbum supernum prodiens," ("The Heavenly Word Proceeding Forth") composed by St. Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century.
- Oath*— The calling upon God to witness the truth of a statement.
- Obsession*— Action of the devil who attacks and shackles the body from without, molesting it in various ways, and at the same time vexing the soul with severe temptations. It is distinguished from possession whereby the devil enters into man's body and dwells there, using its members for producing unusual acts.
- Occasion of sin*— Any person, place or thing which of its own nature or because of our weakness generally leads us to commit sin.
- Octave*— (from the Latin "octava dies" meaning "eighth day") Celebrating a feast over a period of eight days; the eighth day of such a commemoration.
- Odd Fellows*— A society forbidden to Catholics under serious sin, because membership would imply participation in its religious ritual and observance of its oath of secrecy.
- Offeratory*— 1) That part of the Mass in which the priest offers bread and wine to God; 2) the prayers accompanying the offering.

- Office, divine*— The official prayer of the Catholic Church, recited daily by the clergy and by religious men and women. It is made up of several parts known as the canonical hours, viz., Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline.
- Oil of Catechumens*— One of the three holy oils used in the ceremonies of Baptism and Holy Orders; also called "Oleum sanctum" (holy oil).
- Oil of the Sick*— One of the three holy oils, used in the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, and also in the blessing of bells.
- Oil-Stock*— A round metal vessel made of three sections screwed together, containing the holy oils. Letters on each section indicate the kind of oil it contains.
- Old Catholics*— A heretical sect owing its origin to certain Catholics who refused to accept the decree of Papal infallibility by the Vatican Council in 1870.
- Order*—
(religious) A body of men or women who have taken the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and who lead a life in common according to the rules of their community.
- Ordinary*— A name given to the bishop in charge of a diocese, or a superior in charge of a religious community of men.
- Ordo*, (Latin "order")—Regulations for the daily recitation of the breviary and the daily saying of Mass.
- Oremus*— Latin word meaning "Let us pray." It indicates the union of the people with the priest in the offering up of the Mass.
- Original justice*— The state of our first parents before the Fall. It consisted of the Indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in the soul, of sanctifying

- grace, the virtues, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, and of freedom from ignorance, concupiscence, sufferings and bodily death.
- Orthodox Churches*— The Eastern religious groups which separated from the Roman Catholic Church.
- Ostensorium, or monstrance*— A sacred vessel used for Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Oxford Groups Movement*— A sect, founded by Dr. Frank Buchman, which strives at a complete transformation of the individual and of society by means of the so-called "house parties," aims at absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love, and recommends to its members the practice of confession, surrender, restitution, and docility to the guidance of the Holy Ghost.

P

- Pain of loss*— Suffering of the soul arising from the knowledge that it is excluded from seeing God face to face. In hell this loss of God is permanent and is accompanied by despair; in purgatory the loss of the vision of God is temporary and is accompanied by hope.
- Pain of sense*— Suffering caused the demons and damned souls in hell, and to the souls in purgatory by a physical agent, fire; also the suffering caused by the same fire to the risen body after the last judgment.
- Pall*— A square cardboard covered with linen cloth used to cover the Chalice during Holy Mass; also the black covering on the catafalque during a requiem Mass.
- Pallium*— A narrow band woven of white lamb wool granted by the Pope to an Archbishop to be worn on the shoulders over the Chasuble.

- It symbolizes the fullness of episcopal power.
- Palm Sunday*— Sunday before Easter; so called from the custom of blessing palm branches and carrying them in procession in commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- Papacy*— The authority of the Pope, the vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter over the universal Church; the whole line of Popes since the time of St. Peter.
- Papal State*— An independent state within Rome, Italy, on the right side of the Tiber, including the Vatican and St. Peter's—all together about 109 acres. Created February 11, 1929.
- Parable*— A short story taken from nature or human experience and intended to teach a supernatural truth or precept.
- Paradise*— a) The abode of Adam and Eve before their fall. b) Heaven.
- Paraclete*— ("Consoler")—Name applied to the third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Ghost.
- Parish*— A portion of a diocese committed to the care of one Pastor who may or may not have assistant priests.
- Particle of Host*— A portion, however small, which when consecrated contains the fullness of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- Pasch*— Jewish term for our Easter.
- Paschal candle*— Large candle blessed and lighted on Holy Saturday and remaining until Ascension Day at the Gospel side of the altar. It symbolizes Christ the Light of the World.

- Paschal Lamb*— Lamb slain and eaten at the Jewish Passover.
- Passion*— The sufferings of Jesus Christ, beginning on Holy Thursday night and culminating in the death of the Cross on Good Friday.
- Passover*— An annual feast of the Jews commemorating the liberation of the Jews from Egypt. The avenging angel which killed every first-born in Egypt "passed over" the Jewish homes marked with the blood of the Paschal lamb.
- Pastoral letters*— Letters addressed by a bishop to the clergy or laity of his diocese.
- Paten*— A circular disk of silver or gold—like a small plate, used to hold the host in the celebration of the Mass.
- Patriarch*— In the Western Church, the Supreme Pontiff, the Pope. In the Eastern Church, any of the Bishops of the five ancient Sees of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople, Venice.
- Pauline privilege*— The power of the Catholic Church to dissolve a marriage, even though consummated, of two unbaptized persons—when one is converted to the faith and the other refuses to be converted, or live in peace with the other party; proclaimed by St. Paul.
- Pectoral cross*— A small cross suspended from the neck and worn on the breast by Bishops and other prelates.
- Penance*— A Sacrament in which are forgiven the sins committed after Baptism. A penalty imposed by the priest in confession as a satisfaction to God for the temporal punishment due to sin.

- Pentecost*— (from the Greek word *pentecostes* meaning fiftieth). A feast occurring the fiftieth day after Easter and commemorating the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles.
- Perjury*— An assertion upon oath of something known or believed to be false.
- Peter's pence*— A voluntary annual contribution made by Catholics to the Holy See.
- Pharisees*— An ancient Jewish Sect noted for its strict observance of the Mosaic law and of the so-called traditions of the fathers.
- Philosophy*— An explanation of all things in the light of their highest or ultimate causes.
- Plenary Council*— A meeting of the Bishops of a region or nation assembled under the presidency of the Pope's legate to determine matters of rule and discipline.
- Pontiff*— Any Bishop; generally used to signify the supreme Bishop, the Pope.
- Pontifical Mass*— A Solemn Mass celebrated by the Pope or a Bishop.
- Pope*— A word meaning "father," applied to the Bishop of Rome as Vicar of Christ, successor of St. Peter, and head of the Catholic Church.
- Portable Altar*— A consecrated stone slab containing the relics of two canonized martyrs, and inserted into the table of an unconsecrated altar.
- Porter*— The first of the minor orders which precede major orders. This order gives the recipient the power of opening and closing the doors of the Church.

- Portiuncula*— The little church near Assisi, Italy, repaired by St. Francis; the annual indulgence attached to this church and later extended to all Franciscan churches.
- Possession, demoniacal*— The action of the devil who enters a man's body, dwells there, and operates there, using the members of the body to produce unusual acts.
- Post Communion*— The prayer in the Mass after the Communion, in which we ask God to enable us to profit by the fruits of the Mass of that day. It changes daily.
- Postulant*— A candidate for admission to the novitiate of a religious order or society during the first few months of training.
- Predella*— The platform immediately in front of the altar.
- Predestination*— The Calvinistic doctrine that God sends a man to heaven or to hell independently of what the man does or tries to do.
- Preface of the Mass*— The prayer preceding the Canon in which we praise God, thank Him for some particular mystery, and ask that our praises be joined to those of the angels in heaven.
- Prefect Apostolic*— The head of the Church in missionary countries where the hierarchy has not yet been established. He is usually a priest—with the rights and faculties of a resident bishop.
- Prelate*— A churchman of higher order than a priest, such as a monsignor or bishop.
- Presentation, The*— 1. The offering of Christ in the Temple forty days after His birth. The feast of the Presentation (Feb. 2) is also called Candlemas because candles are blessed in

- the church on this day in honor of Christ the Light of the World.
2. The offering of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple at the age of three years by her parents. The feast is observed on November 21.
- Prie-Dieu*— A movable kneeling bench.
- Priest-hood*— The institution established by Christ for perpetuating His Incarnation and Redemption; collectively all the priests ordained in the Church; the life of a priest; the priestly character in the priest's soul.
- Primacy*— The supreme power of the Pope to rule the whole Church.
- Primate*— A Bishop who had jurisdiction over the bishops of a province or country. Today merely an honorary title giving precedence over all other prelates in religious functions.
- Prior*— The superior of a monastery.
- Privileged altar*— An altar which has attached to it a plenary indulgence given to the soul for whom Mass is said on that Altar.
- Pro-Cathedral*— A church temporarily used as a Cathedral until a permanent Cathedral can be built.
- Profanation*— Disrespectful and contemptuous treatment of sacred things; desecration of a church or cemetery through commission of a crime within it.
- Profession*— The taking of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in a particular religious order or congregation.
- Prohibiting impediments*— An obstacle that makes a marriage unlawful but not invalid.

- Propagation of the Faith Society*— An international association for the assistance of Catholic missionary priests, brothers, nuns, and catechists.
- Prothontary Apostolic*— One of the chief prelates in the Papal Court; the dignity which carries the right to use the pontificals (pectoral cross, mitre, sandals, gloves, ring, etc.) and is sometimes conferred as an honor on priests outside of Rome.
- Province*— A territory comprising several dioceses under an Archbishop or Metropolitan; in religious orders a section of the country governed by a superior or provincial.
- Publican*— A tax gatherer for the Roman government in the time of Our Lord.
- Purgatory*— A state or place where souls which departed from this life in sanctifying grace are expiating their venial sins, and the temporal penalties due to sins already forgiven.
- Purification*— Legal cleansing of a Jewish mother which took place 40 days after the birth of a boy and 80 days after the birth of a girl. The mother went to the temple, where a Jewish priest prayed over her and sprinkled her with lustral water, and thereupon she made an offering of a lamb and a turtle dove or a young pigeon, or in the case of the poor two pigeons or two turtle doves.
- Purification*— The folded linen cloth used to clean the interior of the chalice and the priest's lips and fingers at Mass.
- Putative marriage*— An invalid marriage contracted in good faith.
- Pyx*— A sacred vessel or case used to carry the Eucharist to the sick.

Q

- Quarantines*— A term formerly employed to designate an indulgence of a quarantine, or a release from as much temporal punishment due to sin as would be obtained by forty days of a strict rigorous penance in the early Church—but now abolished since 1938.
- Quarter Tense*— An old English name for the Ember days, derived from the old French “*quatres tens*” meaning four times (a year).
- Quinquagesima Sunday*— The Sunday immediately before Ash Wednesday. So called because it is approximately fifty days before Easter.
- “Quo Vadis”*— Latin for “Whither goest Thou?” The name of a chapel in Rome on the Appian Way where tradition says Christ met Peter fleeing from persecution and asked: “*Quo vadis*”—also name of a Polish novel by Henryk Sienkiewicz.

R

- Rabat*— Two rectangular pieces of white linen, attached to the collar of the habit and falling on the chest, worn by Christian Brothers; the French clergy wear a black rabat edged with white.
- Rabbi*— A Jewish title meaning “master, teacher”; An article of black cloth which is attached to the priest’s Roman collar.
- Rabboni*— Literally, “my great master”; a form of Rabbi.
- Raca*— Empty headed fellow (Mtt. V, 22)
- Raccolta*— (Italian, “a collection”), A collection of prayers and exercises to which the popes have attached indulgences. The *Raccolta* was first published at Rome in 1807. The most recent edition was made in 1938 nullifying all previous editions.

- Real Presence*— The existence of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearance of bread and wine in the Eucharist.
- Redeemer*— A title applied to Christ in so far as He liberates us from the slavery of sin, Satan, and death.
- Redemption*— The act of atonement for the sins of mankind through the God-Man's or Second Adam's loving obedience, expressed in His sufferings and death, meriting graces which are distributed to us by the Risen Christ, and which restore to us the right to heaven and—though not entirely in the same form—the gifts lost by the first Adam.
- Redemptorists*— The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732.
- Regina Coeli*— (“O queen of Heaven, Joy to Thee”)—The Antiphon of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Paschal Time; said instead of the Angelus morning, noon, and evening during that season.
- Relic*— The body of a Saint or an integral part of it; also any object that has been sanctified by physical contact with the living saint.
- Religious Clergy*— Priests organized under a superior of a religious community.
- Religious Life, State*— A “permanent community life, in which the faithful besides observing the common precepts, oblige themselves to the observance of the evangelical counsels by the vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty” (Canon 487).
- Repositor*— The side altar where the Blessed Sacrament is kept from the Mass on Holy Thurs-

- day until the Mass (of the Presanctified) on Good Friday.
- Reliquary*— Vessel in which relics are sealed, kept, and exposed; often resembling a monstrance in shape.
- Requiem Mass*— A Mass celebrated for a deceased person or persons. Black vestments are always used.
- Rescript*— The answer of the Pope, or of a Sacred Congregation, to a question or a petition.
- Rerum Novarum*— An Encyclical letter of Pope Leo XIII, issued in 1891, concerning the condition of the working classes.
- Reserved Cases*— Sins or censures, the absolution from which is reserved to the Bishop, to the Holy See, or to a priest with special faculties.
- Restitution*— The restoring of ill-gotten goods, or of another's good name destroyed by calumny.
- Resurrection (of Christ)*— The reunion, through His own power, of the soul of Christ which had been in Limbo since He died, to His Sacred Body, which henceforth became not only living but glorious, impassible, incorruptible and immortal.
- Resurrection (of the body)*— The reunion at the general judgment of the soul to the body of every human being, the latter sharing in the glory or damnation of the former.
- Retreat*— Withdrawing from worldly cares and affairs for a certain period in order to meditate on man's origin, purpose in the world, and final destiny.
- Revelation*— Truths made known to us by God and contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition.
- Rheims-Douay Bible*— The approved Bible of the Catholic Church, in the English language. The Old Testament was first published by the English

College at Douay, A. D. 1609, and the New Testament was first published by the English College at Rheims, A. D. 1582.

- R. I. P.*— From the Latin "Requiescat in pace"—meaning "may he (or she) rest in peace."
- Rite*— The manner of performing services for the worship of God and the sanctification of men—manner of celebrating Mass, administering the sacraments, etc.
- Ritual*— The priests' book of rites; the book in which is set down the order of administering the sacraments, of blessing various objects, of burial services, etc.
- Rochet*— A linen surplice with close-fitting sleeves worn by bishops, abbots, and other prelates.
- Rogation Days*— The 25th day of April and the three days before Ascension Thursday, on which the Litany of the Saints is recited during a procession, a special Mass is said, and God is besought to show His mercy towards us and bless the fruits of the earth.
- Roman Collar*— Collar buttoning in the back to which is attached a silk breast piece called the rabbi, worn by the hierarchy and clergy of the Catholic Church.
- Rorate Coeli*— Latin phrase meaning "Drop down dew ye heavens" (Isaias VIII, and XLV). The words are of frequent occurrence in the Advent Liturgy and give expression to the longings of the prophets and patriarchs and now of the Church for the coming of Christ.
- Rosary*— A devotion in which fifteen decades—each consisting of an Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and a Glory be to the Father are recited, and accompanied, each of them, by meditation on one of fifteen mysteries of our Lord, or of our Blessed Lady.

- Rota, Roman*— The supreme tribunal at Rome for deciding cases on marriage, etc.
- Rubrics*— (From the Latin "ruber" meaning "red") Directions in liturgical books for carrying out ceremonies, so called from their generally being printed in red letters.
- Rule of Faith*— The guide with the aid of which we know what to believe and what to do. The infallible Church, interpreting for us the Bible and Tradition, is our immediate living rule of faith.

S

- Sabbath*— The seventh day of the week, (Saturday) on which God rested after creation, and the day on which the Jews rest and take part in divine worship. In the Christian ritual, the first day of the week; glorified by Christ in His Resurrection, and the Holy Spirit in His advent on Pentecost.
- Sacrament*— An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. There are seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.
- Sacramental*— Anything set apart or blessed by the Church to excite good thoughts and to increase devotion, and through these movements of the mind and will to remit venial sin. Some of the most common sacramentals are holy water, images, crucifixes, rosaries, scapulars, etc.
- Sacrifice*— An offering and alteration of a sensible thing by a legitimate minister, for the honor of God alone in order to acknowledge His supreme dominion, to implore His forgiveness, to thank Him for His benefits,

- to beseech His help, and to enter into communion with Him.
- Sacrilege*— An offensive use of sacred persons, places, or things.
- Sacristy*— A section of the church adjoining the sanctuary, where vestments and sacred objects are kept, and where the priest vests for Mass.
- Sadducees*— The Jewish free thinkers in the time of Our Lord. They denied the existence of Angels, of the soul, and of the resurrection. They laid emphasis on only the first five books of the Old Testament.
- Saint*— A person declared by the Church to have cultivated virtue to a heroic degree, to be in heaven and to deserve veneration in the whole Church.
- Salvation*— A state of freedom from sin and its consequences; escaping God's wrath at the final judgment.
- Salve Regina*— Latin words meaning "Hail Holy Queen."
- Samaritans*— A people who arose from the intermarriage of pagan Assyrians and the Jews, and lived in the central part of Palestine between Galilee and Judea. They were hated by the Jews, who considered them as tainted by pagan blood.
- Sanctifying Grace*— A supernatural gift of God inhering in the soul and making it holy and pleasing to God.
- Sanctorale*— That part of the Liturgical Year which commemorates the Saints, as distinguished from the Temporale which commemorates the mysteries of Our Lord's life.
- Sanctuary*— The space in a church around the high altar, usually enclosed by a communion railing.

- Sanctuary lamp*— The light burning before the Blessed Sacrament in a church and fed by beeswax or olive oil.
- Sanctus*— The triple "Holy" forming the conclusion of the Preface.
- Sandals*— Slippers worn by a bishop when he pontificates.
- Sanhedrin*— In the time of Our Lord the supreme Jewish court consisting of 70 judges.
- Sapiential Books*— Those books of the Old Testament which are considered as teaching wisdom: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus. The Latin word "Sapientia" means "Wisdom."
- Satan*— Leader of the evil spirits, of the fallen angels.
- Satisfaction*— The redeeming work of Christ in so far as it repairs the offense done to God and procures the remission of sin.
In the sacrament of Penance, repairing the offenses done to God, by carrying out the works (penance) imposed by the confessor.
- Scandal*— Any word or act which leads another to commit sin.
- Scapular*— A sacramental, a badge of a religious association or order, consisting of two small square woolen pieces connected by two bands, and worn one on the breast and the other on the back. It gives the wearer the right to share in the spiritual blessings of the association or order.
- Schism*— Willful separation from union with the Pope.
- Schismatic*— A person belonging to a sect which, although having the same doctrines and pre-

- cepts as the Catholic Church, refuses allegiance to the Pope.
- Scholasticism*— The system of thought having its own method of investigation and seeking to harmonize philosophy with revelation. The system reached its highest point of development in the middle ages and was fostered by such men as Scotus, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Suarez. The name "Scholasticus" was given to a distinguished scholar during the Middle Ages.
- Scholastic*— An exponent of scholasticism. A candidate for the Jesuit Order.
- Schoolmen*— An English word for the Scholastics of the Middle Ages.
- Scripture, Sacred*— The Bible.
- Seal (of confession)*— The solemn obligation of the priest to reveal nothing and to make absolutely no reference to matters heard in confession.
- Seat of Wisdom*— A title applied in the Litany of Mary who was the abode and Mother of Him Who is Supreme Wisdom, the Wisdom of God.
- Secret (in the Mass)*— The prayer said (secretly), that is, silently, over the offerings of bread and wine which have now been "secreted," that is, separated from profane use. It occurs immediately after the "Orate Fratres."
- Secret Societies*— Societies forbidden to Catholics because of their oath of blind obedience and absolute secrecy and because of their religious ritual. Freemasonry is forbidden to Catholics under pain of excommunication. The following societies are forbidden under pain of serious sin: Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Sons of Temperance, and the Independent Order of Good Templars.

- Sect*— A religious group which has cut itself off from the Church.
- Secular Clergy*— Clergy who do not belong to a religious order but labor for the sanctification of souls directly under the authority of the bishop, more properly called diocesan clergy.
- See*— The territory ruled over by a bishop; a diocese.
- Septuagesima*— (“The seventieth”)—The third Sunday before Lent; approximately the seventieth day before Easter Sunday.
- Sequence*— A hymn occurring before the Gospel in certain Masses. There are five of these hymns in the Missal.
- Servant of God*— A person whose virtuous life the Church is investigating with a view of beatification.
- Servant of the Servants of God*— Title assumed by Pope Gregory the Great in the sixth century and retained by each of his successors to express his office of a servant to all who serve God.
- Servile Work*— Work forbidden on Sundays and Holydays. Servile work is chiefly manual, mechanical, bodily work.
- Seven Words of Christ*— The seven statements of Our Lord while He hung on the Cross.
- Sexagesima*— (Latin, “the sixtieth”)—Second Sunday before Lent; approximately the sixtieth day before Easter.
- Sext*— One of the parts of the breviary originally said at the Roman sixth hour, or at midday.
- Shroud (Holy)*— Linens in which Our Lord’s body was wrapped in the tomb.
- Simony*— Selling and buying of sacred offices or sacred things.

- Simple Vows*— Vows in a religious community permitting the member to own though not to administer property—as regards poverty; and to contract a marriage validly but not licitly without dispensation from the vow.
- Sin*— A deliberate and willful breaking of God's law.
- Skull Cap*— A tightly fitting cap worn on the crown of the head by bishops and other prelates.
- Slander*— Spreading false reports about the character of another.
- Sloth*— Laziness in carrying out our obligations.
- Solemn Mass*— Mass sung by a celebrant with the assistance of a deacon and subdeacon.
- Solemn Vows*— Vows declared such by the Holy See; a member of a religious community with solemn vows can neither administer nor own property, nor validly contract a marriage without dispensation from his vows.
- Sorrows of the B. V. Mary*— 1. Prophecy of Simeon; 2. Flight into Egypt; 3. Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple; 4. Meeting of Jesus bearing His Cross; 5. Standing at the foot of the Cross; 6. The Crucifixion; 7. Burial of Jesus.
- Soul*— The spiritual and immortal principle in man giving life to his body, and continuing to exist after separation from the body.
- Species (Eucharistic)*— The color, taste, smell, etc., of the bread and wine after the substance has been changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Spiritism*— A system of religion that attempts to get in touch with spirits and departed souls and be governed by the communications from the dead.
- Sponsors*— A godparent at baptism or confirmation who

- promises to watch over the Christian training of the god-child.
- Stabat Mater*— (“At the Cross Her Station Keeping”)— Sequence in the Mass of the Seven Dolors of the B. V. Mary.
- Stalls*— Seats for the clergy or members of the choir in the sanctuary.
- Station days*— Days on which, especially during Lent, the faithful in the early centuries gathered at a certain church for the celebration of Holy Mass.
- Stigmata*— The five wounds of Our Lord appearing miraculously on the body of any person so favored by God.
- Stole*— A sacred vestment in the form of a long ornamental band of silk worn around the neck during Mass and the administration of the Sacraments.
- Subdeaconship*— The first of the Major orders carrying with it the obligation of celibacy and reciting the breviary.
- Suffragan*— The bishop of a diocese within a province under an Archbishop or Metropolitan.
- Summa Theologica*— The last and chief theological work of St. Thomas Aquinas, characterized by the perfection of his method and sublimity of doctrine.
- Supernatural*— That which is above the nature, faculties, needs, and merits of man.
- Surplice*— A white linen garment worn over the cassock at the administration of the sacraments and assistance at liturgical services.
- Sursum Corda*— (Latin, “Lift up your hearts”). An exhortation said immediately before the Preface.

Suspension—A penalty by which a cleric is deprived of the exercise of some or all of his powers..

Symbols— Creeds: Apostles', Nicean, Athanasian.

Synagogue—Jewish place of meeting, prayer, and worship.

Synod— A meeting of the priests of a diocese presided over by the bishop for the purpose of enacting legislation.

T

Tabernacle—A strong locked receptacle or safe, lined or curtained on the inside with silk, and situated in the center and to the rear of the altar table in which is kept the Blessed Sacrament.

Tabernacle Veil— A tent-shaped silken covering, frequently ornamented with braid and fringes, varying in color according to the feast of the day, covering the top and sides of the tabernacle.

Table of Altar— The top of the altar on which are placed the sacred vessels and liturgical books.

Talent— In the Oriental languages a certain sum of money; name used by Our Lord in His parables for the gifts which God has bestowed on us.

Tantum Ergo— (“Down in Adoration Falling”). A hymn always sung at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the last two stanzas of the Eucharistic hymn “Pange Lingua,” (“Sing, My Tongue, the Savior’s Glory”) by St. Thomas Aquinas.

Te Deum Laudamus— (“We praise Thee, O God.”) A hymn which is said or sung on occasions of thanksgiving. Also said as a part of the breviary or Divine Office on feast days.

Temporary Vows— Vows taken for only a certain length of time and ending when the time has expired.

- Temptation*— An attempt of our lower faculties to rebel against the control of the mind and will, or an attempt of satan to lead us to sin.
- Tenebrae*— A part of the Divine Office chanted publicly on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of Holy Week, formerly said at night. "Tenebrae" means "darkness" or "night".
- Terce*— A part of the Divine Office, originally said at nine o'clock in the morning, or at the Roman third hour.
- Tertiary*— A member of one of the Third Orders of a religious community.
- Theodicy*— A study of the existence and attributes of God in the light of human reason alone.
- Theological Virtues*— Faith, Hope and Charity, so called because they relate immediately to God.
- Theology*— (From the Greek word "theos" meaning "God"). The science of God and of divine things in the light of revelation and of reason applied to revelation.
- Third Orders*— Associations of laymen or laywomen sponsored by Religious Orders, first instituted by St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic in the 13th century.
- Thomism*— The teachings in Philosophy and Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas; also the teachings of theologians since his time embodying the fundamental principles of his system.
- Three Hours*— A devotion practiced on Good Friday from noon to 3 P. M. in remembrance of the three hours of Our Lord on the Cross.
- Throne*— An armed chair, mounted on a platform with steps, and with a canopy above it, used by a bishop at solemn functions.
- Thurible*— The vessel in which incense is burnt in the ceremonies of the Church.

- Tiara*— The head-dress with triple crown worn by the Pope at solemn functions.
- Titular See*— A See in which the Church once flourished but which later was overrun by pagans and no longer has a resident bishop. Titular sees are now assigned to bishops who have no diocese of their own. (i. e. auxiliary bishops).
- Tongues, Gift of*— The gift of speaking a foreign language or of understanding when addressed in a foreign tongue.
- Tonsure*— A ceremony consisting in cutting off some of the hair from the head, and indicating that the recipient has ceased to be a layman and has been received into the ranks of the clergy. In most Catholic countries the tonsure is made by shaving more or less of the crown of the head.
- Toties Quoties*— Latin term meaning "as often as." It means that indulgences may be obtained as often as one wishes as long as the necessary conditions are fulfilled, at a specified time or place.
- Tower of David*— A comparison of Mary in her Litany to David's tower, from which David defended himself against his enemies, to indicate Mary's defense of the Church against all heresies.
- Tower of Ivory*— A title applied to Mary in her Litany to indicate her beauty and purity.
- Tract*— A scriptural passage following the Gradual, read or sung slowly, mournfully, and without interruption. The Tract occurs in Masses from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday, a season of penance.

- Tradition*— The teachings of Our Lord handed down orally from one generation to another and preserved in the writings of the Fathers of the Church and the authentic teaching of the Vicar of Christ.
- Transfiguration*— The momentary overflow of the glory of Christ's soul on his body.
- Transubstantiation*— The changing of the substance of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ at the Consecration of the Mass.
- Treasury of the Church*— The merits of Christ and the Saints from which the Church draws when she grants indulgences.
- Triduum*— A three days prayer, retreat, or religious celebration.
- Triennial Vows*— Vows taken for three years only.

U

- Uniat Church*— Eastern Catholics who use a different rite or language from the Latin Church, but who recognize the jurisdiction of the Pope.
- Unitive Way*— The highest state of the spiritual life, in which the soul is in intimate union with God.
- Unleavened Bread*— Bread made without yeast, used in the Eucharistic particles in the Roman Catholic Church.
- Urbi et Orbi*— Latin words signifying "for the City and for the World", and referring to the solemn blessing given by the Pope after his election and at various occasions during the year. Decisions of the Pope binding Rome and the rest of the world.

“Usual conditions, On the”— Conditions necessary for gaining indulgences; namely, the person desirous of gaining them must be a member of the Church; he should perform the good work as prescribed; he should, at least before concluding the last work prescribed, be in the state of grace. In addition, for some plenary indulgences there is required the reception of the sacraments of Penance and of Holy Eucharist, and prayers for the intentions of the Pope.

V

Validation— Rectifying a marriage which has been invalid because of a diriment impediment; the necessary dispensations must first be procured and the necessary procedure observed.

Vatican— 160 acres of territory together with the buildings in and about the City of Rome under the rule of the Holy See.

Veil, religious— Head covering worn by members of religious communities of women.

Venerable— A title given to Servants of God because of their heroic virtue and sanctity, as first step toward beatification and canonization.

Veneration of Saints— Homage paid to the holy men and women who have been canonized by the Catholic Church.

Veni Creator (“Come Creating Spirit.”) A prayer asking the Holy Ghost to enlighten our mind and strengthen our will.

Venial sin— An offense against God which does not destroy the supernatural life of the soul, but weakens the soul, disposing it toward mortal sin.

- Vespers*— The evening hour or part of the breviary or Divine Office.
- Vestments*— Garments used by the clergy of the Church in divine worship and in the administration of the Sacraments.
- Viaticum*— Holy Communion given to those in probable danger of death. The Latin word "viaticum" means "provision for a journey."
- Vicar general*— A priest designated by the bishop to help him rule the diocese. He has the powers of jurisdiction but not of order, in the episcopal office.
- Vicar of Christ*— A title given to the Pope, the visible head of the Church.
- Vidi Aquam*— From the Latin meaning "I saw water." It is an antiphon used in place of the "Asperges" during Easter time.
- Vigil*— A day before a first class feast set aside for prayer and other devotions. The word "vigil" means "watchful expectation."
- Vigil light*— A small lamp burned before a shrine or image. A symbol of prayer.
- Virgin birth*— A dogma of the Catholic Church which holds that the Mother of God was a virgin before, during, and after the conception and birth of Christ.
- Virgin Mary*— A title given to the Mother of God because of her perpetual virginity.
- Virginity*— Bodily purity and abstinence from all sexual pleasure.
- Virtue*— A disposition of the soul to act rightly in observance of the will of God.
- Vision of God*— Seeing God face to face and understanding His mysteries. It is a state of perfect happiness.

- Vocation*— A call from God to a state of life in which we may serve Him.
- Votive candle*— A small candle burned before the Blessed Sacrament or images of the Saints, a symbol of our devotion and supplication.
- Vow*— A promise freely made to God to do something pleasing to Him.
- Vulgate*— The official Latin version or translation of the Bible used in the Catholic Church. The English Rheims-Douay version is a translation from the Vulgate.

W

- Whit Sunday*— Common name for Pentecost Sunday. The day on which the Holy Ghost descended in the form of a dove upon the Apostles. "Whit" comes from the white garment worn by those who were baptized on the Vigil of Pentecost.
- Worship*— The supreme adoration given to God; the veneration due to the Saints.

Y

- Year, Ecclesiastical*— Church year beginning with the First Sunday of Advent.

Z

- Zuchetto*— A skull cap worn by bishops, and clerics of certain religious orders.

