*The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice*

## Chapter 3 Vocabulary

**ancestor** Any person to whom you are related by blood who comes before you on a family tree.

**angel** A spiritual, personal, and immortal creature with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God and serves as God's messenger. Satan was at first a good angel, but became evil through his own choices, along with other angels, who then are called demons or devils.

**circumcision** The surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis; the physical sign of the covenant between God and Abraham.

**evolution** The scientific theory that proposes that current forms of life developed gradually out of earlier ones.

**covenant** A binding and solemn agreement between human beings or between God and his people, holding each to a particular course of action.

**myths** Symbolic stories that express a spiritual truth or a basic belief about God.

**Original Sin** The sin of disobedience committed by Adam and Eve that resulted in their loss of original holiness and original justice and their becoming subject to sin and death. Original Sin also describes the fallen state of human nature into which all generations of

people are born. Christ Jesus saved humanity from Original Sin. The Sacrament of Baptism restores original holiness, but not original justice.

**paganism A** combination of idol worship (idolatry) and worship of many gods (polytheism).

**patriarchs** Male rulers, elders, or leaders. Israel's patriarchs of faith are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**personal sin** A failure to love God above everything and your neighbor as yourself; an action contrary to love that you freely and personally commit.

original holiness and original justice The state of Adam and Eve before sin. The grace of original holiness was for people to share in God's life. The main gifts of original justice were that people would not have to suffer or die. Original justice also guaranteed an inner harmony of the human person, the harmony between man and woman, and the harmony between Adam and Eve and all of creation.