

Chapter 6

altar of holocausts In the Old Testament, a small mound of stones upon which the flesh of sacrificed animals could be burned. The word *holocaust* means “sacrifice.”

apostolic succession The handing on of the Apostles’ preaching and authority directly from the Apostles to the bishops through the laying on of hands. Apostolic succession continues to this day.

Benediction The rite in which Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament contained in a monstrance, is exposed to the Adoration of the faithful.

collegiality The participation of each of the worldwide bishops, with the pope as their head, in a “college” that takes responsibility for both their local diocesan Churches and also the Church as a whole.

ecumenical council An assembly of representatives from the entire Church for consultation on Church matters. There have been twenty-one ecumenical councils. The first was the First Council of Nicaea (325). The most recent was the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965).

infallibility “The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful. This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals” (CCC, Glossary).

Liturgy of the Hours The official daily prayer of the Church, also called the Divine Office. It is a set of prayers for certain times of the day that carries out St. Paul's command to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes 5:17).

ministerial priesthood The priesthood of Christ received in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Its purpose is to serve the common priesthood by building up and guiding the Church in the name of Christ.

permanent deacons Ordained deacons who will permanently remain deacons.

primacy The authority of the Bishop of Rome—the pope—over the entire universal Church.

rectory The house in which a pastor and other parish priests live.

Redemption A word that literally means "ransom"; the act of Christ in which he paid the price of his own sacrificial Death on the Cross to ransom, or set free, the world from the slavery of sin.

religious superior The head or leader of a religious community charged with cultivating in the members of the community obedience to God's will, the Church, and the rules of the community.

transitional deacons Ordained deacons who are only deacons temporarily as a step to becoming a priest.