

## **Chapter 1**

**beatific vision** “The contemplation of God in heavenly glory, a gift of God which is a constitutive element of the happiness (or *beatitude*) of heaven” (CCC, Glossary).

**canonization** “The solemn declaration by the Pope that a deceased member of the faithful may be proposed as a model and intercessor to the Christian faithful and venerated as a saint on the basis of the fact that the person lived a life of heroic virtue or remained faithful to God through martyrdom” (CCC, Glossary).

**charism** “A specific gift or grace of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefits the Church, given in order to help a person live out the Christian life, or to serve the common good in building up the Church” (CCC, Glossary).

**communion of Persons** A complete giving-of-self, shown perfectly in the life of the Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

**complementarity** A way to describe two realities that belong together, producing a whole that neither is nor can be alone.

**covenant** “A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees” (CCC, Glossary).

**Deposit of Faith** The body of saving truths and the core beliefs of Catholicism that are contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and faithfully preserved and

handed on by the Magisterium. The Deposit of Faith contains the fullness of God's Revelation.

**Disciple** A person "who accepted Jesus' message to follow him. . . . Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom of God to [them], and gave them a share in his mission, his joy, and his sufferings" (CCC, Glossary).

**Eastern Churches** "Churches of the East in union with Rome (the Latin Church), but not of Roman rite, with their own liturgical, theological, and administrative traditions," such as those of the Byzantine, Coptic, and Syriac rites (CCC, Glossary).

**evangelical counsels** "In general, the teachings of the New Law proposed by Jesus to his disciples which lead to the perfection of Christian life. . . . The public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience is a constitutive element of state of consecrated life in the Church" (CCC, Glossary).

**evangelize** To proclaim "Christ and his Gospel (Greek *evangelion*) by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command" (CCC, Glossary).

**holiness** The state of being set apart for God.

**laity** All the baptized faithful except those who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders or who have taken solemn vows in consecrated life.

**law of self-giving** The principle that encapsulates one's call to communion and self-donation with another. It means that you can discover your true self only through a sincere gift of self (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 24).

**lay ecclesial movements** Associations of laypersons who come together with a common purpose and way of life.

**Magisterium** The official teaching authority of the Church. Jesus bestowed the right and power to teach in his name on Peter and the Apostles and their successors, that is, the pope and the college of bishops. The authority of the Magisterium extends to specific precepts of the natural law because following these precepts is necessary for salvation.

**Original Sin** The personal sin of the first two people, called Adam and Eve, which in an analogous way describes the fallen state of human nature into which all generations are born. Adam and Eve transmitted Original Sin to their human descendants. Christ Jesus came to save the world from Original Sin and all personal sin.

**sacrament** “An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is” given to those who receive it, “through the work of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1131).

**saint** “The ‘holy one’ who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life. The Church is called the communion of saints, of the holy ones” (CCC, Glossary).

**the Fall** The disobedience of Adam and Eve, which introduced sin, death, and their effects into the world.

**universal call to holiness** The call to all Christians, no matter their state of life, to be sanctified. It is based on Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48).