

Glossary-Twelfth Grade

- **Act of Supremacy**—Proclaimed King Henry VIII the supreme leader of the Church in England which meant that the pope was no longer recognized as having any authority within the country, and all matters of faith, ecclesiastical appointment, and maintenance of ecclesiastical properties were in the hands of the king.
- **Ad Metella**—Literally means “to the mines”. It refers to the punishment and death given to many Christians during the Roman persecutions.
- **Agape**—Literally “love”. The agape was an early Christian religious meal that was at first closely related to the celebration of the Eucharist and often preceded this celebration.
- **Age of Enlightenment**—Intellectual movement which sprang up from a whole-hearted enthusiasm for, and faith in, scientific progress, and believed that the study of science and nature could help correct all the problems of society, including poverty, disease, and war.
- **Age of St. Bernard**—Refers to the middle of the twelfth century during which St. Bernard of Clairvaux exhibited enormous influence through his counseling of rulers, bishops, and popes.
- **Allah**—Arabic word for God.
- **Anathema**—A ban solemnly pronounced by ecclesiastical authority and accompanied by excommunication.
- **Animism**—A form of religious belief that attributes human qualities to material objects or nonhuman living creatures.
- **Apollinarianism**—Founded by Apolinarius in the fourth century, this heresy denied the existence of a human mind and will in Christ.
- **Apologist**—Generally, one who writes a work in order to defend and explain the Christian religion. The title also refers specifically to a group of Church fathers who wrote during the second and third centuries in the Roman empire.
- **Apostate**—A person who denies the faith altogether.
- **Apostle’s Creed**—A statement of belief of the Apostles based upon the New Testament.
- **Apostolic Father**—Sainly writers of the early Church whom the Church recognizes as her special witnesses of faith.
- **Apostolic Tradition**—Refers to the passing of the Faith of the Apostles from generation to generation.
- **Arianism**—A heresy that denied Jesus’ divinity, claiming that Jesus is neither God nor equal to the Father.
- **Athanasian Creed**—A statement of faith that the Church still affirms whose author is not known.
- **Babylonian Captivity**—The seventy years (1305-1377) the papacy spent in Avignon under the watchful eye of the French King.

- **Black Plague**—Known commonly as “The Black Death,” this deadly epidemic broke out in Europe around the year 1347, decimating the population.
- **Canterbury**—The most important Episcopal see in England in the sixth century and the site of St. Augustine’s mission to England.
- **Catholic Action**—An organization encouraged by St. Pius X that was to become a key instrument of the lay apostolate.
- **Church History**—The history of the Church is the record of the life of Jesus, the actions of men, and the guiding light of the Holy Spirit acting in the Church.
- **Cistercians**—So called “White monks,” after the color of their habits, this order was founded in 1098. They adopted the Benedictine rule and placed a special emphasis on austere living, farming, simplicity, and strictness in daily life.
- **Cluny**—City which gave birth to monastic reform in 910. The first abbey began with 12 monks committed to renewing the rule of St. Benedict.
- **Code of Canon Law**—Updated and systematic compilation of the law of the Church launched by St. Pius X and finished after his death.
- **Collegiality**—A doctrine explained by the *Dogmatic Constitution of the Church* published by the Second Vatican Council which states that bishops, in union with and under the pope, share in teaching and governing the Church.
- **Communism**—According to Karl Marx, this was a necessary historical development which sought to create a new social-economic system in which social classes no longer existed.
- **Consubstantiation**—Luther’s term for Christ’s presence in the Eucharist. He taught that the Eucharist was not truly Christ, but that He was present in it as heat is present in an iron.
- **Crusade**—A war of a religious character, specifically a series of eight military expeditions between 1096 and 1270 undertaken by Christians to liberate the Holy Land.
- **The Propagation of the Faith**—Congregation founded by Gregory XV to promote and establish apostolic missions.
- **Deism**—Rationalist philosophy which accepted the principle of a creator, but denied Divine intervention or providence in the world.
- **Dictatus Papae**—Decree given by pope Gregory VII asserting that the pope possesses specific powers given by God that rested on him alone. These powers included the power to convene and ratify a council, to propound doctrine, and to appoint, transfer, and remove bishops from office.
- **Didache, The**—Means “teaching” in Greek, a first century treatise concerning Christian morals, practices, and ministry.
- **Docetism**—A gnostic heresy that taught that Jesus did not die on the cross but was spared by someone else who took his place.
- **Doctor of the Church**—A specific title given by the pope to those whose development of theology and personal sanctity are exemplary.
- **Donatism**—Heresy that rejected the validity of sacraments celebrated by clergy who had formerly betrayed their faith.

- **Double Truth Theory**—Compares the value of theological tenets against philosophical truths.
- **Ecumenical Council**—Derived from the Greek word meaning “the whole inhabited world,” ecumenical councils bring bishops and others entitled to vote from all over the world to discuss central issues of the Church. They are presided over by the pope and issue decrees which, with the approval of the pope, bind all Christians.
- **Ecumenical Patriarch**—Title adopted by the Patriarch of Constantinople.
- **Filioque**—Greek word meaning “and from the Son,” it is used to express the double procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.
- **Glagolitic Alphabet**—Based on the Greek alphabet, it was developed by St. Cyril to aid his mission to the Slavic peoples.
- **Gnosticism**—Derived from the Greek word for “knowledge,” the name refers to one of the principle ideas of this heresy, namely, that salvation may be achieved through knowledge.
- **Great Schism**—The final split between the eastern and western Churches in the year 1054.
- **Heretic**—A person who denies one or more doctrines of the faith.
- **Hermit**—A form of monasticism involving individuals withdrawing into loosely organized groups to live an isolated ascetical life.
- **High Renaissance**—Period beginning in the late fifteenth century, it produced some of the most well-known religious and secular artwork of the period from Leonardo, Raphael, and Michelangelo.
- **Holy Alliance**—In 1815, Czar Alexander proposed the creation of this alliance (including Russia, Prussia, and Austria) which promised to uphold Christian principles of charity and peace.
- **Ichthys**—An acronym for the Greek phrase *Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter*, which is a declaration of the central tenet of the Christian faith meaning “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” The acronym itself spells the word “fish” in Greek.
- **Icon**—A flat, two-dimensional picture of Christ, the Virgin Mary, or one of the saints which is used as an aid for Christian acts of piety.
- **Iconoclast**—comes from the Greek word for “image breaker,” iconoclasts saw icons as occasions of idolatry and sought to destroy them.
- **Indulgence**—Given to someone who undertakes a specific task. It grants remission of temporal punishment for sins already forgiven through the sacrament of reconciliation.
- **Infant baptism**—The practice of baptizing infants that arose during the third century and became universal by the early medieval period. It remained the common practice for all western Christians until the Reformation.
- **Inquisitor**—Special judges appointed by the pope during the Inquisition who examined and judged the doctrinal opinions and moral conduct of suspicious individuals.

- ***Institutes of the Christian Religion***—Written by John Calvin, it contained four books which codified Protestant theology. Among these beliefs were the ultimate authority of the word of God, the depravity of man, and his belief that the Bible is the only source of revelation.
- **Islam**—Arabic for “submission,” the faith of the prophet Mohammed (also spelled Muhammad), it traces its roots back to Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael.
- **Jansenism**—Heresy that taught that Christ did not die for all (therefore only some are predestined to be saved), that the Grace of God is irresistible and that the sign of God’s election is the ability to live a very strict life.
- **Jihad**—Holy war waged in the name of religion. Muslim men who die in a jihad are believed to go straight to Heaven.
- **Kaaba**—Arabic for “square building,” this large black stone is the main focus of the pilgrimage to Mecca, which every Muslim is required to take at least once in his lifetime.
- **Koran**—Arabic for “recitation,” this is the holy book of the Muslim faith, written by Mohammed, and containing all of the writings that Mohammed claimed he was told by the archangel Gabriel under God’s direction.
- **Kulturkampf**—Bismarck’s policy of ridding Germany of Catholicism.
- **Lay Investiture**—The appointment of bishops and abbots by secular rulers, often in exchange for temporal protection.
- **Lectio Divina**—Reading and meditation on Scripture.
- **Liberalism**—Put generally, this ideology approved of everything that was modern, enlightened, efficient, and reasonable.
- **Logos**—A Greek word that has numerous meanings including: word, account, meaning, reason, argument, saying, speech, story and many more. The Gospel of John refers to Jesus as the divine Logos.
- **Manichaeism**—A form of Gnosticism that involved the relationship between light and darkness, believing that through rituals and the sharing of knowledge believers could regain the light stolen by Satan and hidden in the brains of men, thus freeing the light to return to its original source.
- **Marcionism**—a heresy that borrowed ideas from Gnosticism, it taught that the “jealous and vengeful” God of the Old Testament was different from the God of the New Testament. There was no connection, therefore, between the Old and New Testament.
- **Martyrdom**—The supreme witness given to the truth of the faith by bearing witness even unto death.
- **Mendicant Friars**—From the Latin word for “beg,” this type of religious order was not bound to a place or community and subsisted entirely on alms.
- **Military Order**—Arising out of the necessity of defending the Holy Places in Palestine as well as the pilgrims who traveled there, these orders combined both military and religious life, emphasizing dedication, discipline and monastic organization.
- **Monasticism**—A way of life characterized by asceticism and self-denial lived more or less in seclusion from the world and under fixed rule and vows.
- **Monotheism**—The belief that there is only one true God.

- **Nestorianism**—Heresy that maintained that Christ was both human and divine but was not himself fully human or fully divine. Instead, it taught that Christ was a union of two men—one human, the other divine.
- **New Evangelization**—Called by Pope John Paul II, hoped to reintroduce the Faith into formerly Christian regions where religious practice had declined in the face of a number of factors.
- **Nuncio**—Personal ambassador of the pope.
- **Opus Dei**—Latin for “work of God,” in Benedictine life it referred to the four hours of the day spent in communal prayer.
- **Ora et Labora**—Benedictine motto meaning “pray and work.”
- **Ostpolitik**—Sometimes controversial Vatican policy which sought improved relations with the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe.
- **Pallium**—A sacred vestment symbolic of the fullness of Episcopal authority, worn by popes and archbishops. It is circular, one inch in width with six small crosses.
- **Papacy**—The Vicar of Christ as instituted by Jesus who holds the responsibility and supreme authority for guiding the Church.
- **Papal Infallibility**—The dogma that the pope cannot make a mistake when speaking as shepherd and teacher of all Christians (“Ex Cathedra”) and defining a doctrine concerning faith and morals to be held by the whole Church.
- **Papal States**—Land won by Pepin and given to the papacy, making the pope a sovereign as well as spiritual leader. The states were ruled by the pope from 754 to 1870.
- **Patrons of Europe**—Saints Cyril and Methodius were responsible for the conversions of all of Moravia and other Slavic territories. They used Slavic in the liturgy and translated the Bible into Slavic to reach more people.
- **Peace and Truce of God**—Principle which, for much of the Middle Ages, kept European kings at peace by recognizing a common unity in faith among European peoples who otherwise did not share nationality or custom.
- **Pelagianism**—Heresy denying original sin and the need for grace in man’s salvation.
- **People of God**—Those “born” into the Church through faith in Christ and baptism. The term “People of God” is taken from the Old Testament in which God chose Israel to be his own people.
- **Plantation**—Large areas in the northeast of Ireland that were cleared of Catholics by James I and resettled by Scottish Protestants in an effort to “breed-out” the Catholics.
- **Predestination**—A doctrine of Calvin which taught that those who are saved (called the “elect”) are chosen by God through no effort of their own. God also chooses others to be damned. This damnation was seen as necessary to show God’s great justice.
- **Presbyter**—From the Greek word *presbyteros* for “priest.” In the early Church the presbyters were the church elders.

- **Quietism**—Movement which advocated absolute passivity during prayers and contemplation. It believed that the soul should be indifferent to everything, including temptation, and should simply rest perpetually in God.
- **Ramadan**—The holy month of Islam believed to be the time when the Koran was given to Mohammed.
- **Scholasticism**—The system of philosophical and theological inquiry first developed in the medieval schools of Christian Europe, creating its own technical language and methodology.
- **Scriptorium**—Large room in a monastery dedicated to the copying and the maintaining of texts.
- **Scrupulosity**—The habit of imagining sin when none exists, or grave sin when the matter is venial.
- **Sign of the Cross**—The act of tracing the cross down from the forehead with the finger to the breast and then from left to right across the breast. By the early third century, the practice of making the Sign of the Cross was deeply rooted in the Christian world.
- **Simony**—The selling of ecclesiastical offices by either secular or spiritual leaders.
- **Sola Scriptura**—“Scripture Alone,” it is the belief that all man needs for salvation is the Bible.
- **Spiritual Espousal**—These “Mystical Marriages” were experienced by a number of great saints and occur when Christ takes a soul as his bride, leading it to an increase of charity and familiarity with Christ.
- **Spiritual Exercises**—A guide for spiritual perfection written by St. Ignatius Loyola, which is divided into reflections and meditations meant to help the believer emulate Christ.
- **Stigmata**—Phenomenon in which a person bears all or some of the wounds of Christ in his or her own body.
- **Synod**—an assembly of ecclesiastics gathered together under Church authority to discuss and decide on matters pertaining to doctrine, liturgy, or discipline.
- **The Haji**—The pilgrimage to Mecca required of all Muslim faithful once during their lifetime.
- **The Shahada**—The creedal statement of Islam: “There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet.”
- **Thirty-Nine Articles**—Issued by Elizabeth I, these provided for the foundation of the Anglican Church. While maintaining all the outward appearances of Catholicism, they implanted Protestant doctrine into the Church of England.
- **Tilma**—Cloak worn by Indians in Mexico. It was on the *tilma* that Our Lady of Guadalupe left her image to Juan Diego.
- **Trajan’s Edict**—Policy for handling Christians in the Roman Empire which stated that Christians who renounced their faith and offered sacrifice would be allowed to live. Those who did not renounce their faith would suffer death.
- **Transubstantiation**—The change from bread and wine to the Body and Blood of Christ with only the accidents or properties of bread and wine remaining.

- **Trivium**—The three primary branches of medieval education: grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic.
- **Ultramontanism**—Catholics who looked to the pope for support and leadership, emphasizing his centrality and authority more than ever before.
- **Unam Sanctam**—Letter written by Boniface claiming that in order to save his or her soul, every human being—including the king—must be subject to the pope.
- **Utopia**—Meaning “no place,” this term was coined by St. Thomas More who described a religious society, heavily influenced by divine revelation, in which goods were held in common and the state regulated business.
- **Venerable**—Bestowed upon Bede, the title refers either to a particular state in the process of canonization or to a person’s holy life.
- **Vicar of Christ**—Title chosen by Pope Innocent III over the previous title, Vicar of Peter, which emphasized Innocent’s understanding of the pope as a representative of Christ himself.
- **Vow**—A solemn promise made voluntarily by a person of reason, to practice a virtue or perform a specific good deed in order to accomplish a future good which is better than its contrary.
- **Vulgate**—First translation of the Bible from its original languages into Latin by St. Jerome. It remains the normative text used today.