Sin — An offence against God by any thought, word, deed, or omission against the law of God. It is either original, or actual, mortal or venial.

State of Grace — To be free from mortal sin, and pleasing to God.

Stations, or Way of the Cross — A devotion, which commemorates fourteen stages or our Lord’s Passion, from Pilate’s house to Mount Calvary.

Stigmata — Wound resembling those of Our Lord, miraculously produced in the bodies of some of the servants of God, but most notably in the case of Sts. Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio. The name is from holy persons which have been revealed.

Tridentum — A three days’ prayer or festal celebration.

Tithes — The portion of the produce or income of the faithful which is to be given to God, either for the support of the clergy, or for the support of the Church.

Trinity, Holy — The mystery of Three Persons in One God.

Trinity, Holy Orders — The Sacrament of Holy Orders produces in the soul an indelible spiritual mark or character (Mt 8:14; 19:12; 1 Cor 7:32; Eph 4:11; Mk 3:14-19; 10:45; Lk 6:12-16; 22:27; 1 Cor 12:27-31). Through the outward sign of the sacrament of Holy Orders, a person receives the inward gift of ordination, which others may avail; this is drawn from the Church when she grants indulgence.

Trinity, Holy Virtue — Faith, hope, and charity, so called because they relate immediately to God.

Trinity, Holy Virtues — Three principal virtues: Faith, hope, and charity, so called because they relate immediately to God.

Trinity, Theological Virtue — One of the three principal virtues: Faith, hope, and charity, so called because they relate immediately to God.

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Trinity, Theology — The science of God and things belonging to God, or more accurately, the sacred teaching of divine things from those which have been revealed. Positive theology explains and interprets the Scriptures, Fathers, and Sacred Canons. Dogmatic theology proves and defends truths of faith, and by scholastic methods draws conclusions from principles, partly of faith, and partly of natural knowledge. Moral theology regulates conduct by the principles of revelation, and the laws of the Church. Ascetical and Mystical theology is concerned with the progress of the soul, in the spiritual life and prayer. Natural theology, so called, has reference to the knowledge of God obtained by purely natural light, and is strictly a branch of philosophy.

Trinity, Thrice Holy — One of the three persons of the Blessed Trinity, God the Father.

Trinity, Thurible — The vessel in which incense is burned in the ceremonies of the Church.

Trinity, Tithes — The tenth part, held from earliest times to be due to God (see Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30; Heb. 7:5). Their payment is the recognized fulfillment of the natural obligation incumbent of the faithful to contribute to the support of their pastors, which is also found among the precepts of the Church.

Trinity, Tradition — Truths handed down from one generation to another. Every Catholic is bound to admit and embrace Apostolic and Ecclesiastical Traditions. The faith has come down to us by two channels, the Scriptures, or written Word of God, and Tradition, which is the unwritten word. There are, however, two kinds of Tradition — the Tradition of the Church, and traditions of the Church, the latter varying according to their authority and evidence.

Trinity, Treasury of the Church — (Or treasure of merits) — The superabundant merit of Christ and the Saints, constituting in the hands of the Church a store of which others may avail; this is drawn from the Church when she grants indulgence.

Tryst — A term from the Greek, equivalent to council. Applied more especially to diocesan assemblies of the clergy, presided over by the bishop.

Tabernacle — The receptacle in which vessels containing the Blessed Sacrament are reserved.

Theological Virtues — Faith, hope, and charity, so called because they relate immediately to God.

Theology — The science of God and things belonging to God, or more accurately, the sacred teaching of divine things from those which have been revealed. Positive theology explains and interprets the Scriptures, Fathers, and Sacred Canons. Dogmatic theology proves and defends truths of faith, and by scholastic methods draws conclusions from principles, partly of faith, and partly of natural knowledge. Moral theology regulates conduct by the principles of revelation, and the laws of the Church. Ascetical and Mystical theology is concerned with the progress of the soul, in the spiritual life and prayer. Natural theology, so called, has reference to the knowledge of God obtained by purely natural light, and is strictly a branch of philosophy.

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grace and in some sense participates in divine nature. The ordained person now serves in the name and in the person of Christ the Head in the midst of the community (1 Tim 2:5; Rev 1:6; 5:9-10; 20:6; 1 Pet 2:5-9; 5:1-4; In 21:15-17; Mk 10:43-45; Eph 2:20; 1 Cor 4:1-21).

Ordinary — A name given to the bishop of a diocese, because he has ordinary (not delegated) jurisdiction and right to perform all ecclesiastical functions in his diocese.

Passion — The sufferings of Christ. The narrative of the same in the Gospels sung with special solemnity in Holy Week.

Patron Saints — Those whose names have been received at Baptism or Confirmation, or who have been chosen as the object of special devotion.

Penance, Sacrament of — The Sacrament by which the sins we have committed after baptism are forgiven. This forgiveness is conveyed to our soul by the priest’s absolution, joined with contrition, confession and satisfaction.

Pentateuch — The first five books of the Old Testament, attributed to Moses.

Perseverance, Final — The special gift in virtue of which a person remains in a state of grace in the moment of death.

Peter’s Pence — Originally an annual tax of one penny for every house in England, paid to the Holy See; now a general term for collections made for the support of the Holy Father.

Pope — A name signifying father, applied to the Bishop of Rome, who is the Vicar of Christ, and visible head of the Church on earth, because he is the successor of St. Peter.

Possession, Diabolical — A state in which an evil spirit, by God’s permission, inhabits the body. When the devil attacks a person in a somewhat similar manner from without, it is called obsession.

Presumption — A foolish expectation of salvation without making use of the necessary means to obtain it.

Purgatory — A place where souls suffer for a time after death, if they have departed this life in venial sin, or if they have not fully paid the debt of temporal punishment due to those sins, the guilt of which has been forgiven.

Pyx — A vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

Relics — The dead bodies or bones of holy persons, as also other things, which have belonged to them in mortal life. A more than ordinary veneration is due to the wood of the Cross, and other instruments of Christ’s Passion.

Reliquary — A case for relics which, when placed therein, must be securely sealed and authenticated by competent authority before being exposed for veneration.

Resurrection of Christ — The Soul of our Lord, which had been in Limbo of the Fathers since he died, was united again to His sacred Body and Christ rose from the dead, immortal and impassible.

Rosary of the B.V.M. — A devotion in which twenty decades, each consisting of an Our Father and ten Hail Marys’, and a Gloria, are recited, and accompanied, each of them, by meditation on one of the twenty mysteries of our Lord or of our Blessed Lady. Of the twenty mysteries, five are called Joyful, five Sorrowful, five Glorious, and five Luminous. The prayers are counted by the use of beads arranged in order for five decades; this is called a chaplet. When the beads have been duly blessed, those who carry them can gain many indulgences.

Rubrics — Directions as to ceremonies which occur in liturgical books, so called from their being generally printed in red letters.

Sabbath — The seventh day, on which God rested after creation, ordered to be kept holy by the third commandment. The Church, in the time of the Apostles, transferred the obligation from the seventh to the first day of the week in honor of the Resurrection of Christ.

Sacrament — An outward sign of inward grace, ordained by Jesus Christ, by which grace is given to our souls. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Order, and Matrimony. When a Sacrament is given there must always be, 1. Things for matter; 2. Words as form; 3. The person of a minister having the intention of doing what the Church does.

Sacramental Grace — A title to certain actual graces, to enable us to live up to the end of the Sacrament, which we have received.

Sacramentals — Certain practices of piety, commonly so called on account of a certain similarity to the Sacraments, e.g., holy water, and other things blessed by the Church. These do not of themselves give grace, but in virtue of the prayers of the Church help to excite good dispositions in the soul.

Sacrifice — The offering of a victim by a Priest to God alone, in testimony of His being sovereign Lord of all things.

Sacrilege — A profanation of anything holy or dedicated to God—persons, places, things.

Sacristy — A place adjoining a church where the sacred vessels and vestments are kept, and where the clergy prepare for ecclesiastical functions.

Sanctifying Grace — That by which a person is constituted permanently just or holy, the friend of God, and His son by adoption. Charity always accompanies sanctifying grace, and many great theologians consider that they are one and the same thing; for all the effects and characteristics of the former are attributed in Holy Scripture to the latter.

Sanctuary — The part of the Church where the altar stands; a place to which pilgrimages are made.

Satisfaction — Doing the penance given us by the priest in confession. It is also made by good works, mortification and gaining indulgences.

Scandal — To lead another to commit sin, being equivalent to spiritual murder.

Scapular — A part of a religious habit, covering the shoulders (scapulae), part being in front and part behind. The scapular generally worn by the faithful consists of two small squares of woolen cloth joined by two strings. This represents the habit of a religious Order to which the wearer is associated. The principal ones are: 1. Brown, of the B.V.M. of Mount Carmel. Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock at Cambridge, England in the thirteenth century and promised, as a singular privilege for the Carmelite Order, that whoever wore it at their death should not suffer eternally (Carmelites); 2. White, of the Holy Trinity (Trinitarians); 3. Black, of the Seven Dolors (Servites); 4. Blue, of the Immaculate Conception, to which unusually large indulgences have been granted (Theatines); 5. Red, of the Passion, revealed to a Sister of Charity in 1846, with the promise that those who wear it shall receive every Friday a large increase of Faith, hope, and charity (blessed by Vincentians). It is necessary to have a scapular blessed and to be invested with it (but not on renewal).

Scrupule — A fear of actions being sinful, without sufficient ground for it.

Septuagint (Seventy) — The chief Greek version of the Old Testament, so called because it is believed to have been approved by the Sanhedrin, or because, according to legend, seventy-two men were employed on the translation. It was probably made in the third century B.C. Most of the citations from the Old Testament in the New are out of it.

Simony — To barter any sacred office or thing for money or temporal consideration, so called from Simon Magus (Acts 7).