

Catechist Tip Sheet

THE LANGUAGE OF CATECHESIS

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS OFTEN USED IN OUR FAITH

APOLOGETICS

A type of theology in which people use reason and belief to explain the teachings of the Catholic faith, especially to non-believers

CANON LAW

The rules of norms that govern the Catholic Church.

CANON OF THE SCRIPTURES

The official listing of books that the Catholic Church believes are the Word of God written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There are 73 books in the canon (46 Old Testament/27 New Testament). This is a different number of books than are found in the Protestant Bible

CATECHUMENATE

The second period of the RCIA process in which those preparing for initiation into the Christian community grow in their understanding of the Word of God, worship, community life, and the call to service

DEPOSIT OF FAITH

The legacy of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition through which God reveals himself to us

DOCTRINE

An official Catholic teaching, revealed by Jesus and proclaimed by the teaching authority of the Church

DOGMA

An infallible teaching of the Church that must be believed by members of the Church

KERYGMA

The Apostolic proclamation of the Gospel message; salvation through Jesus Christ

