

## FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

Within the Catholic Faith, we often use technical terms which could be confusing. It was suggested to me that I should make a glossary of terms for people in this article. A special thanks to [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) for providing this glossary. Please check out their website for more definitions.

**Alb:** The white garment covering one's street dress. This is a symbol of our Baptismal garment.

**Altar:** A table on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. It is the center of importance in the place where the Mass is celebrated. Also called: The Table of the Lord.

**Altar Servers:** Those who assist the priest at Mass

**Aspergillum:** A vessel or device used for sprinkling holy water. The ordinary type is a metallic rod with a bulbous tip which absorbs the water and discharges it at the motion of the user's hand.

**Blessed Sacrament:** The Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, whether at the Mass or reserved in a special place in the Church

**Book of Gospels:** The book which contains the Gospel texts, from which the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel of the day.

**Bread and Wine:** The elements used in the celebration of Eucharist (unleavened bread and natural pure wine).

**Breaking of the Bread:** The celebrant recreates gestures of Christ at the Last Supper when He broke the bread to give to His disciples. The action signifies that in communion we who are many are made one in the one Bread of Life which is Christ. The early Church called the Mass, "The breaking of the bread."

**Cantor:** One who leads song during the liturgy.

**Chalice:** The sacred cup used to hold the wine which becomes the Blood of Christ.

**Chasuble:** The vestment worn over the alb by priests, bishops and Pope when celebrating the Mass.

**Ciborium** (*plural: ciboria*): A vessel used to hold the bread – which becomes the Body of Christ – for the distribution of Communion.

**Cincture:** The liturgical belt (often a rope) worn around the alb.

**Concelebrant:** Priest who is not presiding at Mass, but who is participating

**Dalmatic:** The vestment the deacon wears over the alb and stole.

**Deacon:** An ordained minister who assists the Presider at the Liturgy of the Word and at the Altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** Those lay persons who assist in the distribution of communion.

**Host:** The bread under whose appearances Christ is and remains present in a unique manner after the consecration of the Mass. Known also as the Eucharist. (See also Blessed Sacrament)

**IHS:** In Greek, the first three letters of the holy name of Jesus.

**Incense:** Incense (material used to produce a fragrant odor when burned) is used as a symbol of the Church's offering and prayer going up to God.

**Lectionary:** The book that contains all the readings from the Scriptures for use in the celebration of the liturgy.

**Liturgy:** The public prayer of the Church.

**Paten:** The plate used to hold the Eucharistic Bread.

**Presider's Chair:** The place where the celebrant sits. It expresses his office of presiding over the assembly and of leading the prayer of those present.

**Processional Cross:** The cross carried in the processions.

**Reader (a.k.a. Lector):** One who is called upon to proclaim the Scriptures during the Liturgy of the Word.

**Roman Missal:** The book used by the celebrant, containing all the prayers for the liturgy of the Mass.

**Sacristy:** The room which holds the vestments, bread and wine, and other things needed for Mass.

**Sacristan:** Person who sets up for Mass.

**Sanctuary:** That part of the church where the Altar is located.

**Stole:** The vestment worn around the neck by all ordained ministers. For priests, bishops and Pope, it hangs down in front (under the chasuble); the deacons wear it over their left shoulder crossed and fastened at the right side.

**Tabernacle:** Place in the church where the Eucharist or Sacred Species is reserved.

**Vestment:** A general term for the vesture the ministers wear.