Glossary of Jesuit and Catholic terminology
The source for most of these definitions is the Catholic Encyclopedia.

A.M.D.G.: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (Latin), meaning "For the greater glory of God." It is the motto of the Society of Jesus.

**Apostolic Nuncio:** Church term for the Vatican ambassador to another country and the papal liaison with the Church in that country. An apostolic nuncio, also called a papal nuncio, is always an archbishop. In a country with which the Vatican does not have diplomatic relations, the official Vatican liaison with the Church is called an apostolic delegate. Papal representatives in the United States were apostolic delegates until 1984, when full diplomatic relations were established.

**Archbishop:** An archbishop or metropolitan, in the present sense of the term, is a bishop who governs a diocese strictly his own, while he presides at the same time over the bishops of a well-defined district composed of simple dioceses but not of provinces. Hence none of these subordinate bishops rule over others. These bishops are called the suffragans. The archbishop's own diocese is the archdiocese. The several dioceses of the district form the archiepiscopal, or metropolitan, province. The title of archbishop is given automatically to bishops who govern archdioceses. It is also given to certain other high-ranking church officials, notably Vatican ambassadors, the secretaries of Vatican congregations and the presidents of pontifical councils.

**Archdiocese:** This term does not designate an ecclesiastical province, but only that diocese of the province which is the archbishop’s own, and over which he holds immediate and exclusive jurisdiction.

**Auxiliary bishop:** A bishop assigned to a Catholic diocese or archdiocese to assist its residential bishop. Whether in a diocese or archdiocese, his title is bishop.

**Bishop:** The highest order of ordained ministry in Catholic teaching; the title of an ecclesiastical dignitary who possesses the fullness of the priesthood to rule a diocese as its chief pastor, in due submission to the primacy of the pope.

**Cathedra:** The chair of a bishop in his cathedral church at which he presides at solemn functions.

**Cathedral:** The chief church of a diocese, in which the bishop has his chair. It is, properly speaking, the bishop’s church, wherein he presides, teaches, and conducts worship.

**College of Consulters:** A stable body involved in the governance of a diocese. It is composed of between 6 and 12 priests and is presided over by the diocesan bishop. Members are chosen by the bishop from among the members of the presbyteral council. The bishop is required by canon law to consult with the College on certain matters and to obtain their consent on other matters about which he must make a decision (Canon 502).
Contemplatives in action: A phrase that embodies the creative tension between Jesuits’ full embrace of concrete action and their attentiveness to where God may call them next.

Crosier: The crosier is an ecclesiastical ornament, resembling a shepherd’s staff, which is conferred on bishops at their consecration and on mitred abbots at their investiture, and which is used by these prelates in performing certain solemn functions. It is a symbol of the office of bishop.

Dean/Vicar: The title of a priest appointed by the bishop to aid him in administering the parishes in a certain vicinity, called a "deanery." The function of a dean involves promotion, coordination, and supervision of the common pastoral activity within the deanery or vicariate.

Diocese: The territory or churches subject to the jurisdiction of a bishop.

Ecclesiastical: An ecclesiastical administrative district under the jurisdiction of an archbishop. The seven dioceses in the state of Florida — St. Augustine, Miami, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Palm Beach and Venice — make up one province that is led by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Miami. The Code of Canon Law spells out certain limited obligations and authority that the metropolitan archbishop has with respect to the dioceses within his province.

Father General: The Superior General of the Society of Jesus is addressed as Father General, a term that harkens back to the early military career of Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society.

First studies: A two- to three-year period during which Jesuit scholastics, as Jesuit seminarians are known, study at various universities while also serving the ministry needs of a local church.

First and Final Vows: The novitiate (see term below) concludes with the novice pronouncing his First Vows—perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. After completing tertianship (see term below), the Superior General of the Society of Jesus invites men to pronounce their Final Vows—perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, plus a fourth vow of obedience to go wherever the pope finds them needed.

Formation: The education and training of Jesuits, called formation, is a multifaceted process, typically taking 10 to 12 years and involving several stages: novitiate, first studies, regency, theology studies, and tertianship. The goal of formation is the holistic integration of education, experience, and values so that a Jesuit priest or brother will be prepared to serve where the need is greatest and where he can make the greatest contribution. A “formed” Jesuit is one whose life is grounded in his relationship to Jesus; freed by his vows to serve; committed to partnering with laypersons; immersed in our contemporary culture; and dedicated to the faith that does justice.

Holy See: The primary official term of reference for the Diocese of Rome, as the chief diocese of Catholic Christendom; used to refer to the pope and the Roman Curia — congregations, tribunals, and various other offices — in their role of authority over and service to the Catholic Church around the world.
Installation: In common usage, installation usually refers to the assumption of duties by a local ordinary, generally the diocesan bishop. The technical assumption of duties by the bishop-designate basically occurs when he presents his apostolic letter of appointment to the diocesan College of Consultors. One frequently sees, however, and with ample appropriateness, a more ceremonial and public liturgical celebration of that ecclesial event in the form of an “installation Mass,” which opens the pastoral administration of the new bishop.

*Magis* (Latin), meaning more: The term traditionally used by St. Ignatius and the Jesuits to suggest the spirit of generous excellence—striving for the greater good—that drive our ministries.

*Mitre*: The mitre is the tall, pointed ceremonial cap worn as part of liturgical dress by a pope, bishop or abbot. It consists of two like parts, each stiffened by a lining and rising to a peak; these are sewn together on the sides, but are united above by a piece of material that can fold together. Two lappets trimmed on the ends with fringe hang down from the back.

*Novitiate*: This two-year period is the first stage of a Jesuit's formation as a religious and a minister. Novices learn about the Jesuit "way of proceeding" (see term below) by entering into the life of the Society of Jesus.

**Our way of proceeding**: “Certain attitudes, values, and patterns of behavior join together to become what has been called the Jesuit way of proceeding. The characteristics of our way of proceeding were born in the life of St. Ignatius and shared by his first companions.” Jerome Nadal writes that “the form of the Society is in the life of Ignatius [and they include] a deep personal love for Jesus Christ.” —Society of Jesus, General Congregation 34

*Pallium*: Special stole made of lamb's wool worn over the chasuble by the pope and archbishops; it signifies the communion of archbishops with the Holy See.

*Province*: A regional organization for the care of Jesuits within its boundaries and for the governance of affiliated ministries and work, a province usually comprises several contiguous states. In the United States, the Society of Jesus is organized into ten provinces or geographic regions, each headed by a provincial superior appointed by the Superior General in Rome. Miami is part of the Antilles Province.

*Provincial*: A Father Provincial leads each province, overseeing the spiritual needs of Jesuits and matters of governance, aided by a group of consultors and consultants. In the California Province, Jesuit and lay assistants are responsible for a variety of programs, from advancement to secondary education and international ministries.

*Regency*: A two- to three-year period during which Jesuit scholastics (see term below) work in ministries, often teaching in high schools or universities, while living in community.

*Sectors*: Traditionally, Jesuit apostolic ministries are grouped into one of three sectors: higher education, secondary and pre-secondary, and social-pastoral.
**Scholastic:** A Jesuit seminarian who has taken First Vows (see term above) and declared his intention to seek ordination as a priest.

**Socius:** The executive assistant or “second-in-command” to the provincial at each province’s administrative center, commonly known as the curia.

**Tertianship:** After three to five years in active ministry, a Jesuit spends a period of time in a tertianship program ranging from nine weeks over two summers to nine months to prepare for his Final Vows (see term above). The tertian, as he is called, spends time, often with a spiritual director, in seeking a deeper understanding of his life as a Jesuit.

**Theology studies:** Jesuits usually spend four years studying theology.

**Vespers:** Also called evening prayer, vespers is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the series of psalms, prayers and readings for different parts of the day that Catholic priests and deacons are obligated to pray daily. Often a new bishop will present his letter of appointment to the priests of the diocese during a vespers service at the cathedral.

**Vicar General:** A priest, auxiliary bishop or coadjutor bishop who assists the diocesan bishop in the governance of the entire diocese.

**Zucchetto:** Skull cap worn by the pope (white), bishops (purple) and cardinals (red).