Spirit of Christ
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

OCIA
ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

November 5, 2026

Announcements

1) Next Class is Nov. 12
2) Parish Mission Nov 16-18
3) Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate/Verification, Sponsor Form, Saint Form- Due December 17
4) Continue to pray and develop your prayer life



St. Elizabeth

Feast Day: November 5

Loving and merciful God, we thank you for planting the gift of faith in our hearts. We lift up to you all those in the OCIA process. Strengthen their faith and open their hearts to the fullness of Your love. Help them to persevere through any difficulties and bless them with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they learn to walk with You day by day. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Presented by:
Jolene Stolz



Introduction to

God's Plan for Human Love



What is Love?

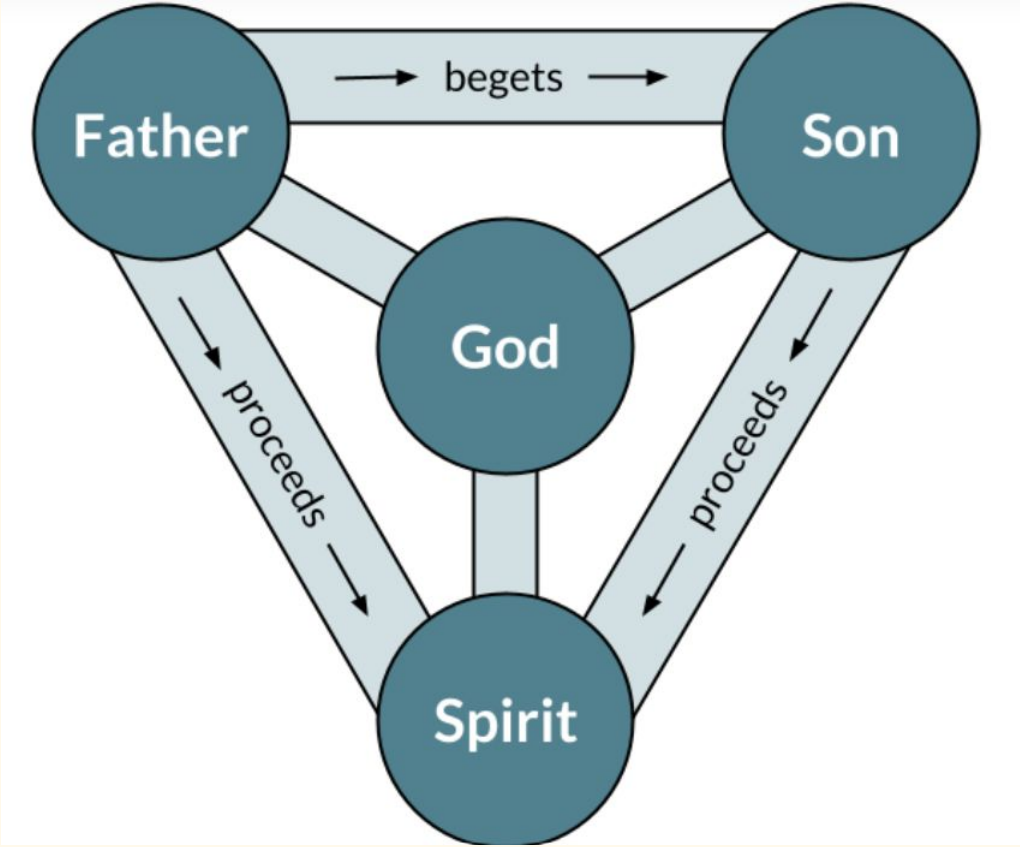






God is

Love

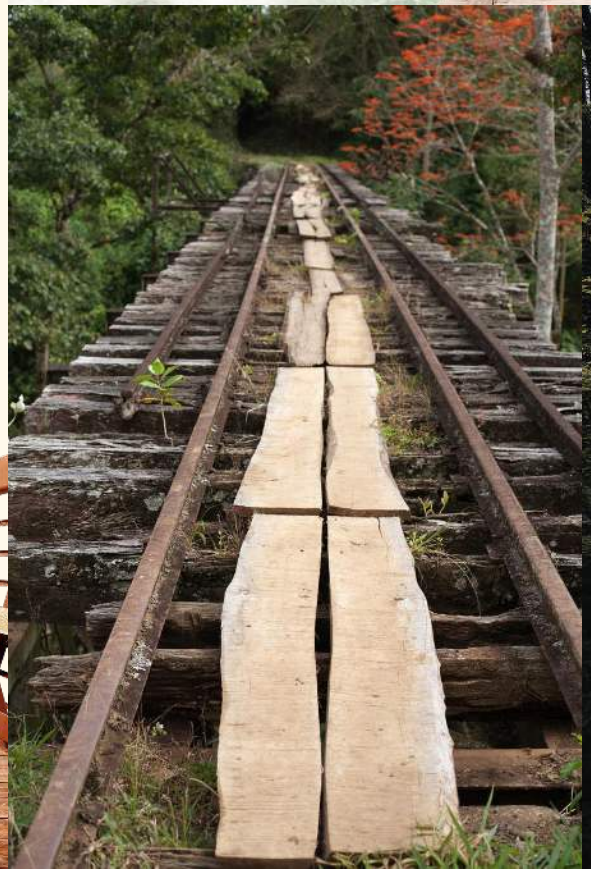


Beauty,

Goodness

& Truth









Theology of the Body

"The study of God" of the body

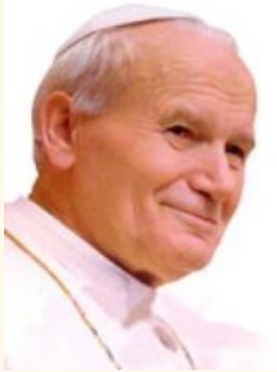
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Theology of the Body

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:14



"THE BODY, IN FACT, AND ONLY THE BODY,
IS CAPABLE OF MAKING VISIBLE WHAT IS INVISIBLE:
THE SPIRITUAL AND THE DIVINE."

~ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II, THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Adequate Anthropology



A total vision of man and of his vocation, natural and earthly, but also his supernatural and eternal vocation

Triptych of the Human Person:

- Original Man-how we were made
- Historical Man-who we are today
- Eschatological Man-what we are to be.









Natural Law

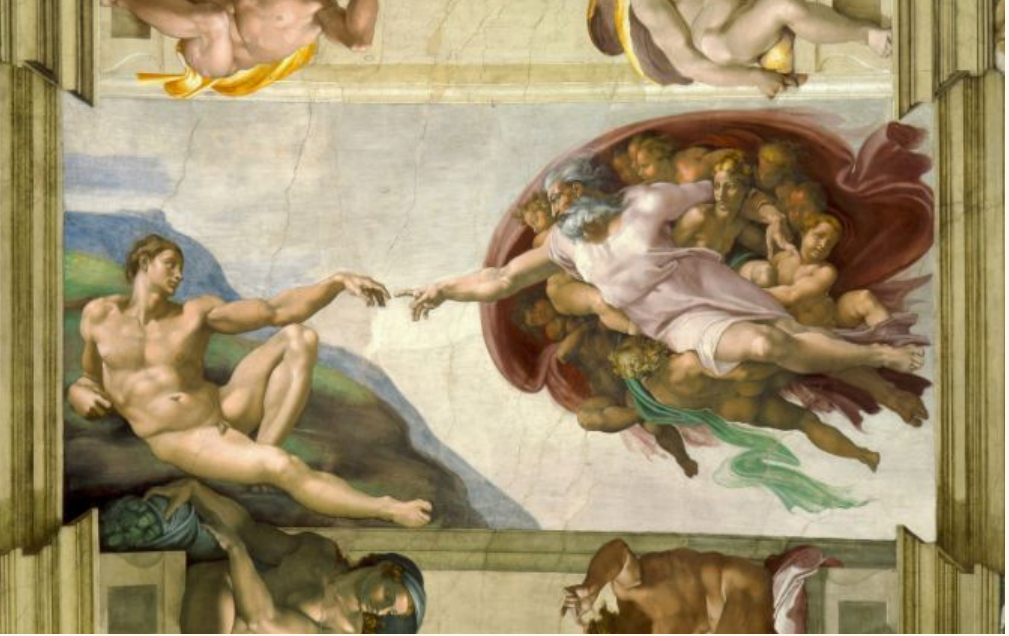


"I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts."

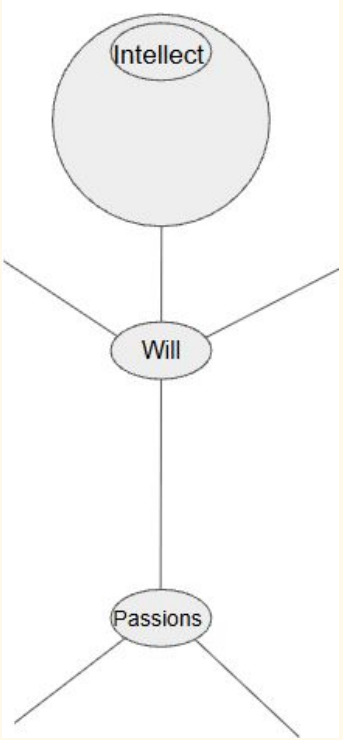
-Jeremiah 31:33

Man's rational participation in God's eternal law.

- What is the nature of an object?
- What is its intended purpose?
- When does it cease to be that object?



Original Man



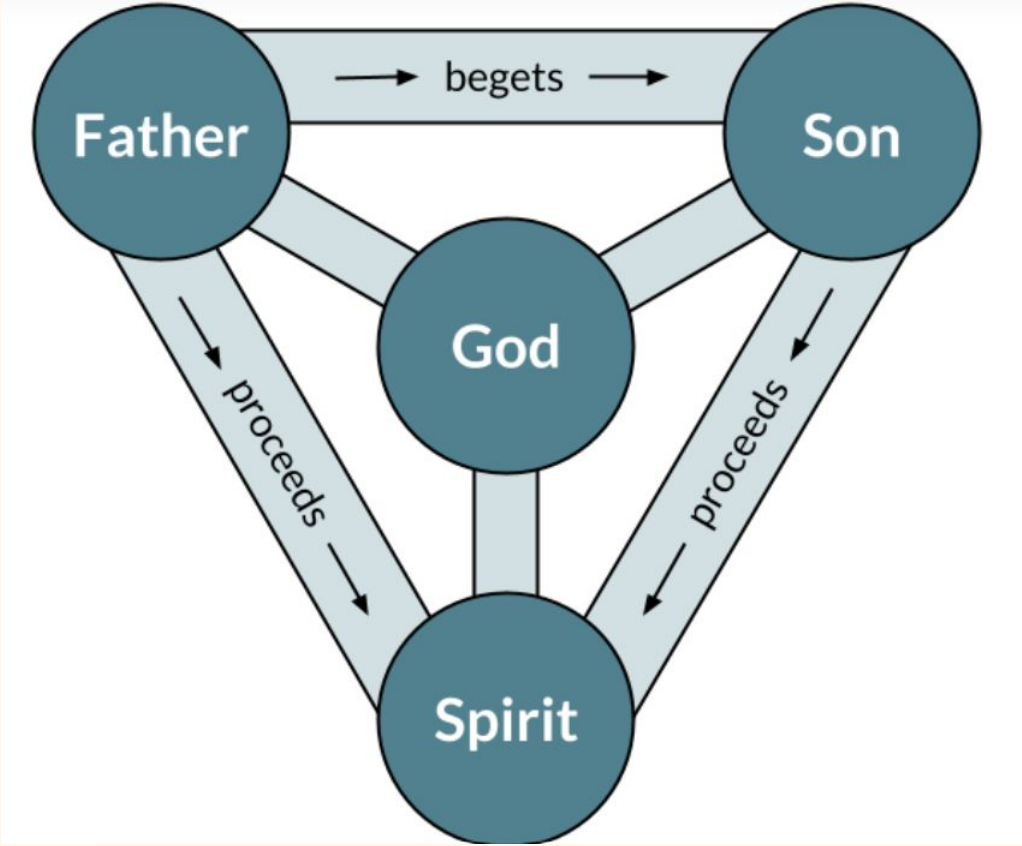
Original Solitude-Different than the animals, made in God's Image and Likeness, made for communion with God
Original Unity-Made to be in communion, 4 harmonies with God, Self, Others, Creation
Original Nakedness-No barriers to communication, inner and outer freedom. Interior Gaze. Self-gift, to be given

What does

Image and Likeness

even mean?

. . . .



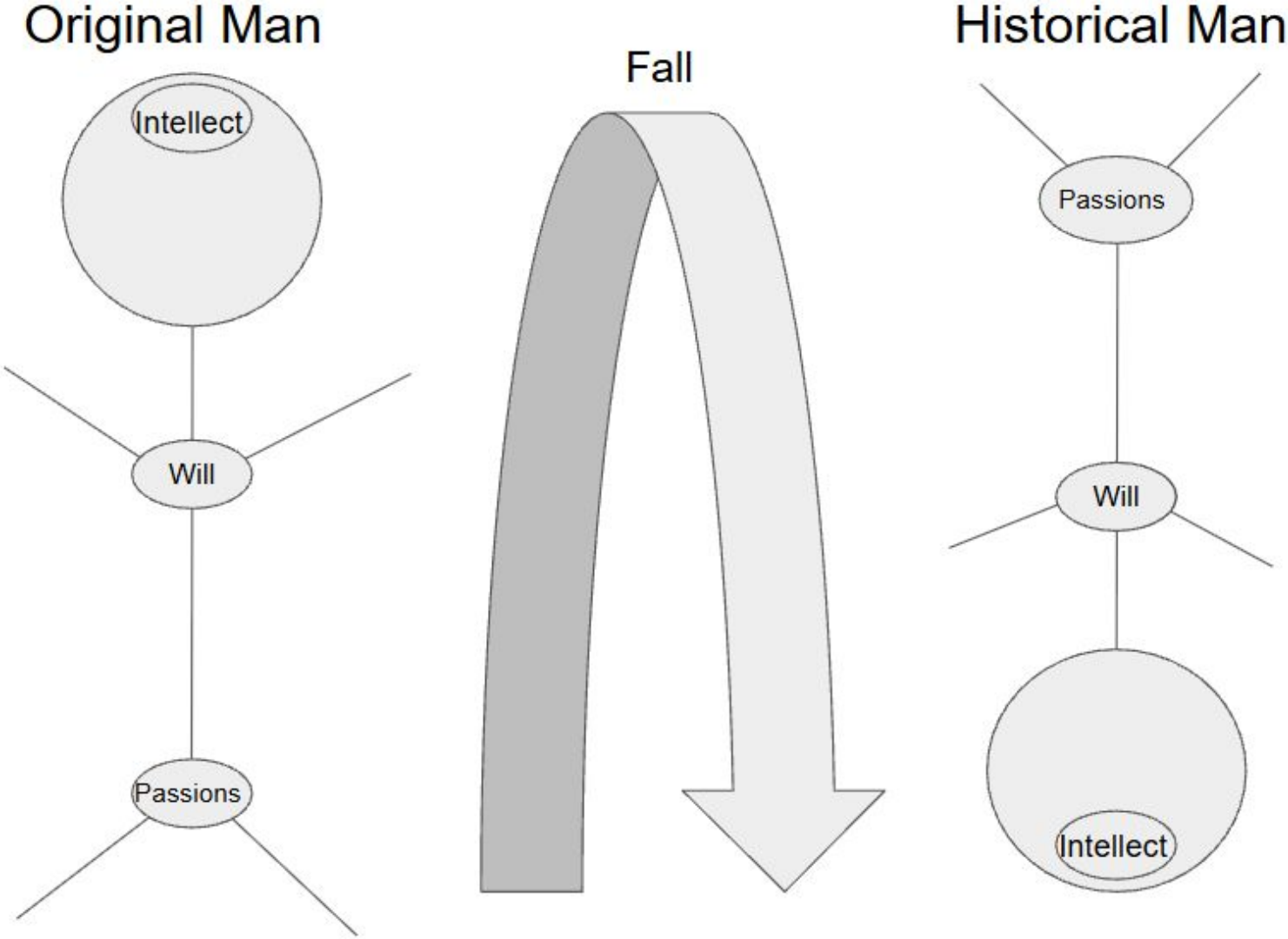
The Spousal Meaning of the Body

Historical Man

G.K. Chesterton once said it is surprising that people have rejected the doctrine of original sin because it is the only doctrine that can be empirically verified.



The human experience





Eschatological Man

- *Ephesians 5: 21-33*
- *Spousal Love*
- *The Great Mystery of Christ and the Church*



We are not there yet!



4 Marks of God's Love

- **Free-** No one takes my life from me, I lay it down on my own accord.
  - John 10:18
- **Total-** He loved them to the last.
  - John 13:1
- **Faithful-** I am with you always.
  - Matthew 28:20
- **Fruitful-** I have come that they might have life.
  - John 10:10





Natural Law

Sexual Union is inherently Unitive and Procreative

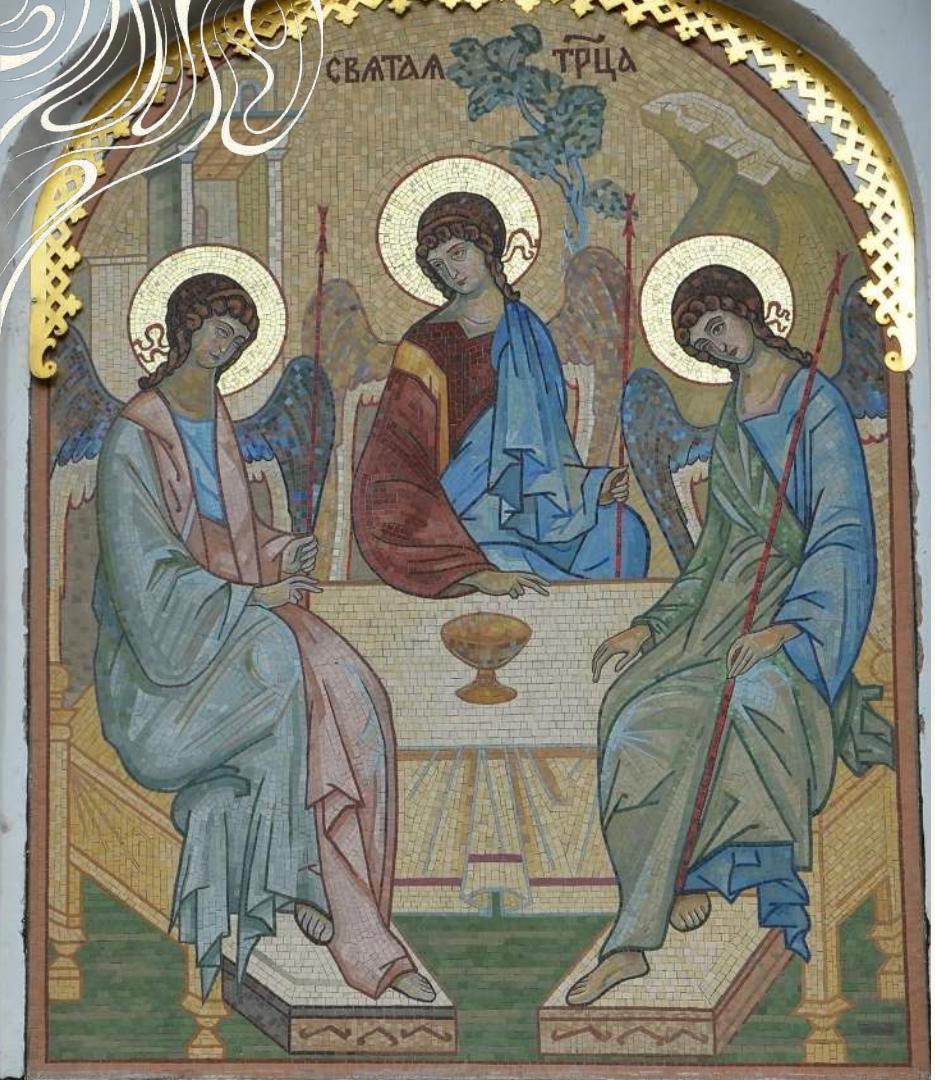
The Truth about Sex

Are these authentic expressions of Love?

Ask yourself these 2 questions when thinking of the morality of an act:

- Is this action an act of Free, Total, Faithful, & Fruitful love?
- Does this act separate the unitive and procreative nature of sexuality?

- Fornication/Adultery
- Masturbation
- Pornography
- Divorce
- Contraception
- Oral Sex
- Sterilization
- Homosexual acts
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Artificial Insemination
- Gender Confusion/Changes



Truth or Lies?

Icon or Idol?

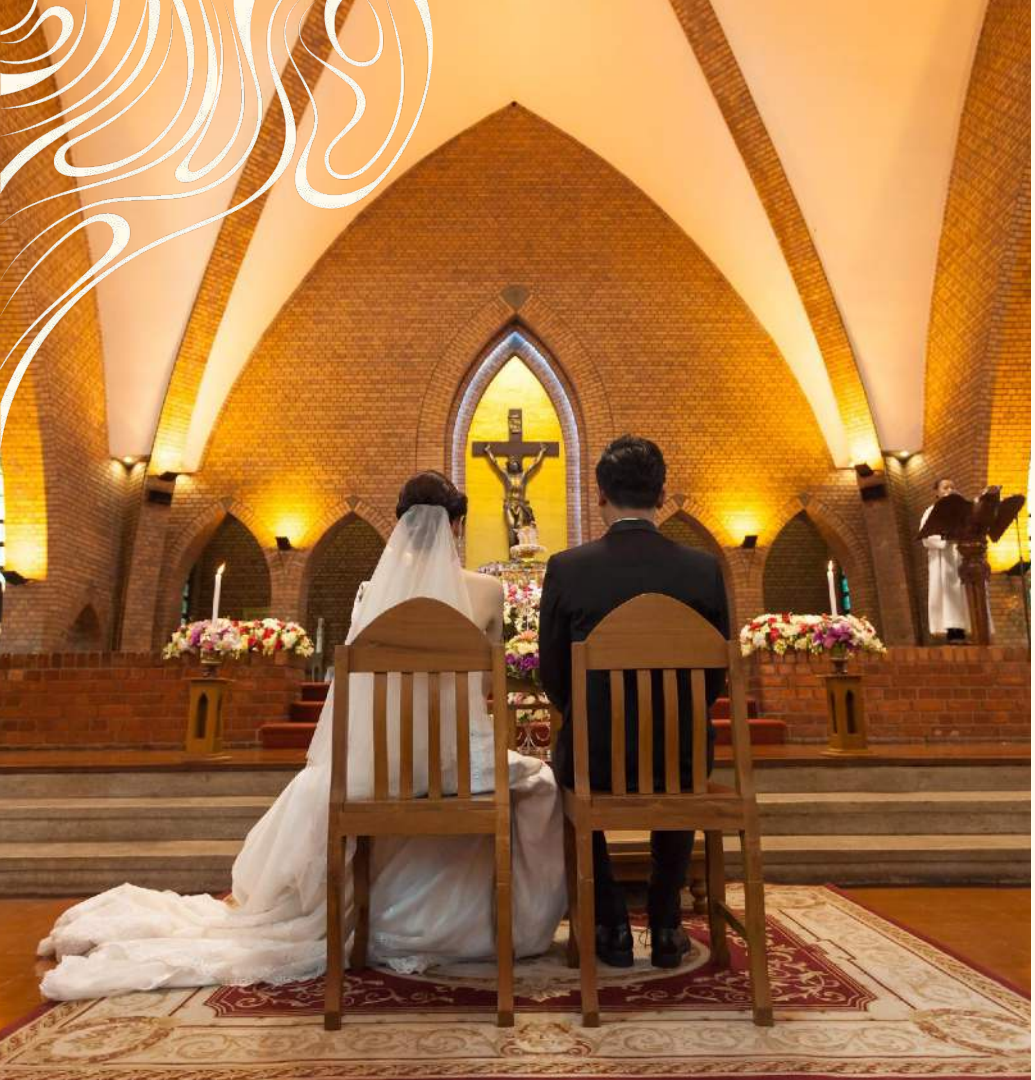
Our sexuality is an icon of the Holy Trinity, but if we lose sight of that, our sexuality can become an idol. Instead of pointing toward the ultimate union with God in Heaven, we point sex inward, towards ourselves, towards selfishness and pleasure.

Adultery in the Heart

Authentic Love or Lust?

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. -Matthew 5:27-28

Lust is disordered desire for or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes. -CCC 2351



Sexual Honesty

- Am I telling the truth with my body or am I telling lies?
- Is it a sign of God’s love or a counter-sign? Is it a Sacrament and an anti-sacrament?



Purity of Heart

CCC 2520

He will prevail... by the virtue and gift of chastity, for chastity lets us love with upright and undivided heart;

....."I thought that chastity arose from one's own powers, which I did not recognize in myself. I was foolish enough not to know ... that no one can be chaste unless you grant it. For you would surely have granted it if my inner groaning had reached your ears and I with firm faith had cast my cares on you." -St. Augustine



Humanae Vitae

Pope Paul VI

- All Christian denominations universally opposed artificial contraception until 1930, when the Anglican became the first major denomination to approve it under grave circumstances.
- In 1960, the first oral contraceptive pill became widely available.
- In 1961, other Christian denomination began supporting artificial birth control for married couples.
- On July 25, 1968, St. Paul VI issued Humanae Vitae.
- Not the response people were expecting.



Humanae Vitae

Predictions and Societal Consequences

- A General Lowering of Moral Standards
- A Loss of Respect for Women
- The Abuse of Power by Public Authorities
- A False Sense of Human Omnipotence



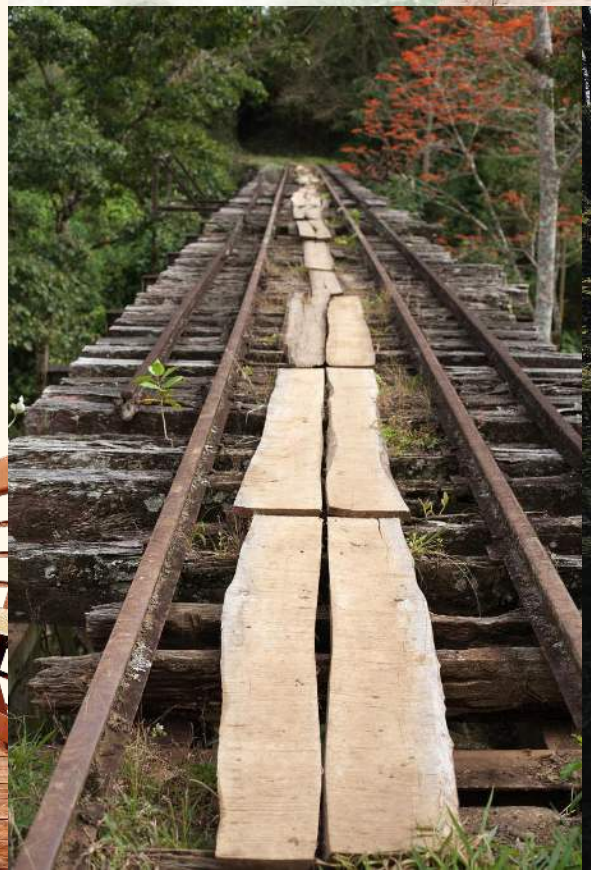
Humanae Vitae
Teaching and Appeal

- Inseparable Bond-unitive and procreative
- Rejection of Artificial Contraception
- Natural Family Planning (NFP)
- Responsible Parenthood
- Highlights-Natural Law, promotes chastity and value of self-discipline.
- Appeal to Authorities
- Seeking solutions- Appeal to married couples, priests, doctors, nurses and scientists.

Everyone is on this same journey...











Resources:

- John Paul II Healing Center: https://jpiihealingcenter.org/
  - Book: Be Restored by Dr. Bob Schuchts
  - Book: Be Devoted by Dr. Bob Schuchts
- Ascension Presents: The Secret about Sex and Holiness
- Ascension Presents: Why God Gave Us Bodies
- Book: The Good News About Sex and Marriage by Christopher West
- The Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz-Episodes/Days 50-53, 56, 57, 219-227, 232, 304-312, 324, 325
- Green Sex: The Case for Natural Family Planning by Jason Evert
- Theology of the Body Series talks from Amy Mintz
  - Divine Plan for Human Love - In the Beginning, Back to the Garden - Part 1
  - Divine Plan for Human Love- I Was made for this - Part 2
  - Divine Plan for Human Love- On Human Life - Part 3
- Sexual Addiction Resources
  - Road to Purity
  - The Freedom Group

Discussion Questions

1. What is one thing you learned that you didn't know before today? How does the new knowledge impact your view on this topic?

2. Are you inclined to view God’s commands as imposing and burdensome or comforting and freeing? Why?

3. In your own upbringing, how were you taught about human love/sexuality? How did this affect you?

4. How can you work toward seeking the beautiful and good when dealing with the difficult truths of the faith?