

Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 10, General Audience of Nov. 21, 1979

Masculinity and Femininity

- Reminder: For JPII's language sex means masculinity and femininity, not the conjugal act
- Significance of “flesh of my flesh”, “bone of my bone” language
 - Two incarnations of original solitude before God
 - Two reciprocal ways of being body and human
 - Two complementary dimensions of subjectivity
- Sex demonstrates how the body is constituted as he or she
- Sex is an enrichment of man for salvation history

Original Unity

- Original unity is expressed and realized in the conjugal act
- Masculinity and femininity allows males and females to place their whole humanity under the blessing of fruitfulness
- “Two shall become one” entails an obligation from “the beginning” of seeing the fullness and depth proper to this unity in light of theology of the body
- “When they unity with each other (in the conjugal act) so closely so as to become “one flesh,” man and woman rediscover every time and in a special way the mystery of creation, thus returning to the union in humanity that allows them to recognize each other reciprocally and to call each other by name, as they did the first time.” TOB 10:2, (p. 167).

Original Unity, Continued

- This return to the original experience of the first man is a reliving of the virginal value of man
- “One flesh”
 - Established by God
 - A discovery of one’s own humanity in original unity and reciprocal attraction
- Sex expresses the ever new surpassing of the limit of man’s solitude
 - This surpassing is a taking upon oneself the solitude of the body of the second I as one’s own

Original Unity and Self-Determination

- Original unity and the conjugal act is a union derived from choice
- Reciprocal choice establishes this covenant between persons
- This choice is an expression of self-determination and has its foundation in the self-consciousness of the body
- The conjugal union
 - Implies a certain awareness of the body in the mutual self-giving of persons
 - A new discovery of the original consciousness of the unitive meaning of the body as masculine and feminine
 - Every union is a renewal of the mystery of creation in all of its original depth and vital power

Thank You for Watching

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