

An Undivided Heart: How Mary Unites What Sin Divides According to John Paul II's Theology of the Body

Ann M. Michalica

Advisors: Dr. Gloria Dodd, Dr. Jana Bennett

Research Questions

- What can Mary teach us about being human?
- How does Mary illustrate John Paul II's personalism (human subjectivity) in Theology of the Body (TOB)?

Method

- I compared the themes of TOB to Mary's life, using Scripture and the Marian Dogmas.
- Sources: John Paul II's TOB, Scripture, Papal Encyclicals, and secondary sources.

Conclusion

- TOB affirms the human person as a subject who is created to enter into a self-giving relationship.
- Mary exemplifies this in her expression of self-giving love and shows humanity that relationship with God is personalistic and spousal.

What Sin Divides...

Creature & Creator

When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree against God's command, they grasped instead of receiving from their Creator; thus, there was a disruption in the exchange of gift of love with God.

Body & Soul

When humanity separated from God, the body and soul, once perfectly united, were divided. The spiritual and the sensible were separated.

Eros & Agape

With sin, love became twisted into lust, a desire for selfish pleasure instead of a total gift of self.

Mary Brings Together!



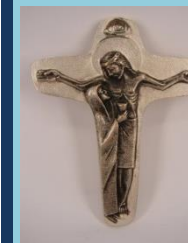
Immaculate Conception & Divine Motherhood

From conception, Mary remained united to God. In the Incarnation, she received God himself and gave herself totally by her consent and motherhood.



Perpetual Virginity & Assumption

Mary shows that the earthly spousal union is only a foretaste of the heavenly marriage with God. Mary's body and soul remained in perfect harmony in the resurrection of her body.



Eros & Agape

Mary embodied perfect, self-giving love. Mary acts as the mystical bride of Christ as the foot of the cross, receiving the Bridegroom's self-gift.

OLD COVENANT

God is the
Bridegroom of his
chosen people, Israel,
his Bride



MARY

At the foot of the
cross, mystical
nuptials take place
between Jesus, the
"New Adam," and
Mary, the "New Eve"



NEW COVENANT

At Mass, the Church,
the Bride, becomes
"one flesh" with
Christ, the
Bridegroom