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

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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)?

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.

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.

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.

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