



# Moral Teaching of the Catholic Church

FTCM Class Four



# Embodied Subject

- We experience the world through our bodies. Our soul too experiences the world through our bodies.




# Soul

- Our soul is the spiritual aspect of human beings.
- It is the spiritual principle that animates our spiritual life and truly makes us human.
- Our soul is immortal and is not separated from our bodies. (except at death where it will be reunited with our bodies in the final resurrection)



# Sanctity of the Body

- God intended for us to be body AND soul.
- Our bodies therefore are good.

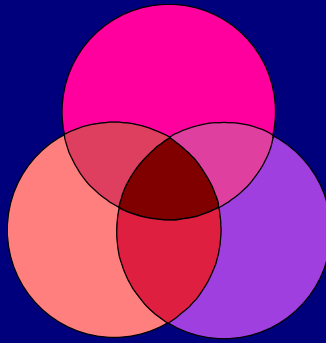
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- “The life God has given us includes our bodily life, which is integral to our *being* as human persons. So true is this that “to regard the body as a prison, or as an instrument or detachable launching rocket of the *real* person, is incompatible with the faith in which incarnation and redemption are central... The good of human life, protected, by God, is the good of bodily life.... Reverence for that bodily life is thus integral to one’s earthly existence.” – Mays, 253-254



# Remember:

- Our choices have both physical and spiritual effects.

# “Made in God’s Image”



“So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

[Gen.1:27]



# Made in God's Image

- The climax of creation story is when God created humans on the sixth day.
  - God created man and woman
    - 1:27 God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.



# Image and Likeness

- What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God?
  - We have self awareness and self knowledge
  - We alone can know God and return his love.



# Human Dignity

- We are created in the image and likeness of God.
  - CCC 1700
    - “The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God.”



- God did not create us to be alone
  - He created two
  - We are most fully in the divine image when together as man and woman.



# Sanctity of Life

- All human life is sacred from conception to natural end.



# Sexuality

- CCC 2332

- “Sexuality affects all aspects of the human person in the unity of his body and soul. It especially concerns affectivity, the capacity to love and to procreate, and in more general way the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others.”



- A gift from God
- Chastity as stewardship of gift of sexuality
- Chastity is an expression of dignity



# Chastity

- CCC 2337

- “Chastity means the successful integration of sexuality within the person and thus the inner unity of man in his bodily and spiritual being. Sexuality, in which man’s belonging to the bodily and biological world is expressed, becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete and life long mutual gift of a man and a woman.”



□ CCC 2341

- “The virtue of chastity comes under the cardinal virtue of *temperance*, which seeks to permeate the passions and appetites of the senses with reason.”



## □ CCC 2349

- “People should cultivate [chastity] in the way that is suited to their state of life. Some profess virginity or consecrated celibacy which enables them to give themselves to God alone with an undivided heart in a remarkable manner. Others live in the way prescribed for all by the moral law, whether they are married or single” (CDF) Married people are called to live conjugal chastity others practice chastity in continence
  - There are three forms of the virtue of chastity: the first is that of spouses, the second that of widows and the third that of virgins. We do not praise any of them to the exclusion of the others....This is what makes for the richness of the discipline of the Church. (St. Ambrose)”



# Sexuality

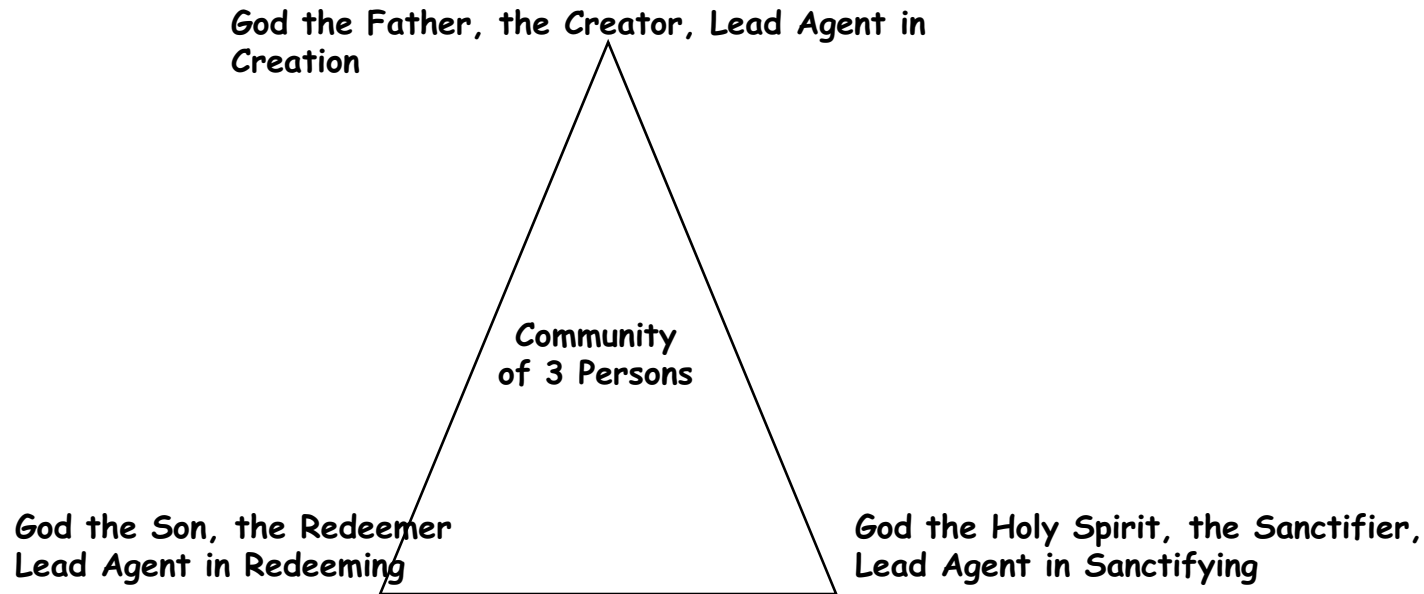
- Sexuality is a gift of maleness and femaleness from God designed for the purpose of expressing, sharing, and creating love. It is good and beautiful. The genital dimension of that gift involves the total giving of oneself to another. Commitment in marriage best provides the security, safety, trust, and vulnerability needed for expressing this gift.



# Marriage

- Defined CCC page 887 “A covenant or partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament.”

# The Dogma of the Trinity



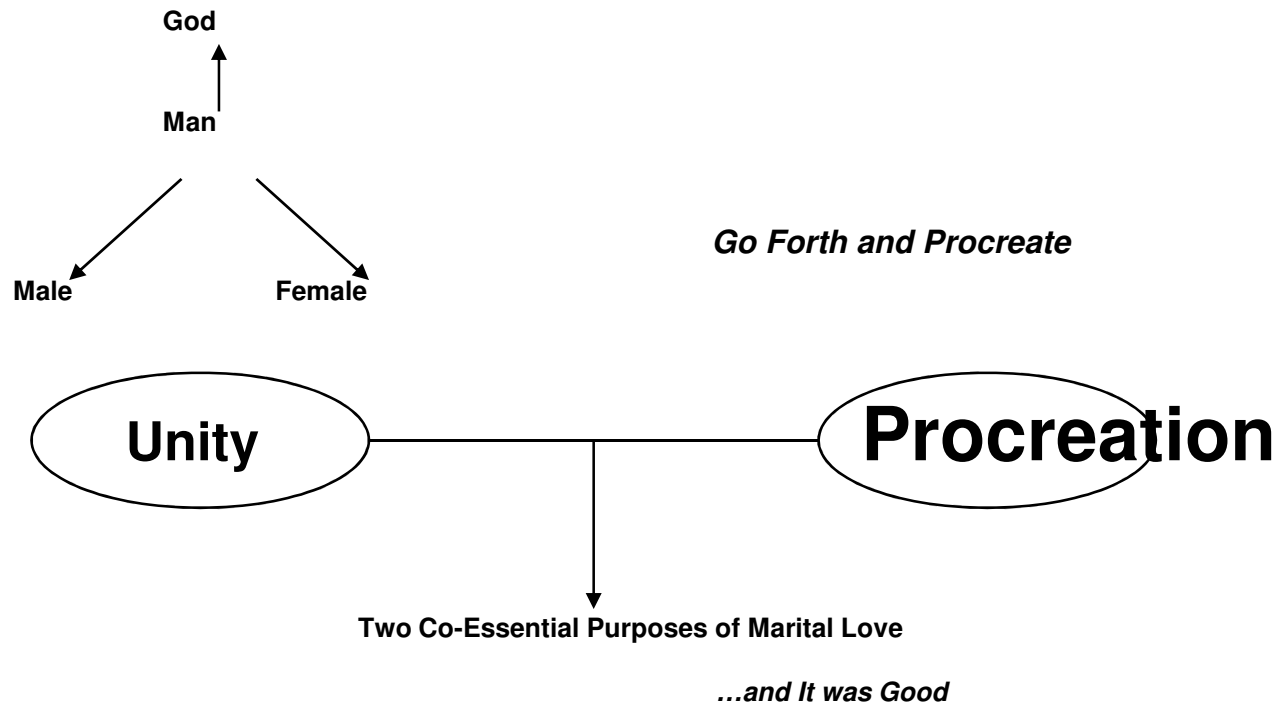
- Reveals a communion of 3 persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in nature/substance, distinct in persons, a unity within their relationship.
- **Divine Mathematics**  $1+1+1=1$
- **Marriage**  $1+1=1$



# The Dogma of the Trinity

- The Trinitarian relationship reveals
  - Mutuality (cooperative sharing)
  - Fidelity (to the point of death on the cross)
  - Perfect Unity
  - Perfect Love
  - Reciprocity (give and take)
  - Differentiation (separateness, uniqueness, no subordination, domination, or manipulation.)
  - Generativity (life-developing awareness of self and reaching out in service to others)

# Genesis 1:26, 27-28, 31 & Genesis 2:7, 15-18, 21-25





# Special Issues related to chastity

## ■ Premarital Intercourse

### □ CCC 2353

- Fornication is carnal union between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of person and of human sexuality which is naturally ordered to the good of spouses and the generation and education of children. Moreover it is a grave scandal when it is corruption of the young.



# Extramarital intercourse

- CCC 2380 & 2381

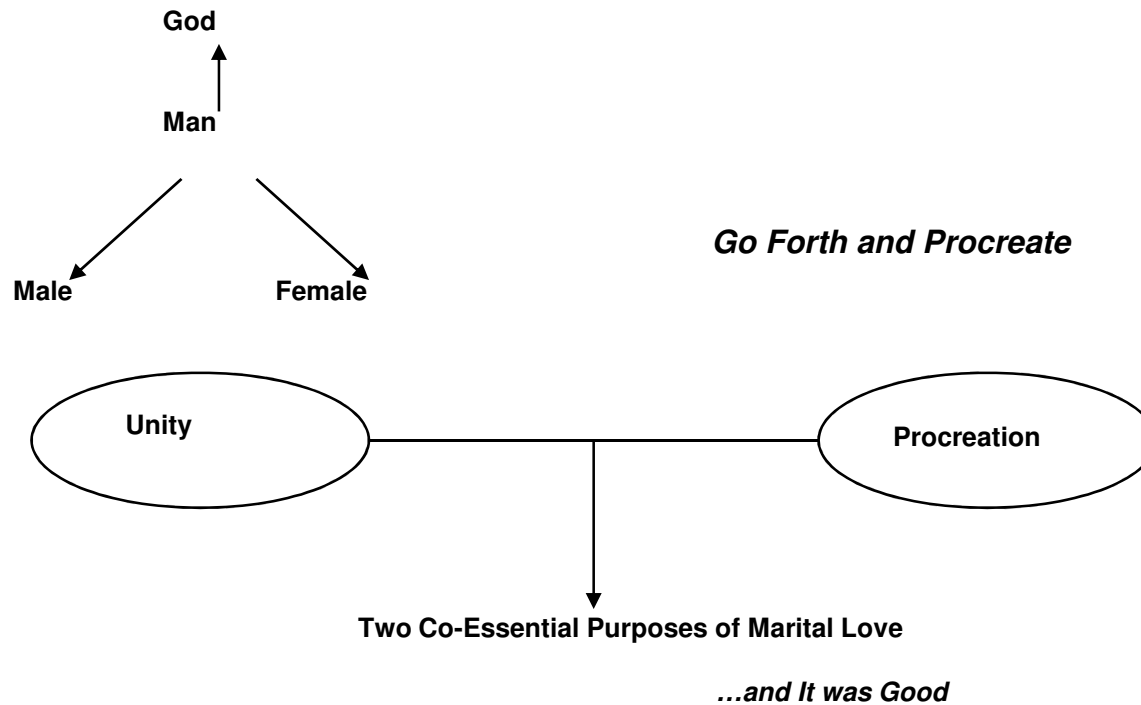
- Sixth commandment and the New Testament forbid adultery absolutely
- The prophets denounce the gravity of adultery; they see it as an image of the sin of idolatry.



# CCC 2380 & 2381

- Adultery is an injustice.
- Failure of commitment and does injury to the sigh of the covenant which the marriage bond is.
- Transgresses the rights of the other spouse.


# Artificial Contraception





# Contraception

- “it is not, of itself, a *sexual* act but rather an *anti-life* kind of act.”
- A “gateway to abortion”
- Widespread acceptance of contraception has led to the “culture of death”

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- “Falsifies’ the meaning of the conjugal act as one in which spouse give themselves unreservedly to one another.” – (Mays, p124\_
  - “contraception and abortion are often closely connected, as fruits of the same tree.” – JP II (Mays, p124)



# NFP

“There is some interesting experiential evidence of the differences between the use of NFP and contraception. There is evidence that it is very rare for couples using NFP to divorce, whereas over 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce.


Indeed, one researcher attributes 50 percent of the rise in the divorce rate from the early sixties to the midseventies to the increased use of contraction.”

Smith, Janet. *Humanae Vitae A Generation Later*. CUA Press. p127



# Masturbation

- ❑ By *masturbation* is to be understood the deliberate stimulation of the genital organs in order to derive sexual pleasure.
- ❑ firmly maintained that masturbation is an intrinsically and gravely disordered action.“
- ❑ The deliberate use of the sexual faculty, for whatever reason, outside of marriage is essentially contrary to its purpose.”

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- To form an equitable judgment about the subjects' moral responsibility and to guide pastoral action, one must take into account the affective immaturity, force of acquired habit, conditions of anxiety or other psychological or social factors that lessen, if not even reduce to a minimum, moral culpability

*(#2352, Catechism of the Catholic Church)*



# Homosexuality

- Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex.
  - Orientation
  - Activity



# Homosexuality

- They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.
- Homosexual persons are called to chastity.