

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FORMATION

"Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ."

- John Paul II on the inauguration of his pontificate

Intro to Theology of the Body



Who is Pope St. John Paul II?

Pope St. John Paul II

Born May 18, 1920 in Poland



Karol Wojtyla

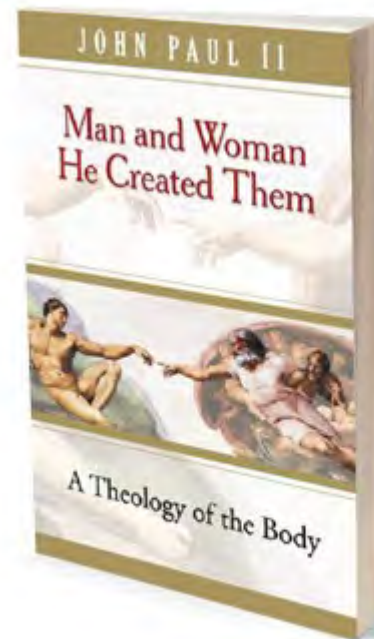
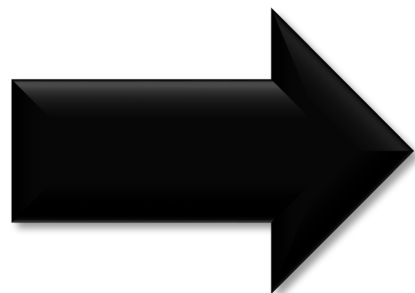


“The evil of our times consists in the first place in a kind of degradation, indeed in a pulverization, of the fundamental uniqueness of each human person.”



1968 Letter of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to Jesuit theologian Henri de Lubac; as cited in George Weigel, “John Paul II and the Crisis of Humanism,” *First Things*, December 1999, pp. 31-36

What is Theology of the Body?



An Overview of the Text

Part I: The Words of Christ

Chapter 1: Christ appeals to the “beginning”

Chapter 2: Christ appeals to the human heart

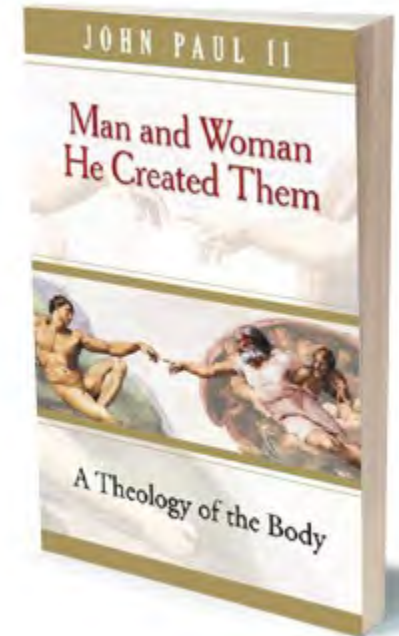
Chapter 3: Christ appeals to the resurrection

Part 2: The Sacrament

Chapter 1: The dimension of covenant and of grace

Chapter 2: The dimension of sign

Chapter 3: He gave them the law of life as their inheritance



A Letter to A Person on Their First Day Here – Kid President



What will our students say to a new human person?



Humans \neq Angels

Humans \neq Animals

Humans = Angimals?

**“The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the ‘form’ of the body: i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature”
(CCC 365).**

**“The body is not, contrary to Plato, only temporarily linked with the soul (as its earthly ‘prison,’ as Plato maintained), but that together with the soul it constitutes the unity and integrity of the human being”
(TOB 66:6).**

IN OTHER WORDS...

**The body doesn't contain the soul..
The soul contains the body?**



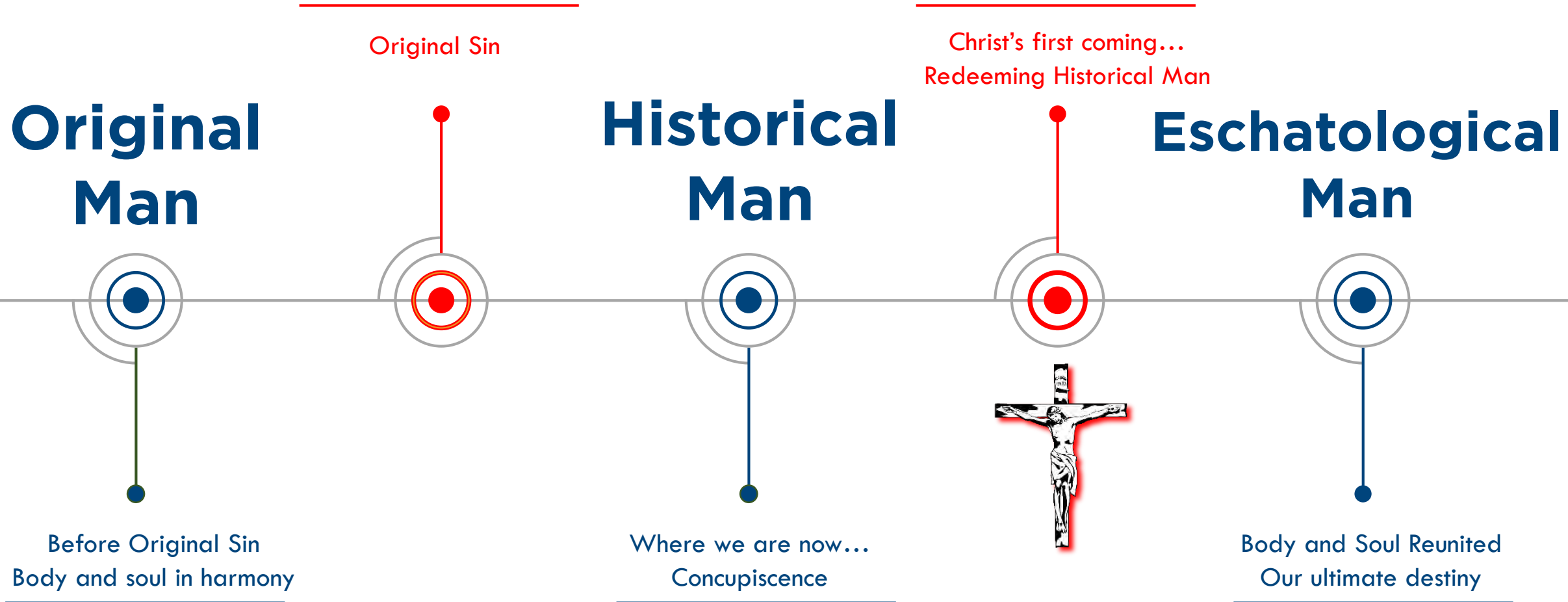
“There is not a single error of human history which is not a perversion of this mysterious body-soul unity.”

Bishop Fulton Sheen, *Three to Get Married: An Inspiring Guide to Love and Marriage*. New York, Scepter Publishers Inc., 1996 pg. 57

“Through the fact that the Word of God became flesh, the body entered theology...I would say, through the main door” (TOB 23:4).

“‘The flesh is the hinge of salvation.’ We believe in God who is creator of the flesh; we believe in the resurrection of the flesh, the fulfillment of both the creation and the redemption of the flesh” (CCC 1016).

HUMAN TIMELINE



Some Pharisees approached him, and tested him, saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”

He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’

and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

They said to him, “Then why did Moses command that the man give the woman a bill of divorce and dismiss [her]?”

He said to them, “Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

“Christ does not accept the discussion on the level on which his interlocutors try to introduce it...He avoids entangling himself in juridical or casuistic controversies; instead, he appeals twice to the ‘beginning.’...we must put ourselves exactly in the position of Christ’s interlocutors today” (TOB 1:2-4).

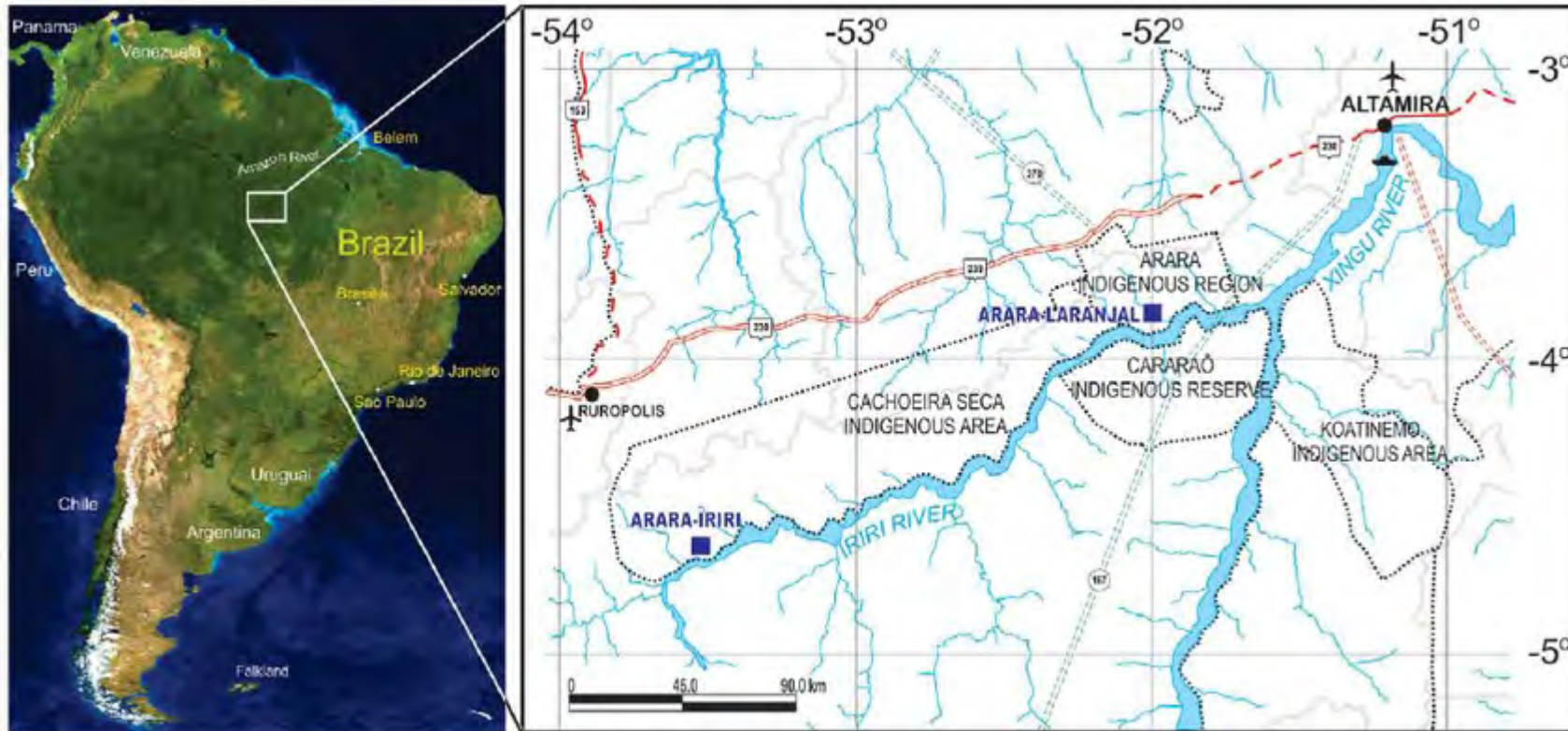




“We are dealing with a mythical language. In this case, in fact, the term ‘myth’ does not refer to fictitious-fabulous content, but simply to an archaic way of expressing a deeper content” (TOB 8:2).

The Creation Accounts of Genesis

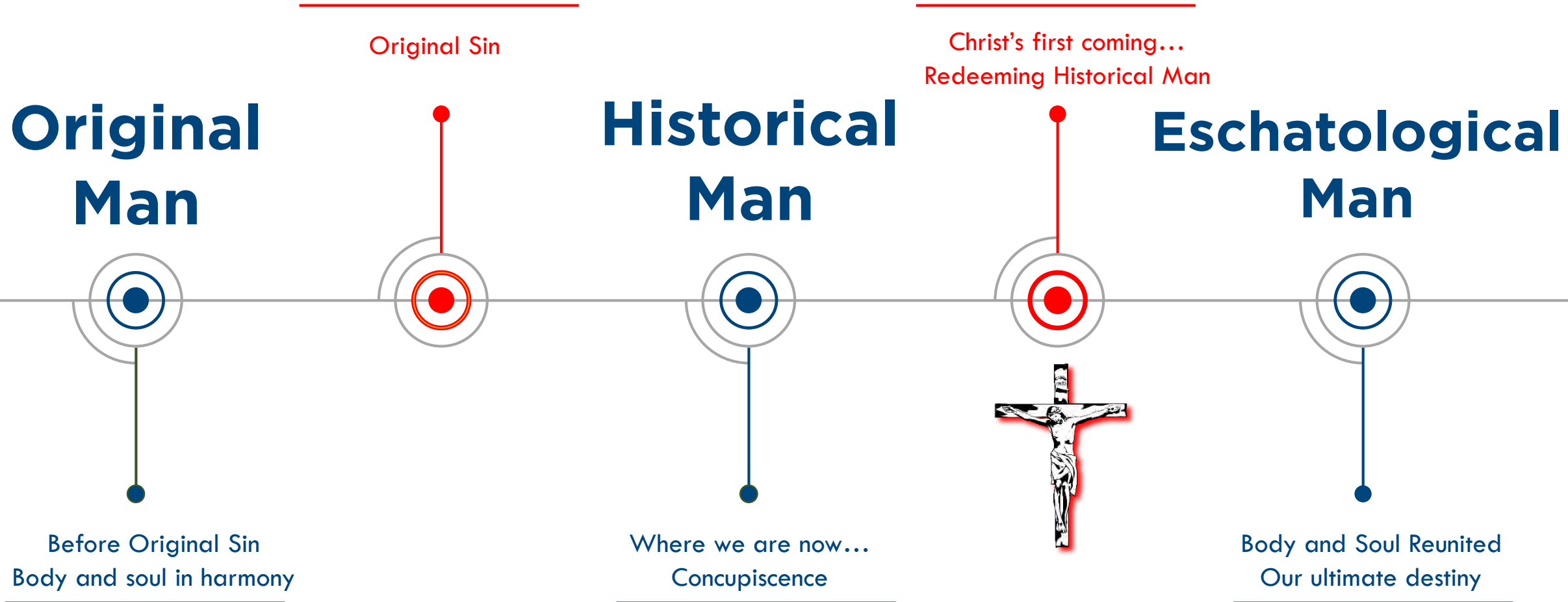
How many creation accounts in Genesis?



Genesis 1

Genesis 2

HUMAN TIMELINE



ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

Original Man



Original Solitude

The body reveals our dignity set apart from the rest of creation.



Original Unity

We find fulfillment in giving ourselves to another.



Original Nakedness

No barriers to communication. Inner and outer freedom.

The original experiences are, “at the root of every human experience...Indeed, they are so interwoven with the ordinary things of life that we generally do not realize their extraordinary character” (TOB 11:1).



“When we speak of the original human experiences, we have in mind not so much their distance in time, as rather their foundational significance” (TOB 11:1).



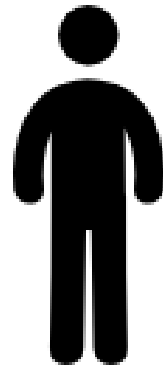
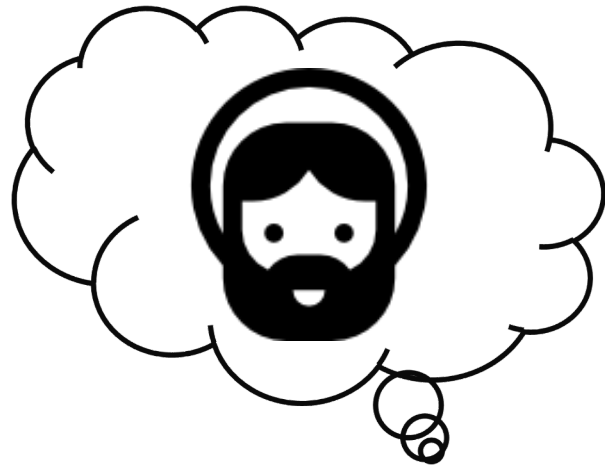
“And what impressed itself at the same time...is a certain ‘echo’ of the same original innocence of man: a photographic ‘negative,’ as it were, the ‘positive’ of which was precisely original innocence” (TOB 55:4).



ORIGINAL SOLITUDE:

**“It is not good
for man to be alone.”**

ORIGINAL SOLITUDE:



“Through this ‘test,’ man gains the consciousness of his own superiority, that he cannot be put on par with any other species of living beings on earth” (TOB 5:4).



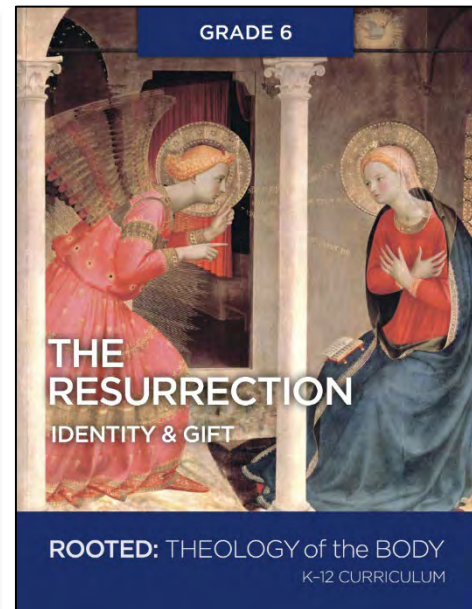
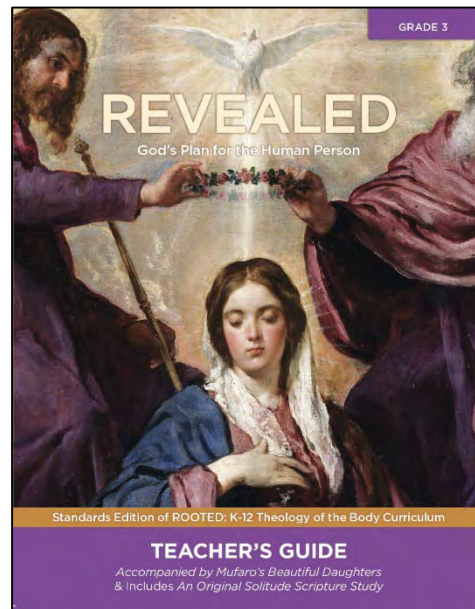
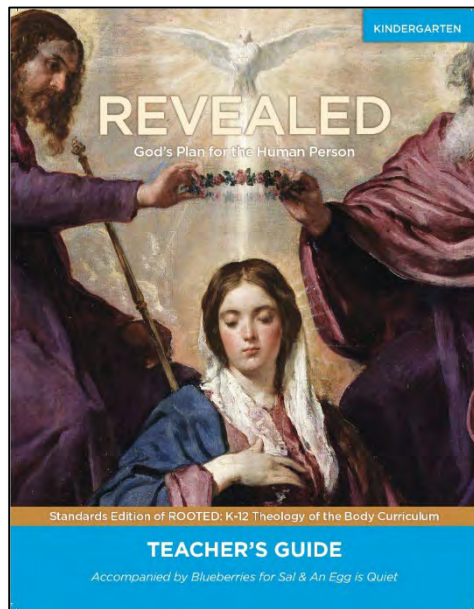
“On the experience of his own body, the man could have reached the conclusion that he is substantially similar to the other living beings (animalia). By contrast, as we read, he did not arrive at this conclusion, but in fact reached the conviction that he was ‘alone’” (TOB 6:3).

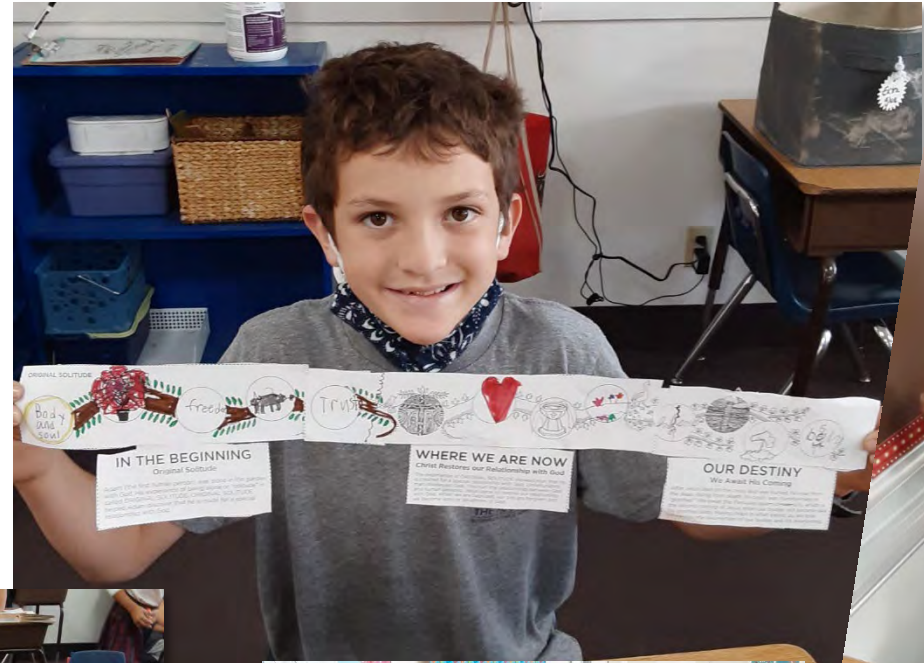


**“Although man is so strictly tied to the visible world, nevertheless the biblical narrative does not speak of his likeness with the rest of creatures, but only with God”
(TOB 55:4).**



ORIGINAL SOLITUDE:





ORIGINAL UNITY:

**“This at last
is bone of my bone
and flesh of my flesh.”**



Original Unity

The Island of Misfit Toys



Gaudium et Spes 24

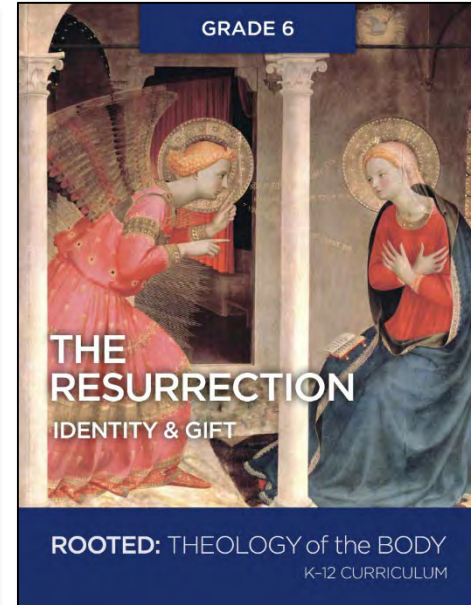
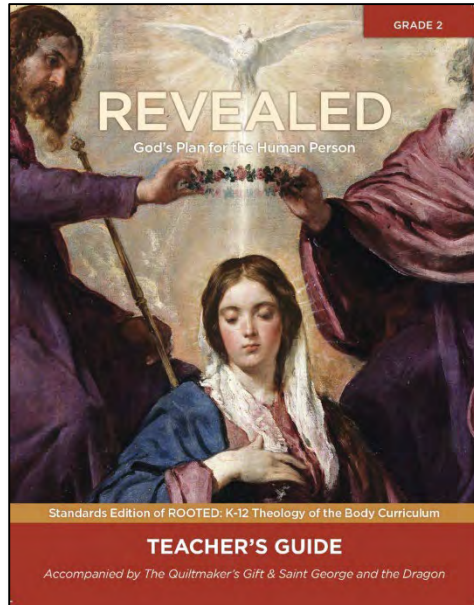
“Man...cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.”



“Man becomes an image of God not so much in the moment of solitude as in the moment of communion” (TOB 9:3).



ORIGINAL UNITY:













ORIGINAL NAKEDNESS:

**“They were naked and
felt no shame.”**

“The first biblical sketch of anthropology, [original nakedness] is not something accidental. On the contrary, it is precisely the key for understanding [our anthropology] fully and completely” (TOB 11:2).



“‘Nakedness’ signifies the original good of the divine vision...see and know each other, in fact, with all the peace of the interior gaze, which creates precisely the fullness of the intimacy of persons” (TOB 13:1).

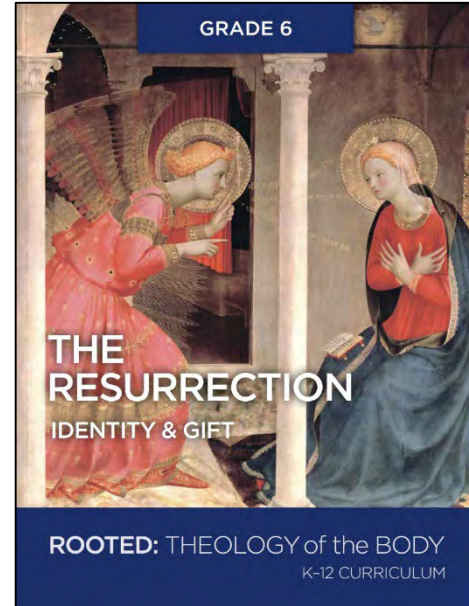
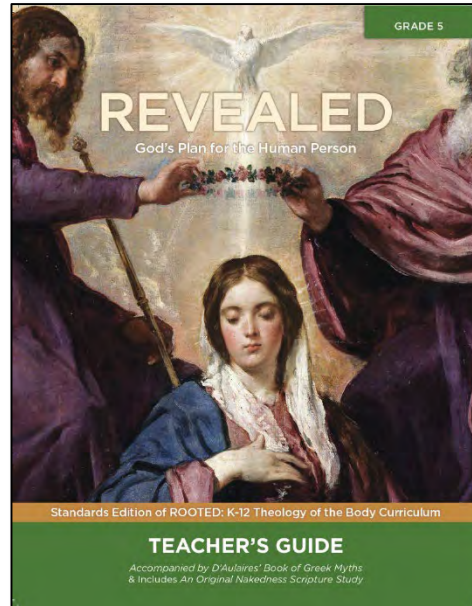


“The words of Genesis 2:25, ‘they did not feel shame,’ do not express a lack but, on the contrary, they serve to indicate a particular fullness of consciousness and experience” (TOB 12:2).





ORIGINAL NAKEDNESS:



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FORMATION

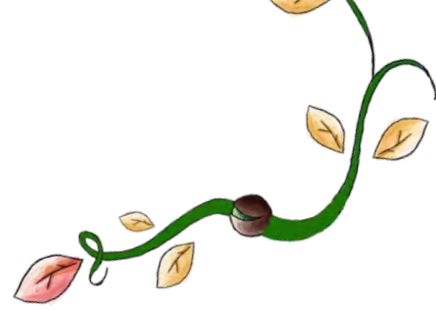
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Intro to Theology of the Body



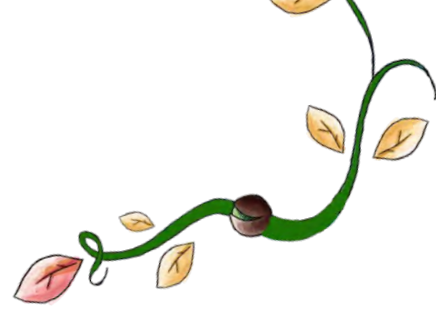
GS 24



**“Man...cannot fully find
himself except through
a sincere gift of himself.”**



GOD IS THE GIFT EXCHANGE





**“God’s very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that exchange”
(CCC 221).**



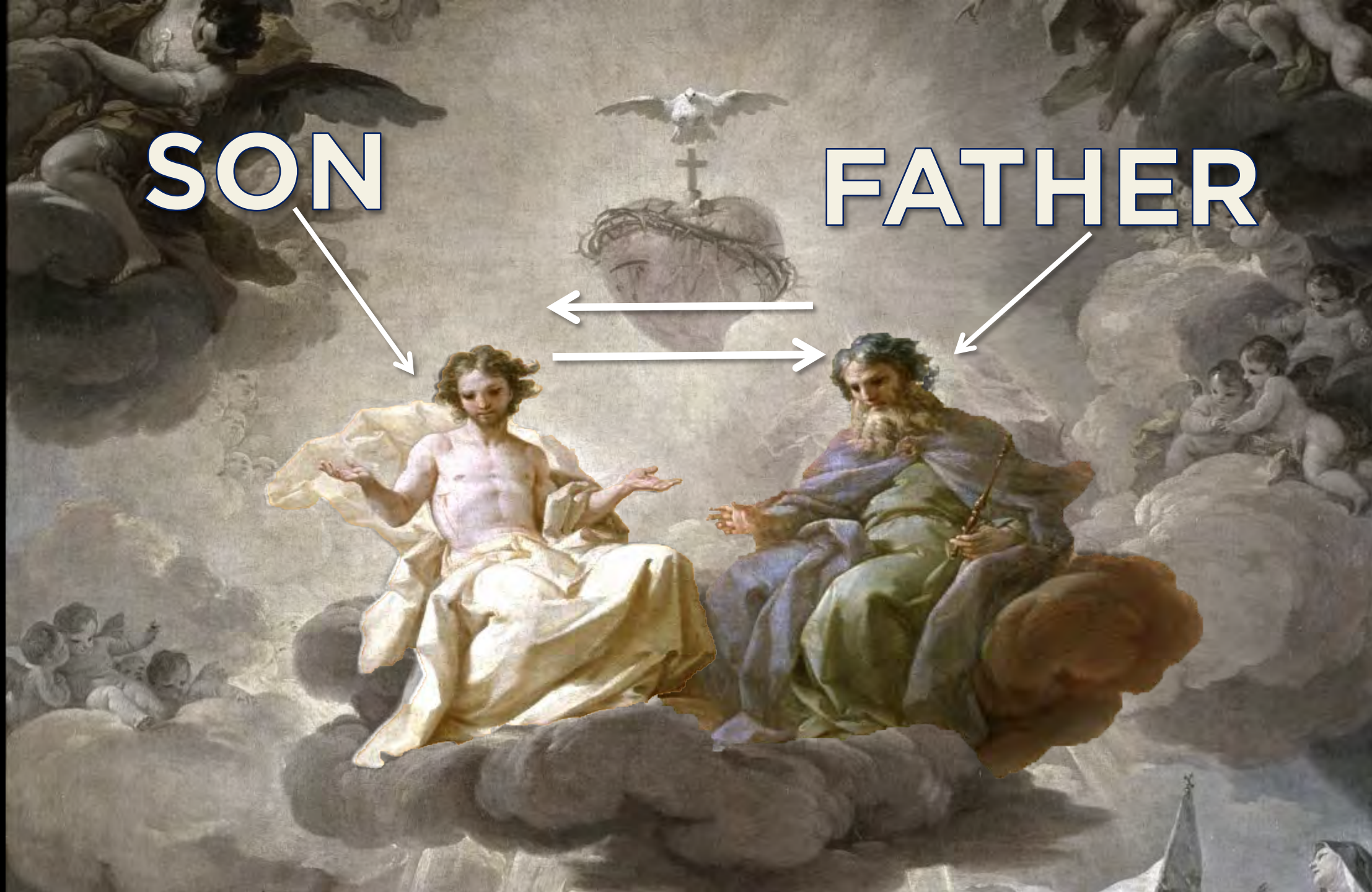
HOLY SPIRIT
SON **FATHER**

“GOD IS LOVE”

1 John 4:16

SON

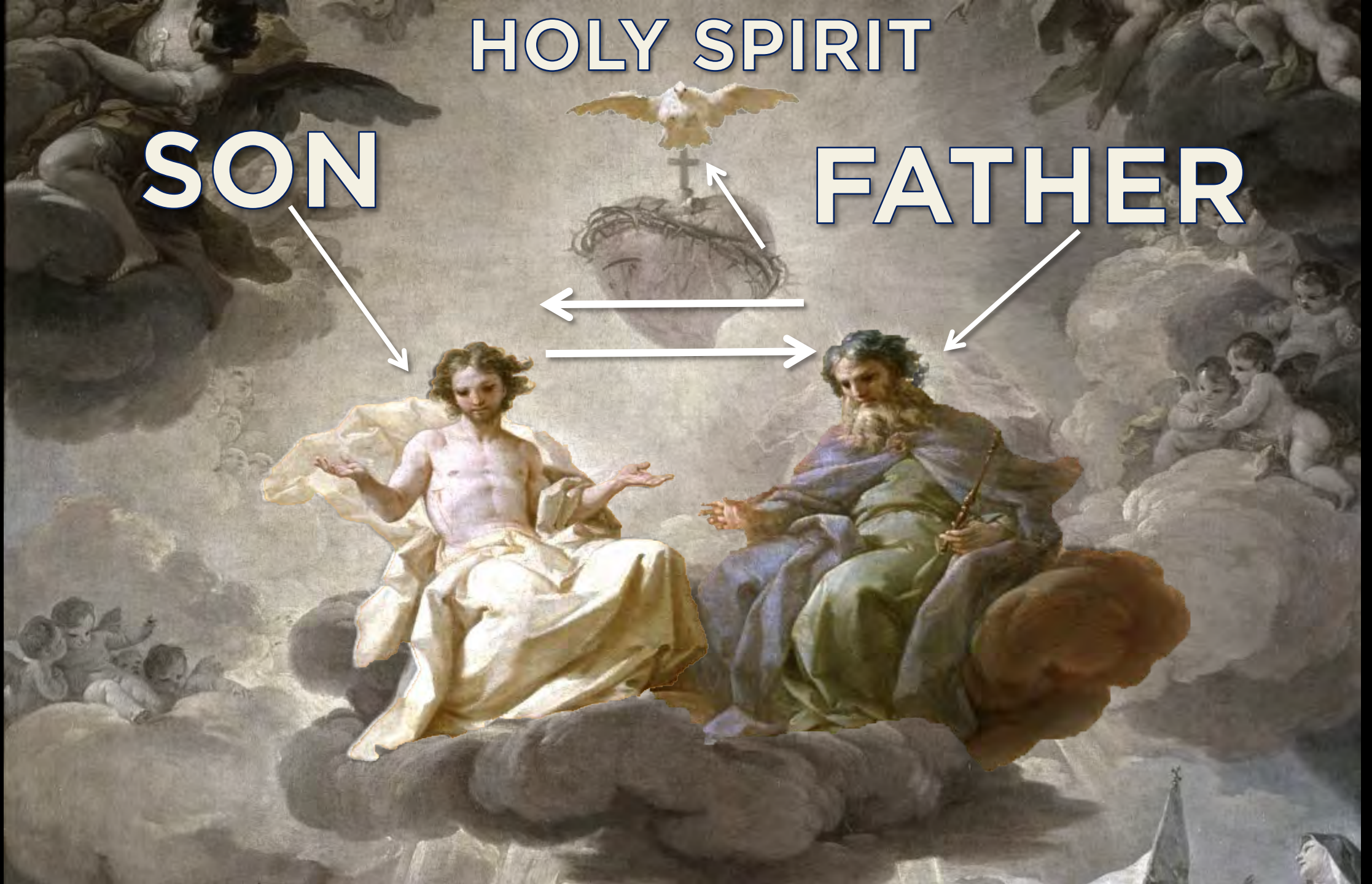
FATHER



HOLY SPIRIT

SON

FATHER



WHO IS THE CATECHIST?



That's you!



WHO IS THE CATECHIST?



“katekhein” = to echo



WHAT ARE WE ECHOING?



“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ”



WHY ARE WE ECHOING JESUS?



“Christ reveals man to himself”

-Gaudium et Spes 22



“There is a well-known axiom of good teaching practice, expressed simply as ‘concrete to abstract.’”

Dr. Gerard O’Shea





“The abstract and spiritual are accessed by what is concrete and material. The body has an essential role to play in coming to know God– a role that cannot be dispensed with; a role taken on in the Incarnation by the Son of God Himself.”

Dr. Gerard O’Shea



Sacramentality of the Body



The origin of the word ‘sacrament’ is tied to ‘mystery’ (*mysterion* in Greek). In a more general sense, a sacrament is a mystery of God hidden from all eternity but revealed in Christ.









“The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It has been created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden from eternity in God, and thus to be a sign of it” (TOB 19:4).









“This is the body: a witness to creation as a fundamental gift, and therefore a witness to Love as the source from which this same giving springs” (TOB 14:4).



we were created **TO**
BY
and **FOR**

LOVE



HUMAN TIMELINE

