



Eclipse of the Body

How we lost the meaning of sex, gender, marriage and family – and how to reclaim it

Part 2: The Divine Mystery and the Spousal Analogy

Read: Pages 29 – 40

- ❖ What is the Divine Mystery?
- ❖ Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his papal encyclical *Mulieris Dignitatem* that the gift of Christ's body on the Cross gives "definitive prominence to the spousal meaning of God's love." What do you think he means by that?
- ❖ Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI states in his papal encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*: "Eros is part of God's very Heart: the Almighty waits for the 'yes' of His creatures as a young bridegroom that of his bride." Consider the words which mean a certain kind of love:
 - ✚ *Agape* – "love feast" – sacrificial love, complete, total, utter
 - ✚ *Caritas* – charity – willing the good of the other
 - ✚ *Eros* - passionate love
 - ✚ How can Christ's sacrifice on the Cross be called "eros"?
- ❖ St. Bernard of Clairvaux calls marriage "the sacrament of endless union with God." St. Bonaventure speaks of God "impregnating the soul and making it fruitful." Which of these statements most speaks to you?
- ❖ Mary's *fiat* saw her conceive eternal life in her womb. How do we receive a share in Divine life?
- ❖ Why does St. Paul point backward to the first marriage to illuminate the Spousal Analogy of Christ's love for His Church?
- ❖ How is the Cross a "marriage bed"?
- ❖ How is Baptism a "nuptial mystery"?
- ❖ How does the Eucharist reveal the meaning of life, love, sex, gender, and marriage?
- ❖ Why does "Grace builds on nature" fail if we've lost sight of gender?