



# Eclipse of the Body

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

Conclusion: Fatima's Third Secret

## Read: Pages 61 – 71

- ❖ Reflect upon the important dates detailed in this chapter:
  - ✚ December 8, 1974 – Pope St. John Paul II begins to write his *Theology of the Body*
  - ✚ May 13, 1981 – assassination attempt on Pope St. John Paul II
  - ✚ October 7, 1982 – Pope St. John Paul II officially opens his *Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family*
- ❖ Do you believe, as did Pope St. John Paul II, that “one hand shot the gun; another hand guided the bullets”?
- ❖ Knowing from Sister Lucia, one of the three visionaries at Fatima, that “the final battle will be against marriage and the family,” do you believe that we are living in the time of the “final battle”?
- ❖ If we are privileged to be living amidst this “final battle,” what is our role? What ought we to do?
- ❖ “Theology of the body” teaches that “Purity is the glory of the human body before God. It is the glory of God in the human body, through which masculinity and femininity are manifested.” (*TOB* 57:3) We are further told that “human sexuality bears in itself the sign of the Divine Mystery of Creation and Redemption.” (*TOB* 131:5) Given this theological view of purity and human sexuality, of gender, marriage, and family, does it make sense to you that Satan would attack God in the very heart of His people – in gender, sex, marriage, and family?

- ❖ **Reflect on Revelation 12:1-12 and 19:5-9. Does this give you hope?**
- ❖ **A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems...then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God...then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have salvation and power come, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed. For the accuser of our brothers is cast out, who accuses them before our God day and night. They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; love for life did not deter them from death. Therefore, rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them. But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, for he knows he has but a short time.” (Rev 12:1-12)**
- ❖ **A voice coming from the throne said: “Praise our God, all you his servants, [and] you who revere him, small and great.” Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: “Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, [our] God, the almighty. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment.” (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones. Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed\* are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” (Rev 19:5-9)**

- ❖ Consider *Humanae Vitae* 31: “For man cannot attain that true happiness for which he yearns with all the strength of his spirit unless he keeps the laws which the Most High God has engraved in his very nature.”
  - ✚ Does this make sense to you?
  - ✚ Do you see how our culture has gone astray in:
    - Contraception – going against the fecundity God created in us
    - Abortion – murdering the very Image of God
    - IVF – separating the marital embrace from reproduction
    - No-fault divorce – breaking families apart
    - Cohabitation – degrading to the dignity of the human person
    - Gender ideology – striking at the heart of identity and rendering people sterile
  - ✚ Turning away from the Truth as God inscribed it into our natures does not lead to happiness, but to grief and profound confusion.
- ❖ Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)