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## **Lesson nr. 2 – Tuesday, Oct 6 - CONTINUATION, 2020.**

### **1) Definition of HUMAN PERSON - The Catholic Theological Holistic Understanding of the Human Person - Handout nr# 2 and a half☺.**

Below you will find several categories of definitions regarding a Human Being and a Person, starting from very technical, dictionary definitions that you learn in your schools.

1. According to SYSTEMATIC TAXONOMY (lessons you learn in schools during your biology, chemistry and physics classes) we all are ANATOMICALLY MODERN HUMANS (in contrast to so called EXTINCT species of the genus Homo classified as ARCHAIC HUMANS) that on a very basic level share the same features biologically (physically), mentally, behaviorally, and yet we are so diverse ethnically, culturally, philosophically and religiously.
2. Agreeing on some basic principles, as early as right after so called TRANSITION TO CIVILIZATION (remember the terms Neolithic Revolution, Sedentism, Cradle of Civilization), Human Beings begun to create GREAT CULTURE (or cultures).
3. Although interconnection between humans has encouraged the growth of science, art, discussion, and technology, it has also, sadly, led to CULTURE CLASHES and WARS and the development and use of Weapons of Mass Destruction among many other means to prevail. Human civilization has led to environmental destruction and pollution significantly contributing to the ongoing mass extinction of other forms of life (called the Holocene extinction event) which may be further accelerated by numerous catastrophic events as: global warming, volcanic activity, cosmic cataclysms of meteor, asteroid, comet or even a man – made satellite crash.
4. In short: as Humans we belong to the:

- Kingdom of: ANIMALIA
- Class of: MAMMALIA
- Order of: PRIMATES
- Family of: HOMINIDAE
- Genus of: HOMO
- Species of: HOMO SAPIENS
- Sub – Species of: HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS

Long and sufficient enough observation, even of a SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION, leads us to the conclusion that we are just MUCH MORE than mere animals (remember our discussion on the question: Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons? And the conclusion, that we are not just ANIMALS any longer, yet we are not THE ANGELS – Spiritual Beings – yet?). Therefore, simplifying it a bit, we use the terminology that indicates of what we discussed above. One of the words we use to describe ourselves is the word: PERSON (from Latin for persona – where in ancient Rome that word was referred to a MASK that actor/actress would use on stage to cover their faces).

On top of what we have already mentioned, it happens so that we are also a RELIGIOUS PEOPLE; on every CONTINENT you will find PEOPLE who are either faith – based, or never heard of any RELIGION/FAITH and still try to follow on a very rudimentary way certain RITUALS, TABOOS, Quasi – SPIRITUAL EXERCISES, etc.

- Definition of a HUMAN PERSON according to our CATHOLIC FAITH: what is an IMAGO DEI?
  - As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms, “the human person, made in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual” (Number 362). The human body is *human* and *living* precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul (Number 364).
- So closely united are body and soul in the human person that one must consider the soul to be the “form” of the “body.” It is only because it is animated by a spiritual soul that the body in question is a living, human body. Genesis 2 clearly shows that the human body is personal in nature; the human body in fact reveals or discloses the person.