

Excerpted from:

Vitz, P. C., Nordling, W. J., & Titus, C. S. (Eds.). (2019, in press). *A Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the person: Integration with psychology and mental health practice*. Sterling, VA: Divine Mercy University.

### Table 1.1: Definitions of the Person

**From a theological perspective**, (Scripture, tradition, and the Magisterium), the human person is created in the image of God and made by and for divine and human love, and--although suffering the effects of original, personal, and social sin--is invited to divine redemption in Christ Jesus, sanctification through the Holy Spirit, and beatitude with God the Father.

**From a philosophical perspective**, the human person is an individual substance of a rational (intellectual), volitional (free), relational (interpersonal), sensory-perceptual-cognitive (pre-rational knowledge), emotional, and unified (body-soul) nature; the person is called to flourishing, moral responsibility, and virtue through his or her vowed or non-vowed vocational state, as well as through life work, service, and meaningful leisure.

**From a psychological perspective**, the human person is an embodied individual who is intelligent, uses language, and exercises limited free-will. The person is fundamentally interpersonal, experiences and expresses emotions, and has sensory-perceptual-cognitive capacities to be in contact with reality. All of these characteristics are possible because of the unity of the body and unique self-consciousness, and are expressed in behavior and mental life. Furthermore the person is called by human nature to flourishing through virtuous behavior and transcendent growth; through interpersonal commitments to family, friends, and others; and through work, service, and meaningful leisure. From their origins (natural and transcendent), all persons have intrinsic goodness, dignity, and worth. In the course of life, though suffering from many natural, personal, and social disorders and conditions, persons hope for healing, meaning, and flourishing.