

Integrating Body and Soul:



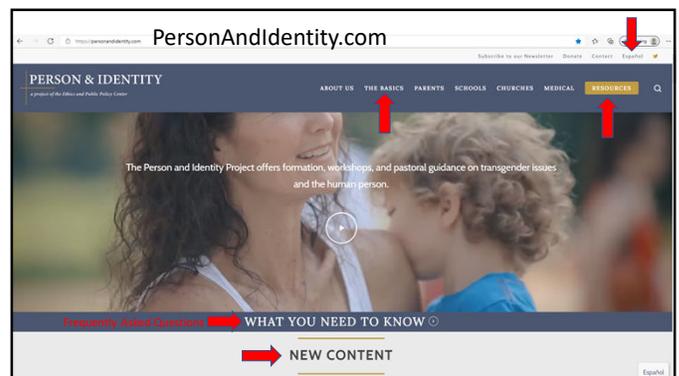
Principles for a Catholic Approach to Gender Dysphoria

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PERSON & IDENTITY

a project of the Ethics and Public Policy Center



Basic Commitments of the Catholic Mind

1. Reality is created by a good God who has a plan.
2. The human mind is equipped to understand important aspects of reality.
3. The human being is a unity of body and soul.

1. Reality is created by a good God who has a plan.

VS. Reality is

- Chaos
- **Atoms in the void**
- **Random evolution**

Human beings are

- creatures
- created male and female

Gen 1:27
Mt 19:4
Mk 10:6



2. The human mind is equipped to understand important aspects of reality.

aka, realist epistemology

- VS.
- skepticism
 - relativism
 - tyranny of elites

3. The human being is a unity of body and soul.

VS.

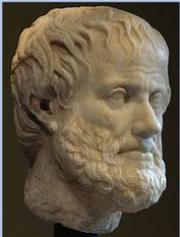


Photo: Unsplash and publicdomainpictures.net



then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (Gen 2:7).

First human being =
dust + God's breath
matter and spirit



Aristotle
384-322 BC

Hylomorphism

hyle *morphe*

matter form

body soul

“The human body shares the dignity of ‘the image of God’: it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual [i.e. human] soul”

(CCC §364).

CCC 362: The human person . . . is
a being at once both
corporeal and **spiritual**.

CCC 365: The union 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.

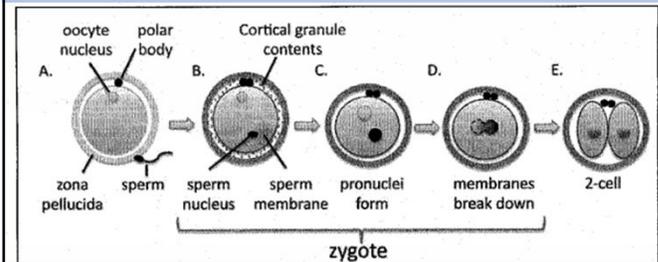


Maureen L. Condic, PhD

HUMAN EMBRYOS, HUMAN BEINGS

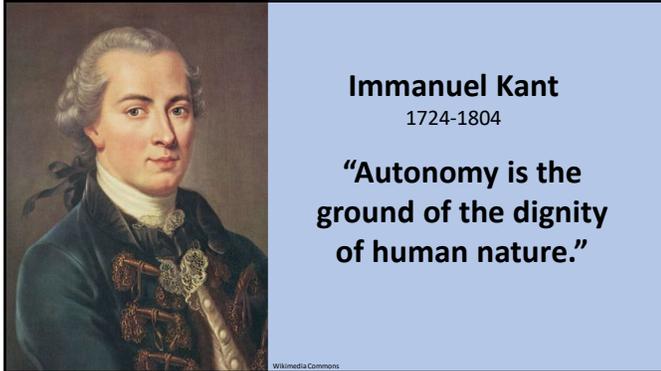
A Scientific & Philosophical Approach

SAMUEL B. CONDIC AND
MAUREEN L. CONDIC



René Descartes
1596-1650

- I am a thinking thing.
- the laws of nature = the laws of mechanics
- goal of science: “to make ourselves ... **masters and possessors of nature.**”



Catholic View	Dominant Secular View <small>(often presumed and taught as true)</small>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am my soul and my body. • I am a creature, a natural being, a part of nature. • My body is designed by God and helps me to understand God's plan for my life. • My primary identity is that of a son or daughter of God. That's who I am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am my mind. • I have the capacity and even the mission to dominate nature (incl. my body) and make it be what I want it to be. • I am free/required to constitute my own identity. Receiving my identity from another is a threat to my autonomy.
Integration vs. polarization	

“[A]cceptance of our bodies as God's gift is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift from the Father ...Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of...human ecology.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si §155



“Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his [or her] sexual identity” (CCC §2333).