

MATERNITA'

G. MARENGO, *Editoriale*

SAGGI:

A. ALES BELLO, *Corpo proprio, corpo di madre, corpo di figlio*

SUMMARY: Following the indications of the phenomenological method proposed by Edmund Husserl, and as used by his disciple Edith Stein, we examine how the human being knows that he/she possesses a body, alongside the psyche and the spirit, and how this is expressed in the feminine and the masculine. We will focus on the feminine, the generative aspect of the mother's body and the relationship with her child during intrauterine life and early childhood. We will pay particular attention to the encounter through entropathy with the other human being after birth.

D. C. SCHINDLER, *Motherhood and organism: which meaning? Which teleo-logy?*

SUMMARY: The present article continues an argument begun in another essay, which offered a metaphysical account of sex or gender as the difference in the essential mode of a living substance, relative to the enactment of existence. The current article takes two further steps beyond the original argument: 1) it explains, along the lines laid out, why sex or gender represents a mutual exclusivity even while human nature is shared; and then 2) argues that, if fatherhood belongs specifically to God, according to Scripture and Tradition, motherhood, paradoxically, is not so much a gift from God as it is a gift to God.

M. P. ALLEN, *Feminine Genius and the Road Map of the Humanum. Philosophical Perspective*

SUMMARY: This paper summarizes the long history of claims about woman's identity, generation, and feminine genius. It describes the philosophical writings of three women geniuses: St. Hildegard of Bingen, Christine de Pizan, and St. Edith Stein/Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Weaving through these descriptions are two other themes. How the science of generation reveals woman's maternity and man's paternity; and how Saint John Paul II's theory of integral gender complementarity fills Saint John Newman's seven tests for true development.

D. SCAIOLA, *Eva: "la madre dei viventi"*

SUMMARY: This paper offers a reflection on the theme of motherhood from a biblical perspective. Starting with the figure of Eve, the author examines a number of relevant stories: the story of Sara and the other matriarchs, the singular events of Ruth and Rispa, as well as those of Anna, the mother of Samuel. Through a reading of these texts, the author sketches out certain characteristics of motherhood, intending to demonstrate their exemplariness whilst not exhausting the question.

The underlying hypothesis of this reflection is that to generate, to be a mother, to have children, can only be understood as a positive reality. However, the biblical text invites us to

consider this fact in a more multifaceted and articulated way: for example, by reflecting on the fact that the matriarchs are sterile – this includes Anna, the mother of Samuel. Therefore, motherhood is not simply a biological fact, but it is a gift that is connected to a promise. Moreover, and in the light of these emblematic figures, being or becoming a mother is often the expression of a desire that is intertwined with conflicting relationships and personal ambiguities.

M. HARPER MCCARTHY, *Motherhood*

SUMMARY: The following looks at the “genius” of motherhood against the backdrop of current trends which would marginalize, even abolish, it. Feminism lent no small hand to these trends, with its presumption of the inferiority of motherhood. Post-modern feminists chastised their fore-sisters for joining the male project of dominance over the maternal world of nature. The only way to correct the “genocide,” they argued, was to restore sexual difference, since without it, no life was possible. But with “pure difference” how is that even possible? John Paul II takes us out from under the logic of power that dominates the alternatives of egalitarian uniformity and pure difference. With his “dual unity,” the difference brings man and woman together without overriding the difference. Indeed, their unity produces yet another “difference”. And that is possible because of the equal dignity of the woman who is “entrusted with the human being in a special way”.

P. SEQUERI, *La generazione materna. Nodi critici e nuovi orizzonti epocali*

SUMMARY: This essay draws together the positive elements in those currents of thought that examine the profound relationship between motherhood and femininity. It will consider the evolving feminist thought, as well as the developments in the new Mariology. In the context of the contemporary tendency to separate motherhood from the personal dimensions of identity and sexual intimacy, this development prompts a deeper, philosophical and theological consideration of what it means to be born “of a woman”.

L. GRANADOS GARCIA, *Pregnancy: The Molding of the Heart of a Mother*

SUMMARY: The child in the womb feeds on the mother’s fantasies and desires in the same way that it feeds on the maternal body. This article explores the internal actions of the pregnant woman, which mold the heart of a mother. In order to overcome the banalization of pregnancy, it is necessary to reconsider its complexity as real empowerment for the woman and an excess of life. Through her internal acts of imagination and memory, the mother elaborates her acceptance and hospitality, and anticipates the future life with her child. These internal acts of hospitality and active receptivity mold the heart of a mother.

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