Edith Stein: Role model for the 21st century

Edith wrote extensively on faith, modernity, and women’s education. The focus of this series is Chapter II of the book WOMAN, “The Separate Vocations of Man and Woman According to Nature and Grace.” Whether alone or in a group, spend some time pondering each session. Though not necessary, information for purchasing WOMAN is provided at the end of this booklet.

ACCESS online at http://CreativeCatholicWorks.org/voices-of-women-on-edith-stein

This series is an introduction to St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. Classes are available at CCW’s Theology of the Body Education Center and Echoes of Worth for teens.

A seminar filmed in 11 brief sessions, including a biography of this 20th Century saint and philosopher.

What does it mean to be man and woman in the world today?

Part of the VOICES of WOMEN series brought to you by Creative Catholic Works
This roundtable, filmed at the Carmelite House of Prayer in Oakville, CA, consists of students of John Hamlon, educator for Creative Catholic Works. They discuss her words, meaningful even today. Each woman volunteered to be part of the seminar so they could share their insights with you.

The heading of each chapter comes from a phrase or point in Chapter II of Edith's book, Essays on Woman. The last chapter is a summary by, and testimony of, the participants on how Edith's thought has touched each of them and how it is so very applicable even today.

Biography: The 10-minute biography introduces you to this wonderful and courageous woman, the Jewish philosopher and Catholic convert who lost her life at Auschwitz during World War II.

To view the Biography and all 11 sessions online, go to CCW's Vimeo Channel at http://CreativeCatholicWorks.org/voices-of-women-on-edith-stein.

Creative Catholic Works sponsors the Theology of the Body Education Center and Echoes of Worth.

We also produce our own educational and inspiring video on aspects of the Theology of the Body.

Creative Catholic Works is a non-profit organization, taxpayer I.D. 47-0953215.

Your donation is tax-deductible.
SESSION 1

The group begins by discussing the opening paragraphs in part 1 of chapter II, p. 60. What does it mean to be called to a “vocation”? To what are man and woman called? Listen for the introduction to the term ezer kenegdo.

DISCUSSION NOTES

Creative Catholic Works is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the production of inspirational and educational media and classes.

*Edith Stein, Role Model for the 21st Century* is a beautiful educational piece, filmed at St Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park, CA; the Carmelite House of Prayer, Oakville, CA; and in a classroom setting in Folsom, CA.

A donation of $30 is welcomed to offset cost of production and allow us the ability to create future educational videos.

We thank you in advance for your generous donation.

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*For more information, to sign up for our classes, or to partner with our work:*

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SESSION 2  Ezer Kenegdo

“A helper fit for him.”

How does this impact your life today? How does union complete the package? What is the “community of love”? Note that this idea presages the *Theology of the Body*, written 30 years later.

DISCUSSION NOTES
SESSION 3  The Effects of Original Sin

What does “Adam’s dominion” mean? What was it like for man before the Fall? How do man and woman see “work”?

DISCUSSION NOTES

ADDENDUM

Pope John Paul II canonized Edith Stein on October 9, 1998, as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Her choice of name turned out to be eerily appropriate, as the cross God invited her to bear was an exceedingly harsh one—martyr. John Paul II said that she was a woman who searched for the truth; that “love of Christ and human freedom are intertwined because LOVE and TRUTH have an intrinsic relationship.” He prayed that “this new saint be an example to us in our commitment to serve freedom, in our search for Truth.”

The idea that Edith’s work presages the Theology of the Body becomes clearer upon reading in the introduction to Woman: “Edith Stein reveals what it is to be fully human … As a woman of intellectual and spiritual strength, she is a witness to AUTHENTIC FEMINISM.” John Paul will later use this same term. Truly, Edith portends John Paul’s fruitful body of work on the meaning of the human person, and through her insight, adds a depth of understanding to the Theology of the Body.
SESSION 5 Subjugation

We continue with the analysis of the effect of original sin on man and woman (on p. 63). Do you know of situations where the man “lords it over the woman”?

SESSION 10 The Power of the Redemptive Order

This chapter presages St. John Paul II’s first encyclical Redeemer of Man, later fleshed out in his Theology of the Body. How does the power of the Redemptive Order change our view of how we view each other? Describe in your own words the “Freedom of this Good News”!
SESSION 11  Impact Segment

The participants discuss the impact of Edith Stein's teaching on their own lives and how her work has personally transformed how they view the world. Has it affected your view of the relationship between man and woman? As a woman, do you feel that you understand better the importance of your way of being in the world? How about you as a man?

SESSION 4  The Effect of Sin on Woman

“Original sin warped Adam's idea of relationship, but a different judgment is meted out to the woman,” p. 63. What does this mean? What has happened to woman's role in modern society? Is this good?
SESSION 9  Complementarity of Man and Woman

Anyone who has studied the *Theology of the Body*, even briefly, will know that John Paul emphasizes the complementarity between man and woman, yet Edith writes decades before John Paul does. How can we speak of being different without implying that one sex is better? Is this a common trap today? How has merging the roles of man and woman affected man? Affected woman? Affected the family? How does complementarity work? What are the “three orders” relative to Genesis and Original Sin that Edith Stein discusses?

DISCUSSION NOTES

SESSION 6  The Power of the Redemptive Order

Edith Stein says that there is a change in the relationship between human beings that is fallout from the changed relationship of man and woman to God and to each other. How did Adam and Eve know evil before and after the Fall?

DISCUSSION NOTES
CHAPTER 7  Why Tempt the Woman First?

This chapter highlights the uniqueness and freshness of a woman philosopher, especially one not brought up in the Christian tradition. She asks out-of-the-box questions because she sees Truth through a different lens. Why did the tempter tempt the woman first?

CHAPTER 8  Woman – A More Fully Integrated Being

What does it mean to be integrated? How are men and women differentially integrated?