

Competing Views of the Human Person

Dominant Secular View

*Frequently, but mistakenly, presumed to be true.
Often taught as if “proven.”*

VS

Catholic Christian View

*Explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
Rooted in Scripture, Tradition, and Church Teaching.*

I am my mind.

I am my soul and my body.

I am a self-defining being. I must decide what it means to be me. I have no given “nature” to direct or limit my free choices.

I am a creature: My nature as a human person is the intentional gift of God, who is good and who has loved me into existence as the person I am.

The natural world is a vast organic reality with its own natural order. Humans increasingly respect this natural order and reject its exploitation.

I am part of creation. I view the natural world, including myself, as having an order that must be respected.

My body is an amazing machine which I am entitled to use as I please. There is no plan for my life other than the one I make.

My body is designed by God and helps me to understand God’s plan for my life.

I am free to determine my own identity. Receiving my identity from another threatens my autonomy.

My primary identity is that of a son or daughter of God. That is who I am.