

## ABSTRACT

### The Heart in the Thought of Joseph Ratzinger

Joseph T. Lanzilotti

Director: Michael Hanby

Within Ratzinger's thought, the heart is a key principle of unity and integration. The heart stands at the center of his theological anthropology. It unites the intellectual, volitional, and affective dimensions of human existence. Ratzinger's understanding of the heart is rooted within the patristic and apostolic tradition and is nourished by medieval and modern scholarship. Chapter One will exposit the heart as a principle of unity and integration. It will examine the place of the heart in the Church's theology today, in Ratzinger's thought, and in Ratzingerian scholarship. It will also demonstrate that the heart is a common theological symbol uniting the Christian East and the Christian West. Chapter Two will introduce major disintegrations and divisions identified by Ratzinger that have led to a crisis within theology over the past century. This chapter will begin by first presenting the exclusion of the heart from modern thought as recognized by Ratzinger. It will then exposit the divide between theology and sanctity as a primary concern in Ratzinger's thought. It will further demonstrate the connection between this divide and that between affectivity and rationality more broadly. It will also consider the dualistic tendencies within modern thought which fail to see the unity of the human being. Chapter Three exposits unity as a theme throughout Ratzinger's thought as a whole with sections devoted to Ratzinger's theological anthropology, Christology, Trinitarian theology, Mariology, and ecclesiology. This chapter examines the heart in each of these areas of Ratzinger's thought as well as the way in which the heart functions as a unifying principle for theology. Chapter Four exposits Ratzinger's theological epistemology which is centered on the heart. This chapter examines Ratzinger's exegesis of Mt 5:8, his understanding of purity of heart, and the means of purification which he identifies. It then introduces and exposits Ratzinger's understanding of monastic theology as a paradigmatic theology of the heart. It shows that a theology of the saints, in both its subjective and objective forms, provides the Church with an essential source of theological insight.