

Dissertation Abstract
**“Maternal Mediation and the *Communio Personarum*:
John Paul II’s Theology of Mary”**

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This dissertation argues that John Paul II’s theology of Mary’s “maternal mediation” illuminates the Church’s understanding of Mary’s role within the mystery of redemption. In qualifying Mary’s mediation as “maternal,” John Paul II affirms that this mystery is best understood in terms of communion, a mutual giving and receiving of love that brings forth new life. **Chapter One** outlines the significance of Mary’s mediation throughout the Church’s Tradition, with particular emphasis on the Mediatrix Movement in the twentieth century and the Second Vatican Council’s response to this movement. The second part of the chapter introduces John Paul II’s Mariological thought and sources, as well as the concept of “*communio*” and his appropriation of it in his theology. **Chapter Two** presents John Paul II’s account of the mysteries of Mary’s life under the sign of faith. The chapter treats John Paul II’s understanding of faith as union with Christ in order to better understand the significance of Mary’s “pilgrimage of faith.” The chapter argues that every dimension of Mary is measured by her communion with Christ. **Chapter Three** goes on to disclose the significance of the term “maternal mediation” for John Paul II. Part One of the chapter explores the meaning of mediation, showing how its form and content is communion. Part Two provides an exegesis of the term “maternal” in John Paul II’s theology, unfolding both its natural and supernatural dimensions. It illustrates how maternal discloses the truth of the human vocation to love and qualifies Mary’s mediation as communion. **Chapter Four** treats Mary’s relationship with the Church, arguing that Mary’s maternal mediation is the perfect instantiation and image of the Church’s mission in the world, a mission that is constituted by both communion and mercy. The thesis offers a significant overview of John Paul II’s theology of Mary and shows the fruitfulness of his thought for contemporary Mariology and theological anthropology.