Friday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mk* 6:14-29): King Herod heard about Jesus, for his fame had become widespread, and people were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him.” Others were saying, “He is Elijah”; still others, “He is a prophet like any of the prophets.” But when Herod learned of it, he said, “It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up.”

Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” (…).

The man is “the soul that is expressed in the body” and “body enlivened by an immortal spirit”

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the life of John the Baptist, a spokesperson for the truth about the marriage ends with the mixture of superstition (spiritual) and frivolous (body) of Herod. The correct relationship between man and woman is rooted in the essence of the human being: what is man? And this question leads to the question: who is God?

The “Bible” answers that man is created in the image of God, and God Himself is love. Thus, man is like God as he loves. From this derives the indissoluble connection between spirit and body: man is “the soul that is expressed in the body” and “body enlivened by an immortal spirit.” That is, the body of man and woman has a “theological character.” Consequently, human sexuality is not an “extra”, it belongs to “being someone”: it makes perfect sense as an expression of “personal being” rather than a “something” of the person.

—In this “man as a whole” the freedom of “yes” must mean “forever”.