

Item #98 (Rooted in Eternity)

In Item #83 (“I am” in the Gospel of John) I pointed out a common and official interpretation of the phrase “I am”: that it alludes to the divinity of Jesus in the context of the Gospel of John using language employed by God Himself in the Book of Exodus. The implication is clear and employed by Catholic philosophy when speaking of the nature of God’s essence--that it includes existence. By God’s very nature He had no beginning and He will have no end. Thus Jesus Christ, the God-Man, had no beginning as divine but He did have as human. In John’s Gospel I argue that this human beginning is not alluded to in the preface (John 1,1-18), for John 1,14 refers to the Word’s becoming Eucharistic Flesh and dwelling among us (see Item #1). This is God’s Real Presence that is tragically not believed in by so many Catholics in the United States at the present time. What such Catholics do not unfortunately realize is that in denying the real Presence they are denying their own rootedness in eternity. **(James Swetnam, S.J. June 20, 2022)**