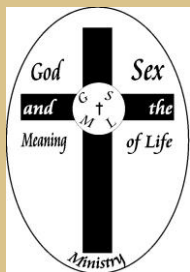


If you received this twice, please accept our apologies. If the Newsletter does not appear as it should please go to our Website at <http://www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com/Newsletters.html> - click on Volume 41 - to view the document. If you would prefer to receive this email as a PDF attachment please let us know.



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

JAN

VOLUME 41

Note: Email gsmlministry@gmail.com to book a Theology of the Body Workshop for your Parish or Group.

For more Information about GSML Ministry [click here](#)

Don't forget to join our Theology of the Body Study Group:

Every Monday morning from (9:30 - 11:30) at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. Ajax

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We are now booking into the New Year of 2015.

GSML News

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" 1 Peter 3:15

A Theology of the Body Workshop would help your parish or group grow in the knowledge of their Faith.

Contact:

gsmlministry@gmail.com

Apologetics

We are facilitating the Apologetics at St. Bernadette's Parish in Ajax, 21 Bayly St E. Sessions are held the fourth Saturday of the month after the 9 a.m. Mass – start 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 24 How to Follow Pope Francis' Discipleship

On September 9, 2007 in an article called The Conditions of True Discipleship Fr. Roger J. Landry wrote "I wonder how many could say to Jesus, "I come to Mass every week," "I read the Bible each night," "I come even on retreat," to whom Jesus might say, "But you have never been my disciple, because you don't put what I ask you into practice."

"The true disciple of the Lord commits himself personally to a charitable ministry whose scope is man's multiform and endless poverty." Pope Francis (10/31/13)

Feb 28 Lent

Let's take a short time together to share our understanding of Lent based on a look from the Old Testament, to the New Testament to Pope Francis. Learn what it is, what it means, and how to live it.

*The word **apologetics** comes from the Greek word apologia found in **1 Peter 3:15** and means "defense." The Bible says that we're to always be ready (thus the name of this ministry) to give a "defense" (an apologia) to people who ask us about the hope we have as Christians.*

Book a Theology of the Body for Teens in the Class in the New Year

Teachers: There is still time to book a *Theology of the Body in the Classroom* for the Winter Semester.

We are willing to come into your classroom and help facilitate the Theology of the Body for Teens program. This program normally runs 12 weeks, but we can adapt it to a shorter schedule. Also, there are plenty of opportunities for essays, projects or other necessary student involvement.

It will also provide a valuable experience with the ToB material to see how easily it

Let's give our teens an opportunity to discover the truths.

Contact: Rose and Pat Heron at roseheron@gmail.com

or 905-683-9055

can be incorporated into the curriculum without a lot of study on your part.

We are very knowledgeable on the *Theology of the Body for Teens* as we have held over 20 Workshops and have been invited into 4 High Schools.

There has been terrific feedback from the Students

We have held over 20 *Theology of the Body for Teens* Workshops and Classroom Sessions

Theology of the Body Study Group

Freedom, truth, gift, communion, dignity, love, person, meaning: these are all themes which are continually found throughout the writings of Pope John Paul II.

We not only image God through the gift of free-will, but also through being in communion with others. "To be human means to be called to interpersonal communion." Why? Because God himself is a communion of persons in the Trinity. JP II explains,

"Man became the "image and likeness" of God not only through his own humanity, but also through the communion of persons which man and woman form right from the beginning." (TOB, Nov. 14, 1979)

The Study Group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 am in St Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St E., Ajax. Theology of the Body touches all aspects of our Catholic faith and is deeply rooted in the Bible. It is part of the New Evangelization. Drop in and see what it is all about.

Contact us at gsmlministry@gmail.com

Everyone welcome. Also bring your Catholic Faith questions as we delve into many topics.

Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation

Our Facilitators are ready to speak about Theology of the Body at Marriage Preparation programs.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, "The Theology of the Body is a way to find true love."

Let's make use of this wonderful tool to help strengthen marriages.

Contact us to arrange this talk at your parish Marriage Preparation Talk.

Contact Rose Heron at: roseheron@gmail.com or 905-683-9055

The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

Is continuing, starting again on Jan 6 at 7:00 pm or Jan 7 at 9:30 am

We recommend that your parish or group consider this wonderful program.

To better understand JPII's writings we have decided to include summaries of the ToB.

To read the Audience [click here](#)

"Nakedness" signifies the original good of God's vision. It signifies all the simplicity and fullness of the vision through which the "pure" value of humanity as male and female, the "pure" value of the body and of sex, is manifested."

- St. John Paul II

Fullness of Interpersonal Communication Pope John Paul II

Summary of Audience Thirteen- by Tom Kennedy

"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed" (Gn 2:25). This tells us that they saw themselves rightfully through "the mystery of creation". They knew themselves this way before they even knew they were naked. This meant that they did not just see themselves on the outside, but also on the inside. It means that they saw themselves totally, along with seeing their place in God's vision of creation.

"Nakedness" shows the original good of God's plan. It shows us the total meaning of the worth of humanity as man and woman, as well as the full meaning of the worth of sex. Remember, the Pope called this type of worth "value". This clearly shows that originally there was no "rupture" or differentiation between the spiritual and the physical. It does not show a breakdown between the person as a human, and the person as male or female. Man and woman was each other more clearly than they could through human eyes; they did so through the "interior gaze", through the fullness of the "intimacy of persons".

The shame we experience with human eyes is due to our personal privacy being invaded and threatened. On the other hand, when "they were not ashamed", they were showing their total (exterior and interior) humanity, their mutual state of being one as male and female. They also showed through their community of masculinity and femininity that they were a gift for each other. This gave them a special understanding of what their sexuality meant. The Pope calls this vision of the meaning of the body the "nuptial meaning of the body".

If both versions of Genesis show us original solitude, unity and nakedness, they also show us and allow us to interpret mankind in our physical humanity.

"Being "in the image of God" contains within it the basic truth about humanity. We see this when Christ talked to the Pharisees about "the beginning" and our creation as male and female. Our male and female bodies have the divine image imprinted on them from "the beginning". Man and women are two different ways of the human body being created in the image of God.

This is a good time to look at the words "created" and "creator", which will give us a new way of looking at the meaning of "the gift", which, in turn, gives the truth and meaning of original solitude, unity and nakedness. The gift is also at the heart of creation, which allows us to look at the Theology of The Body as being in existence from "the beginning".

Christ's use of the word "created" means exactly the same as it did in Genesis. God reveals himself as the "creator", and Christ refers to this as the fundamental revelation of Genesis. Creation was not only physical, but theological.

The Creator "called us into existence from nothingness". He established the world and man in the world because He is love. Although the bible does not say this specifically, we can see it in the words, "God saw what he had made, and behold, it was very good." In these words we can see the love within, and the reason for creation.

Only love brings forth, and delights in good. God did not just call us out from nothing. His action was a giving, the "radical" giving, as it was created from nothing. As a result, all of us have the sign of the original gift. This original action cannot refer to nothingness; it has to refer to the one who gave the gift, and the one who received it, as well as the relationship between the two. This relationship is primarily shown in the words "God created man in his own image".

The gift of giving only has meaning for humanity. In the act of creation, the whole visible world was created only for mankind. The entire creation is a gift for man. Being made in "the image of God", man can understand the meaning of the "gift" in the creation from nothingness. Man can answer the creator (return the gift) through this understanding. Not only did man receive the world as a gift, the world received man as a gift. Man received the other as a gift, and it is through this we can understand the Theology of The Body.

The Theology of the Body ...

- "How can I live my life in a way that brings happiness and fulfillment?"
- Singles, engaged couples, married couples, and youth 18+ are encouraged to attend.

- Presented over 4 consecutive Wednesdays beginning Wed Jan 14th @ 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at St. Ignatius Loyola RC Parish Hall, 2300 Burnhamthorpe Rd W., Mississauga,

For information and pre-registration contact Anthony Mendes 416-302-4253 Tod Markelj or TOB@bell.net

A fee of \$20.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, which includes a workbook, will be collected during registration at the first session.

"People need to study the teachings of the John Paul II on the Theology of the Body. It's very important...that the intense writings of the Holy Father are made more accessible to everyone." – Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto

Join the "Theology of the Body" Revolution

Interested in knowing more about John Paul II's life-changing teaching, "The Theology of the Body.

What is John Paul II's new way of presenting the entirety of the Catholic Faith?

Saturday, January 17 – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

All are welcome – appropriate for age 13+

Presenter: S. Helena Burns, fsp (member of the Daughters of St. Paul)

For more informaton & RSVP:

Salesian Sisters – Don Bosco Centre – 178 Steeles Ave E. Markham 289-597-2208 or fmacora@yahoo.com

Behold, I make all things new." - Revelation 21:5

High School, College, University students, and Young Adults are all welcome!

Learn the truth about love and sexuality!

The Pure Life Retreat

The Pure Life retreat will be happening **January 31 – February 2, 2014.**

Agenda:

Friday, January 31 ~ 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Registration 5:30 pm)

Saturday, February 1 ~ 9:00 am - 9:30 pm

Sunday, February 2 ~ 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Holy Mass ~ 3:00 - 4:00 pm (Families of participants welcome!)

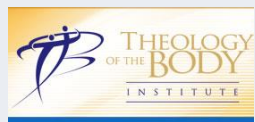
The cost for the weekend retreat is \$50.

The retreat will take place at:
Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School
2727 Tokala Trail
London, ON
N6G 0L8

Topics covered on the Pure Life retreat:

- What Is Love?
- Media Lies
- The Power of Modesty
- Pornography: Who does it hurt?
- Pure Pressure
- Virginity
- Starting Over
- Are you a Date, or a Soul Mate?
- Standards
- Tough Issues:
 - Abortion,
 - Homosexuality,
 - Birth Control

For more information [click here](#)



www.tobinstitute.org

Theology of the Body Institute

February 22, 2015 to February 27, 2015

Theology of the Body I: Head & Heart Immersion Course
with Christopher West in Quarryville, Pennsylvania

[Click Here](#) to register online

For registration information, please contact Tess Akre, Program Assistant:
takre@tobinstitute.org or 215-302-8200 ext.102

"The Theology of the Body Institute offers a unique environment for clergy, religious, and lay faithful to experience the gift Blessed John Paul II left the Church through his Theology of the Body. Watch the video below for a more in-depth representation of the classes offered by the Theology of the Body Institute."

The Economics of Sex

How much do you think you are worth? By [Alex](#)

Very informative video – a must watch!!!

This video, takes a pretty scientific look at the economics of sex, in which sex is considered in the same light as the distribution of goods and resources, with consideration of supply, demand, costs and market shares.

To read more [click here](#)

Sr. Helena Burns, fsp, is a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation founded to communicate God's Word through the media. Her communication tools extend to speaking engagements, teaching, social media, film, radio, and written publications.

Besides giving media and Theology of the Body workshops to youth and adults all over the U.S. and Canada since the 1990s, Sr. Helena is the movie reviewer for The Catholic New World, Chicago's Archdiocesan newspaper.

Redemption of Human Sexuality Symposium

- **Is NFP Just Catholic Contraception?**

To hear the podcast by Dr. Kelly Arenz, DO (an NFP-only family medicine physician); Ms. Mary Miceli, PA-C, FCP (from Sacred Heart Medical Center); and Albert and Becky Faraj (NFP instructors with the Couple to Couple League). [Click here](#)

- **Does the Church Discriminate Against Gay People?**

To hear the Podcast by Robin Beck, [click here](#). Ms. Beck is the author of I Just Came for Ashes.

- **What's So Bad About Porn? Porn Prevention & Recovery for Everyone**

To hear the podcast by Sr. Helena Burns, [click here](#)

- **Everyone is Called to Virginity/Everyone is Called to Marriage**

To hear the podcast by Sr. Helena Burns [click here](#)

- **Why Theology of the Body is for Every Body!**

To hear the podcast by Sr. Helena Burns, [click here](#)

The website has videos, website links, Books and CDs and so much more.

Woman Made New Ministries

Face it. Own it. Heal it.

Women Made New encourages and supports women in need of personal healing, empowering them to become the women God created them to be.

To visit Woman Made New [click here](#)

From Archbishop Charles Chaput:

"I believe that this event has the power to transform, in deeply positive ways, not just the Catholic Church, but our entire community. This meeting is a valuable opportunity for the City and the Commonwealth to welcome all those with a generous heart to be part of this community event."

World Meeting of Families – 2015

Archbishop Charles Chaput has confirmed that the Holy Father has accepted his invitation to the World Meeting of Families, taking place in Philadelphia in September of 2015!

SEPTEMBER 22-27th • 2015

On September 22-27, 2015, Philadelphia will welcome the 8th World Meeting of Families, which is expected to draw a global audience. In June 2012, the 7th World Meeting, held in Milan, Italy, drew hundreds of thousands to the city with more than one million attending the Holy Father's Mass.

Since its inception by Blessed John Paul II in 1994, the World Meeting of Families has sought to strengthen the sacred bonds of family across the globe.

Please check back often for information on registering for the meeting and booking your stay in Philadelphia - [Click here](#)

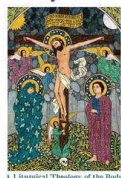
Recommended Reading

Holy Eros: A Liturgical Theology of the Body

By Adam G Cooper

In John Paul II's Theology of the Body, the sexed human body speaks a language revealing God's creative design and heralding humanity's ultimate goal in the nuptial union of Christ and the Church. In a similar way, the Church, the body of Christ, anticipates her future nuptial union with Christ here and now through the "body language" of her public worship. Holy Eros combines insights from the great Pope's theology of the body with traditional and contemporary liturgical studies,

Holy Eros

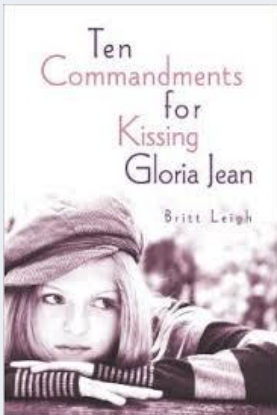


A Liturgical Theology of the Body
ADAM G. COOPER
Foreword by David M. Fleming

allowing each to shed light on the other. It shows how the various rituals of the Church, and the "shape" proper to the liturgical gathering, engage us as performative, physical enactments which actuate the spiritual and divine realities they signify, making heavenly marriage real on earth. "Inspired by the work of St. John Paul II, Adam Cooper succeeds in uncovering new and profound meanings in both liturgy and theology of the body." -- David L. Schindler, author of *Ordering Love* "Drawing together metaphysical, semiotic, and theological reflection, Adam Cooper's eloquent book shows us what the best of the new generation of Ressourcement theology looks like." -- Matthew Levering, author of *The Theology of Augustine* "This little book is brimming with profound insights, which carry one gracefully into the heart of the Church's liturgy." -- D.C. Schindler, author of *The Catholicity of Reason* "Those with an interest in liturgy and the theology of St. John Paul II will find *Holy Eros* to be an exciting contribution to both fields." -- Tracey Rowland, author of *Culture and the Thomist Tradition*

What a good idea!

Fiction



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Ten Commandments for Kissing Gloria Jean by Britt Leigh

Enter into the life of Gloria Jean Wisnewski: a 14-year-old girl who comes up with a very specific set of rules for what thou shalt and thou shalt not do to be granted her long-awaited first kiss.

Between best friends, lip gloss, boys, homework, pimples, fashion, cliques, and gossip, Gloria Jean has a lot to keep up with as an eighth grader. Oh, and her public school has just started Sex Ed, which only complicates things even more because she is also taking her first year of Confirmation studies. STIs, STDs, TOB, the four "Fs"...what does it all even mean?

As if all of this isn't enough to deal with, Gloria Jean has "The Troubles": cringe-inducing stomach problems that ruin her very first date and cause the most embarrassing moment ever in school. These run-to-the-bathroom bouts are nothing to laugh about-especially when Gloria Jean gets diagnosed with Celiac disease and realizes her condition not only means that she must follow strict dietary rules and avoid contamination from certain products (and people!) but also that she can't receive the Body of Christ! How could this be a Catholic who can't receive Communion? After all, God made her body. And why does the Catholic Eucharist have to be made out of wheat? What do all of these rules mean, anyway? Looks like Gloria Jean has some figuring out to

do?

Themes include: faith, choices, and sex & relationships.

Features & Benefits:

- Authored by a published short story writer who holds an MFA in Writing for Children
 - Empowers young teen girls to live their faith in today's culture
 - Affirms Catholic identity for teenage girls
 - Offers a wholesome alternative to mainstream young adult fiction
 - Informed by Theology of the Body principles
 - Incorporates humor
 - Opens up the lines of communication between parents and their children about relationships
- From Pauline Bookstores

St. Joseph's Health Centre 30 The Queensway (Education Centre A, #1B 105A), Toronto - Initial presentation: 1st Tuesday, each month at 8 p.m.

St. Patrick Church 921 Flagship Dr., Mississauga - Initial presentation: 2nd Thursday, each month at 8 p.m.

Mary of the People Church 570 Marion Ave., Oshawa - Initial presentation: 2nd Tuesday, each month at 8 p.m.

Natural Family Planning is not only a

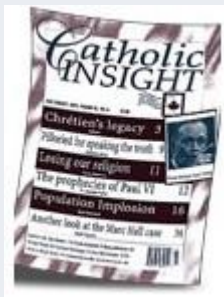


toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca

The teachers of the Natural Family Planning Association provide this valuable education at no charge, as described in our mission statement:

The mission of the Natural Family Planning Association is to teach the Billings Ovulation Method of family planning while promoting an understanding and appreciation of fertility that reflects Catholic teachings as outlined in *Humanae Vitae*. We serve the entire community regardless of religious background: single women, married and engaged couples, adolescents as well as those who provide teaching and counseling to them.

valuable tool for married couples, but all women can use it to monitor their health.



Catholic Insight

Consider subscribing to Catholic Insight, the magazine for Canadians who would like to deepen their knowledge of the Faith and to discover the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church.

To view articles or subscribe go to www.catholicinsight.com

Visit our website for news, and resources for:

- Teachers
- Parents
- Teens
- Articles
- Books
- Websites
- And more

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry

Our Ministry is approved by The Archdiocese of Toronto and has presented over thirty Workshops on Saint Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body in Parishes in the Toronto Archdiocese. As well, in the fall of 2009, we organized and held a Theology of the Body Conference in Toronto. This conference was attended by over 1000 people. At the same time, we facilitated a Luncheon meeting on this same topic for Priests and Seminarians with over 120 in attendance. We have held over twenty Theology of the Body for Teens workshops and have been invited into four high schools to provide a session on the Theology of the Body in the Classroom. We have also held workshops for Parents.

Please keep GSML Ministry in your prayers

Contact information: gsmlministry@gmail.com

www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com/

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry has Toronto Archdiocesan approval

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, reply back with this email to gsmlministry@gmail.com with unsubscribe in the body of your email.