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God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

JULY 2016

VOLUME 50

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 am - 11:30 am at St. Bernadette's

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We are now booking into 2016 and 2017.

Parish Hall, 21
Bayly St. E. Ajax

"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.*

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

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

Toronto's Cardinal, Thomas Collins stated: [John Paul II] "*His teachings, and especially his Theology of the Body, are a permanent gift of immense benefit to us all. I earnestly invite everyone to study prayerfully the teachings of Pope John Paul, especially the Theology of the Body. -We need very much in these days to deepen our awareness of the dignity of the human person, and Pope John Paul helps us to do that.*" - Address of Archbishop Thomas Collins - 32nd Annual Archbishop's Dinner, Oct 27, 2011

To read the full address [click here](#)

GSML News

Theology of the Body Study Group

Our group will be studying, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love* by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus and Eduardo Chavez. The authors trace the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the sixteenth century to the present, and discuss how her message was and continues to be an important catalyst for religious and cultural transformation.

Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30

St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. E. Ajax

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

Bible Study

The adventure continues: This fall we will look at ***Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom***, which explores the story of the Early Church in light of the Holy Spirit and demonstrates how this story is important for all Disciples of Christ.

Enrich and deepen your faith. Learn how the Church accomplishes the monumental task of teaching, preaching, healing and restoring outcasts with the Holy Spirit working with and through Her, and how you are also called to participate in the Kingdom of God.

It is a 20 week course which starts Sept. 14 (Wed mornings from 9:30 - 11:30) or Sept 16 (Friday evenings from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm)

Cost is \$40 for the Study Guide.

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

St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. E. Ajax

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

For more information about the program [click here](#)

The Fight For Your Child's Soul

Parents – the battle is not over. You need to equip yourself with the tools to help your child resist the pull of the world and put on the armour of God.

Here are some workshops that help you equip your child against the world's message of morbidity:

For Parents:

- ***Guiding Your Child Through the Sexual Minefield***

This parent workshop covers all ages from Toddlers to Teens with the final talk on dating.

- ***Girl Talk***

This workshop is for mothers and daughters and provides information on the fundamentals of young girls' cycles in the presence of their mothers. It facilitates mother-daughter communication in this delicate area and supports parents in their task of educating their daughters in Christian sexuality.

For Children and Teens

Parents you can encourage the school to invite us to your child's school or ask your pastor to plan one of these workshops in your parish.

- ***Theology of the Body for Grade School—Gr 6-8***

This program uses a dynamic mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and relevant references to the culture, all packed into eight life-changing lessons.

- ***Theology of the Body and Confirmation***

The goal of the workshop for those approaching confirmation is to reinforce the teaching on the Gifts of The Holy Spirit and the good that comes from them, and how we act them out in the language of our bodies to live a life of chastity.

- ***Theology of the Body for Teens***

Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and references to the culture that teens understand, this program takes the two hottest topics on the planet—God and sex—and "marries" them through Pope John Paul II's compelling vision for love and life.

For Young Adults

- ***Theology of the Body for Young Adults***

In this powerful five-part study video for young adults, popular author and presenter Christopher West lays out a convincing and refreshing road map to living a life of freedom. The concepts presented in this study will change everything, including your worldview.

***Theology of the Body
Institute***

5 Ways to Live Theology of the Body in Your Family

By Bill Donaghy

Pope Francis's recent apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love) has captured in a beautifully intimate way what the Theology of the Body should look like as a marital and familial spirituality.

With true tenderness, the pope shows how it is in the intimate garden of the human family that the theology of our bodies first breaks into the soil of human history, allowing our personalities to grow, ascend, and blossom into the larger world. Marriage and the family allow the joy of love to be made flesh.

Taking thoughts from Amoris Laetitia itself as a springboard, I'd like to offer five ways through which we can begin to give flesh to this theology of the body in the family. Let's begin with that initial encounter that makes human love become flesh; the communion of love of the man and the woman...

To read the rest [click here](http://tobinstitute.org/family/9678/). <http://tobinstitute.org/family/9678/>

Hush

***"One way or
another, someone is***

THE FILM

"Hush" is the result of an unusual team looking honestly at a highly sensitive and controversial topic. To properly handle the subject matter has required more care than transporting nitroglycerin... but an explosion is inevitable.

Since the supreme court's decision of Roe vs Wade legalized abortion

lying to women.”

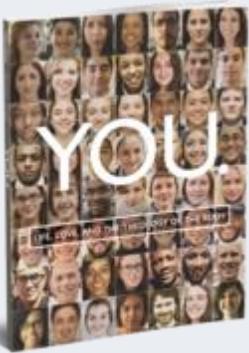
in 1973, “pro-choice” people and “pro-life” people have been arch-enemies. Pure hatred for one another’s viewpoints has reigned even to the point of physical violence towards one another. So when “pro-choice” Director Punam Kumar Gill and “pro-life” Producer Joses Martin began conversations about the subject of the health effects of abortion on women, we weren’t sure whether such a partnership would be possible.

But we believed that if we could overcome our differences and work together, the outcome would be powerful towards the breaking down of political boundaries. Together we determined to maintain one goal, and only one goal, in the making of this film: to find the truth for the sake of women’s health. To do this, we would have to maintain a posture of honour towards ALL women, forgoing our personal opinions of whether abortion is right or wrong, good or bad. We united for the greater good: to ensure that the best possible care is being given to women.

To read more or watch the trailer [click here](#)

Important information:

New program for teens!!!!



You: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body

by Brian Butler, Jason Evert, and Crystalina Evert

The Starter Pack contains the four components a leader needs to begin the study:

- DVD Set (Ten 20 min. videos)
- Student Workbook
- Leader’s Guide
- Parent’s Guide

A Life Changing Experience for Teens

Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity. The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love.

In an age of “selfies” and egocentrism, *You* cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals. But the program doesn’t stop there.

YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others.

Coming Summer 2016

YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body is a thoroughly revised study that replaces *Theology of the Body for Teens: High School Edition*. *TOB for Teens: High School Edition* will remain available through 2016.

For questions or to order, call to speak to a Study Consultant at 800-376-0520 or 800-376-0520 FREE.

To find out more [click here](#)

Theology of the Body 1: Head & Heart Immersion Course

July 17 - 22, 2016 | Taught by **Bill Donaghy**

Black Rock Retreat Center | Quarryville, PA

Pope Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body is **so much more** than a teaching on sex and marriage. What divine mysteries have been revealed to us through the human body? How can the Theology of the Body help us illuminate God's plan for human life, from origin to eternity?

Come immerse yourself in a week of study, prayer & retreat, July 17 - 22, 2016 in Quarryville, PA.

[Click here](#) to register

The Jungle Book and the Theology of the Body

KATHLEEN TORREY

In the new version of the film, Mowgli makes a modern mistake: he fails to realize that being human requires participation in a human community.

The raucous animal adventure of Disney's 1967 *The Jungle Book* enthralled me when I saw it for the first time at four years old. I *looooved* animals. Perhaps because I was naturally shy, animals seemed to me much superior to people in many ways, and endlessly fascinating.

Like other kids, I projected onto Mowgli and envied his friendship with Baloo, in particular...

To read more [click here](#)



Saint John Paul the Great, Poet of the Divine Mysteries and Apostle of the Beauty of the Human Person, pray for us!

Holy Friendship in a Hypersexual World

A wonderful article appeared in the Federalist this past December by D.C. McAllister titled "How To Stop Sexualizing Everything." It tapped into the schizophrenic character of our modern age, particularly in American culture, that surrounds our expressions of intimacy. Essentially, she posited, we either fearfully avoid touch and intimacy as it might be misread as a sin or a sexual advance, or we completely give in, and all that we touch is tinged with sexual undertones and innuendos. McAllister notes "The effect of these two warring attitudes – Puritanism and sexualization – has had a distorting effect on friendship. On the one hand, people don't feel free to show emotions. On the other, when they do, those feelings are sexualized."

To read more [click here](#)

From the **National Catholic Register**

"Pope Francis attributed the marriage crisis to people who "don't know what the sacrament is" and don't know "the beauty of the sacrament."

Are Many Marriages Today Invalid?

Important principles to keep in mind when speaking about marriage.

by *BENEDICT NGUYEN*

"Pope Francis's **recent comments** opining that "a great majority of our sacramental marriages are null" (or "some of our sacramental marriages are null" according to later Vatican editing of the text) set off another media firestorm. His words reveal a common tendency among many in the Church, including many good-hearted pastors and pastoral workers, to pre-judge pessimistically the validity of someone's marriage. Given widespread confusion in the culture and in the Church about the nature of marriage, especially due to the high rates of divorce in the West, it often can be tempting to conclude that large numbers of contemporary men and women are not marrying validly and therefore their marriage are null.

Yet, rash conclusions about the validity or nullity of marriages can be seriously problematic and detrimental to many couples and the institution and sacrament of marriage. Often such judgments don't do justice to the fullness of what the Church teaches about marriage and they don't take into account the objective means the Church uses to determine the validity of marriage."

To read more [click here](#)

The New Evangelization: The Impact of Social Media

Bishop Barron's keynote address for a conference at Saint Vincent College titled "The New Evangelization and Higher Education: The Vision and Pope Francis." The event took place on May 23-25, 2016 in Latrobe, PA.

To listen to the talk [click here](#)

Helpful material in discussing the Theology of the Body

Theology of the Body Resources

Slideshows that can be used for talks on the Theology of the Body [click here](#)

"Marriage is the "most ancient revelation (manifestation) of the plan [of God] in the created world, with the definitive revelation and manifestation – the revelation that "Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her," conferring on his redemptive love a spousal character and meaning. "
— TOB September 8, 1982

Divorcing Marriage from S/x-Ed

Does the new s/x-ed curriculum undermine the institution of marriage? Since it doesn't mention it once, all the while preparing children to date and have s/x, it would appear that yes, it does undermine it. The curriculum is supposed to be "comprehensive" when it comes to the health and well-being of our children, yet it's not broad enough to mention something as important as marriage!

A [recent study by the Canadian think tank Cardus](#) reports that Canadians are becoming more ambivalent about marriage. One of the authors of the study said in an [interview with LifeSiteNews](#) that the culture is to blame: "society sends few messages encouraging marriage or having children."

The new s/x-ed ensures kids know how to have safe s/x-and many parents don't want their children having any s/x except within marriage - but it doesn't talk about the importance of marriage and the joys of family life. Perhaps the so-called "comprehensive" s/x-ed should mention a 2009 study from the Journal of Marriage and Family that found that teens who have more s/xual relationships are less likely to end up happily married.

With so much at stake, it's no wonder that [1 in 6 parents have withdrawn or would withdraw their children from school because of the s/x-ed curriculum](#). Parents are the first educators of their children and know what is best to ensure their children grow up happy and healthy. Kathleen Wynne doesn't get this, as we well know.

On a related note, you may have read about Kathleen Wynne's recent announcement that her government will introduce legislation in September to change the definition of "parent" in Ontario. Once the legislation is passed "parents" will no longer be defined in Ontario as a man and a woman.

While such a change might be in line with similar legislation in several other provinces, it is not necessarily in line with the beliefs and values of many Ontarians, or even with common sense. We know from the s/x-ed situation though, that Wynne cares little about people's beliefs and more about her own political agenda. And as for common sense, well, the inappropriateness of her s/x-ed curriculum shows how little common sense she has.

Ontarians, however, are not happy with Wynne - she continues to register with embarrassingly low approval ratings like the recent 21%. This gives us hope that the tide is turning in our favour, in favour of parental rights, in favour of a saner approach to s/x-ed that doesn't harm our children and shut out parents as the primary educators of their children.

Contact PAFE (Parents As First Educators) [click here](#)



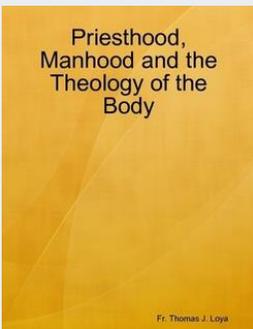
Theology of the Body Congress

Southern California, September 23-25, 2016

Speakers:

- Archbishop Gomez
- Jason Evert
- Rose Sweet
- Matt Fradd
- Damon Oens
- Bill Donaghy
- Sr. Helena Burns, FSP
- Christopher West
- Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, OCD
- Fr. Sean Kilcawley
- Jake Samour
- Anastasia Northrop

For more information [click here](#)



Recommended Reading

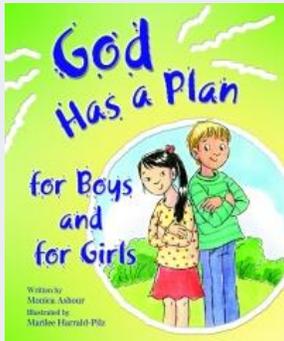
Priesthood, Manhood and the Theology of the Body

By Fr. Thomas J. Loya

Learn how Manhood and Priesthood are linked by diving deep into the lived experience of the Theology of the Body

[Click here](#) to purchase the ebook

What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

God Has a Plan for Boys and Girls

by Monica Ashour

Help children discover who they are and the importance of the way God made them. *God Has a Plan for Boys and for Girls* affirms the gift of gender in a joyful, easy-to-understand way, teaching children about identity, human dignity, equality, and God's plan for them.

About this Series:

"Who am I?" is a question everyone asks, even the very young.

Saint John Paul II spoke at length about this question in writings and teachings we now call the theology of the body. In a culture of confused and misdirected values, it is difficult to raise children to understand that they are created in the image of God. These books give parents and teachers a place to begin.

Building Blocks of TOB for Kids seeks to affirm the dignity of the human person — body and soul — according to God's plan. Simple stories cover topics including gender identity, body language, and self-giving love.

Ideal for ages 4–7.

Features & Benefits:

- Includes a note for parents at the beginning of each book
- Introduces children to the dignity of the whole human person
- Colorful illustrations throughout

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

The Science of NFP

This article was written by Alison Contreras. It was originally published at LittleCatholicBubble.blogspot.com. Alison blogs at matchingmoonheads.wordpress.com and can be contacted through her email alisoncontreras@nfpsst.org.

THE BASICS

All natural family planning (NFP) methods have the same aim: Identify the times when a couple is fertile or infertile in order to know when to achieve or avoid pregnancy. This does not make NFP a method of contraception, since nothing is being done to prevent conception. The sex act is left undisturbed, and the spouses' bodies are unaltered. A couple decides when to have intercourse based on their desire to postpone or achieve pregnancy.

A male is always fertile, but without the right conditions in the female body, his

presentation: 2nd Tuesday, each month at 8 p.m.

Natural Family Planning is not only a valuable tool for married couples, but all women can use it to monitor their health.

sperm will die within 20 minutes after completion of intercourse. A woman, on the other hand, cycles between being infertile and fertile all within an approximately month-long period.

To read this fascinating article [click here](#)

Or contact Natural Family Planning Association at toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca



Natural Family Planning Association

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.

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.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/

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

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