

God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

June 2008 Edition, Volume 1

Website: www.godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com

What's New?

Welcome to the first edition of the God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter! We hope to make this a bimonthly publication. Over the past months, we've had a number of people express interest in what's happening within our lay organization, and news on our upcoming workshops.

The God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry

The most exciting news for our organization is its recognition as an official lay organization within the Archdiocese of Toronto! This is further testament to what we've said in our workshops; Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* is an important body of work, and one that needs to be disseminated at the parish level, in a language everyone can understand. Our special thanks to all of the pastors who have graciously given us space to present our workshops in your parish. Without your support, this recognition would not have been possible.

Did You Know?

The God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life ministry offers more than just the 4-week introduction to Theology of the Body. We also offer a study group (see Upcoming Events for more details) and we offered a one evening program called, *Guiding Your Child Through the Sexual Minefield. Theology of the Body for Toddlers to Teens and Beyond!*, for the first time this year! Similar to the 4 week introduction we offer, this program includes a DVD presentation (by Katrina Zeno), and small group discussions.

We would like to continue to offer this program, but we need your help! We are looking for parishes or CSACs that are interested in sponsoring one of these sessions. For more information, please contact Jan Noonan (905-

Upcoming Events

We continue to grow and this September we are going to be increasing the number of programs we offer. So keep an eye out for future editions of this newsletter with more information.

Theology of the Body Study Groups

In addition to the study group already offered at St. Bernadette's Parish (21 Bayly St. East, Ajax) on Mondays from 9:30 – 11:30 AM we are looking to start up an additional group that would meet in the evenings. If you are interested in attending this study group please contact Susan Kennedy (905-427-6137) or e-mail stbreg@gmail.com. More information will follow in the next newsletter.



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Where We've Been

St. Bernadette	Oct. 2006
St. Gertrude	Jan. 2007
Holy Redeemer	Feb. 2007
St. Lawrence	March 2007
St. Bernadette	June 2007
St. Rose of Lima	Oct. 2007
St. Bernadette	Jan. 2008
St. Aidan	Feb. 2008
North Prayer Group	March 2008
St. Isaac Jogues	Apr. 2008
St. Gregory the Great	May 2008

Theology of the Body for Teens

Do you have a teenager, or know of a teenagers who are confused about who they are or about the true meaning of love and sex? Most are! In this unique workshop, offered specifically for teenagers, we will be using Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* as a framework to answer the troubling questions that your teen faces on a daily basis. This workshop will explain the differences between God's plan, and the messages that constantly bombard them. At the end of the workshop they will understand:

- Why did God give us sexual desires?
- What is the difference between love and lust?
- What does our sexuality teach us about God?
- Can Christ bring healing to me if I've already "messed up"?
- How can I discover my vocation?
- How far is "too far"?
- How can teens remain pure in our oversexed culture?
- Is there any hope for overcoming lust and pornography? ... and many more.

The workshop runs from September 25 – December 11 (12 weeks) from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Holy Redeemer Parish Hall (796 Eyer Dr. in Pickering). The cost is \$10, which covers the cost of the student workbook.

If you know of some teenagers, we ask that you encourage them to attend this workshop. Help them discover God's wondrous plan for their lives! We will also be hosting a Parents' Information session in the parish hall on Thursday September 11 at 7:30 PM. For more information, please contact Jan Noonan (905-420-8696) or Rose Heron (905-683-9055), or e-mail stbreg@gmail.com. Additional information can also be found online: <http://www.tobforteens.com/>.

We're also looking for volunteers to assist with this program. If you're interested in helping, please contact one of the names above!

Points to Ponder

It's fair to say that Archie Bunker lived his marriage based on the controversial text From Ephesians 5 "Wives be subject to your husbands" (Eph 5:22) without understanding St. Paul's real meaning. How would Archie's marriage to Edith been different had he known, and lived the its real meaning?

How Can I Help?

Above all else – we need your prayers! Your prayers that our ministry will continue to grow as we spread the good news contained within Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. If you've attended one of our sessions held in another parish, then please encourage your parish priest to host one of our sessions!

