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God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

MAR 2015

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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"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:

gsmministry@gmail.com

or 905-683-9055

We are now booking into the 2015.

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

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.

Mar 28 Who Will be Saved

April 25 How to Pray

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 Fall

Teachers: Consider booking us for the fall of 2015. We can present *Theology of the Body in the Classroom* to your students, especially with the new Sex Ed program from Kathleen Wynn.

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.

The program will also provide a valuable experience with the ToB material and show how easily it can be incorporated into the curriculum without a lot of study on your part.

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

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

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 Great Adventure: A Journey Through the Bible

In the fall we will be offering the next step in the Great Adventure, The Gospel of Matthew: the King and His Kingdom.

The course is a combination of small group discussion followed by a DVD talk by Jeff Cavins. This is a 24 week course.

Cost \$40.00

Time Wed mornings from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm.

At St. Bernadette's Parish hall 21 Bayly St E., Ajax

Start Sept 16, 2015

**Contact us regarding an Evening Bible Study at
gsmlministry@gmail.com**

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

To read the Audience [click here](#)

According to Genesis 2:25, the man and the woman were not ashamed seeing and knowing each other in all the peace and tranquillity of the interior gaze. They communicate in the fullness of humanity, which is manifested in them as reciprocal

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 Adam and Eve 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. This way, man and woman see 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 now 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 that through their community of masculinity and femininity 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".

*complementarity
precisely because they
are "male" and
"female." JP II*

If the two versions of Genesis show us original solitude, unity and nakedness, they also show us and allow us to interpret man 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". This will give us a new way of looking at the meaning of "the gift" which gives the truth and meaning of original solitude, unity and nakedness. The gift is also at the heart of creation and 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 in, and 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, and 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 also received the others as a gift, and it is through this we can understand the theology of the body.

Into the Heart

Into the Heart: A Journey Through the Theology of the Body

Based on St. John Paul II's revolutionary teaching and presented by world-renowned speaker and best-selling author Christopher West. This 9 week DVD-based study will move you deeper into the profound message of the Theology of the Body, enabling you to integrate it fully into every aspect of your life!

In this 9 week DVD study you will learn:

- God's plan for human love, life, marriage, & family.
- How to enter into a deep and intimate relationship with God.
- The profound meaning and mystery of your body.
- How to live a truly happy and fulfilled life.
- The authentic purpose of marriage and how to "take it to the next level."
- ...and much more.

Singles, engaged couples, married couples and youth 18+ are all welcome. Facilitated by the parishioners under the spiritual guidance of Deacon Brian duQuesnay.

DVD-BASED STUDY

DATES, TIMES, LOCATION

Tuesdays 7:30pm to 9:30pm, April 14th to June 9th 2015
Merciful Redeemer Parish 2775 Erin Centre Blvd., Mississauga

COST \$25/person, \$30/couple Payable April 14th with cash.

Registration opens March 14th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION/REGISTRATION

Anthony Mendes: 416-302-4253 Melvin Marques: marquesm2020@gmail.com Tod Markelj: TOB@bell.net

Topics for the day:

- A Cry for Mercy – Reflections on John 20:28
-
- Peter and the Papacy
- Understanding “Our Father”
- Lord Have Mercy
- Hail Holy Queen
- Magnificat – Song of the Anawim

Mercy and the Kingdom

Dr. Scott Hahn will be giving 3 talks and Patrick Sullivan will give 2 talks.

For a schedule of the day [click here](#).

Location: Canada Christian College, 50 Gervais Drive, Toronto (Don Mills & Eglinton)

Date: Saturday May 2, 2015

Schedule: Doors Open 7:45AM, Event: 8:30AM – 3:45PM

Parking is FREE on site (first come first served). Lunch is available for \$5.75.

A must see!!!

The Economics of Sex

Alex Farmer •

How much do you think you are worth?

Catholic-link.com – From recent claims that Pope Francis is planning to change the Church’s teaching on divorce and remarriage, to the worldwide headlines announcing that Pope Benedict had okayed contraception, you

might get the impression that the only thing the Church ever talks about is sex. This is far from being the case. What is true is that people spend a lot of time talking and thinking about sex and so of course the Church, who engages with the world, talks about it too. (And, well, 'Pope says that God loves us' is not really a newsworthy headline.)

This video, then, 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. Obviously this video discusses sex, which means its age-appropriateness should be considered carefully, but it is in no way graphic.

Watch the video and find out – [click here](#)

Video on the Internet

Theology of the Body - David Haduk

David Haduk wrote, *God's Plan for You: Life, Love, Marriage & Sex*. He is now giving talks on the Theology of the Body online. To watch them, [click here](#)

"What makes Theology of the Body unique is that it brings true joy to relationships, marriages and friendships..."
Archbishop Aquila

Natural family planning, theology of the body – the Church's 'best-kept secrets'

Denver, Colo., Feb 11, 2015 / 05:01 pm (CNA/EWTN News).- If you ask Archbishop Aquila, theology of the body and natural family planning – both practical resources on human sexuality – may be the Church's best-kept secrets.

"The truth is, the Church has many positive things to say about the gift of our sexuality," Archbishop Samuel Aquila of Denver said Feb. 8 at a dinner for teachers of natural family planning.

'Theology of the Body' is the corpus of 129 General Audience addresses delivered by St. John Paul II from 1979 to 1984, regarding the human person and human sexuality.

The heart of these teachings is the sacramental view of reality on human sexuality, Archbishop Aquila said, meaning that human bodies have a language that reveals something about the mystery of God's inner life.

Archbishop Aquila believes the importance of Theology of the Body and the positive impact of natural family planning are foundational pillars to understand how Christ redeemed human sexuality after the fall of Adam and Eve.

To read the whole article [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

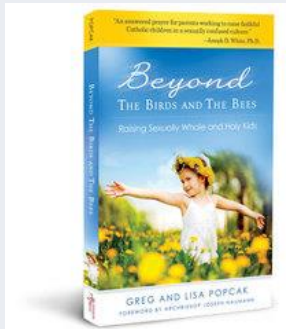
Archbishop Charles Chaput has confirmed that the Holy Father has accepted his invitation to the World Meeting of Families, taking place in Philadelphia in September of 2015!

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

Beyond the Birds and the Bees (Raising Sexually Whole and Holy Kids)

by Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak

"The Talk." It's one of the most daunting prospects parents face. Communicating the richness of Catholic teaching on sexuality in a faithful and effective way can be an overwhelming responsibility. But does it have to be so?

In this thoroughly revised version of *Beyond the Birds and the Bees*, Greg and Lisa Popcak empower you with the tools needed to move well beyond "the Talk" by offering a comprehensive guide to raising sexually whole and holy children. Using the riches of Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body, the Popcaks help you safely navigate your children from infancy through the teenage years and beyond.

This book answers the questions parents may have, including:

- What lessons must my children learn at each stage to develop a healthy Christian sexuality?
- How can I have age-appropriate conversations about sensitive issues with my children?
- How can I teach my children what it takes to be a true Catholic man or woman?
- How can I help my children have healthy, Christian dating relationships?

...and much more

What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

The Midnight Dancers: A Fairy Tale Retold

By Regina Doman

When teenaged Rachel Durham finds a way that she and her eleven stepsisters can sneak out of their Chesapeake Bayside home after midnight, their worried fundamentalist father enlists the help of Paul Fester, a traveling juggler, to find out what the girls are up to. A modern retelling of Grimm's fairy tale, "The Twelve Dancing Princesses."

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

It's that time of year - NFPA is looking for Board Members

Want to help NFPA but not as a Teacher?

Want to join a Board of Directors but don't have experience?

Do you have Board of Directors Experience but want a Change?

The Natural Family Planning Association (NFPA), the Billings Ovulation Method, Board of Directors is seeking recommendations for members to its Board of Directors.

Currently there are three openings on NFPA's Board of Directors. NFPA has Board members with many years of experience and others who are newer to being on a Board. NFPA can aid you to gaining experience as a Board member.

NFPA's volunteer Board of Director's is comprised of 9 members with diverse backgrounds and skills. The Board meets as a whole approximately ten (10) times yearly in Toronto (not in July and August). Most members also sit on one Board Committee. As a rotating Board the terms are, typically, three years in length, with a possibility of renewal for a second term.

Current recruitment priorities are skills in any of the following: Fundraising, Finance, Strategic Planning, Promotion and Organizational Structure.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a recommendation, please send an email or contact the NFPA office. A resume is required of the nominee in order to be considered by the Board's Recruitment Committee:

recruitment.committee@naturalfamilyplanning.ca

NFPA has a wonderful Board that plays a key role in the success of our organization. Your help in the search for strong candidates will assist us to ensure we keep a talented and vibrant Board.

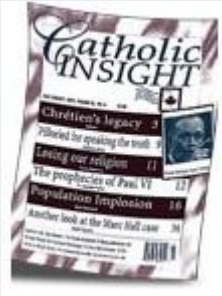
NFPA Office 416-481-5465
www.toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca



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.



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.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/

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

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