



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

MAR 2017

VOLUME 54

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 Parish Hall, 21

Contents

GSML News

- [Cardinal Thomas Collins' statement on the Theology of the Body](#)
- [Theology of the Body Study Group](#)
- [Bible Study](#) – Book of Revelation – starting Sept 2017
- [Apologetics](#) – *God Talk* (Mar) & *Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell* (Apr)
- [Join the New Evangelization](#)

Other News

- [Be Not Afraid: A Retreat Guide on St. John Paul II](#)
- [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference](#)
- [Practicing Catholic Singles \(25 & UP\) Social & Meet & Greet](#)
- [The Amore Project Presents: Re-imagining the Family on Mission](#)
- [Theology of the Body & Art: The Way of Beauty](#)
- [Theology of the Body at The Movies](#)
- [TOB Tuesday: Theology of the Body, Part 2](#)
- [Woman, Self-Giving and Receiving: New Feminism, Theology of the Body, and Society](#)
- [New Pro-Life Programs Launched for Catholic High School Students](#)
- [Recommended Reading](#) – *Who Am I to Judge?* By Edward Sri
- [Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries](#)
- [Natural Family Planning](#) - The Importance of Fertility Awareness in the Assessment of a Woman's Health



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

We are now booking into 2017.

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

We are leading a *Theology of the Body for Teens* program in a Toronto School this semester. Three classes will attend the program for twelve weeks.

Teachers: you should consider this program in your classroom in the fall. At the very least contact Rose at 905-683-9055 or roseheron@gmail.com to find out the details. It is presented at a very minimal cost.

Theology of the Body Study Group

Our group is 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: In the fall of 2017 we starting at ***Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come.***

In this intriguing look at one of the most talked-about books in Scripture, Jeff Cavins explores Revelation to demonstrate how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven,

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

especially through the celebration of the Mass.

You will learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation present, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has already happened, and what is happening now in salvation history. It is a 11 week course which will start Wednesday, Sept. 13 or Friday, Sept 15. Please join us Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am – 11:30 am (Friday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm)

Purchase of the Study Guide is Optional at a cost is \$35.

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

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

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

Apologetics

Apologetics means giving a reasoned explanation for your faith. A Catholic apologist charitably explains and defends Catholic doctrine using Scripture, history and common sense.

Join us the 4th Saturday (after the 9:00 a.m. Mass) of every month for an opportunity to learn to explain your faith clearly, defend it charitably, and share it confidently.

Mar 25 God Talking

God "speaks" to us in at least 8 ways. What are they? Have you heard him? Have you never (or rarely) "heard" Him? Is it God, your own mind, Satan? What does His silence mean?

April 22 Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell

In his wonderful DVD, Dr. Edward Sri looks at "What happens after we die? Jesus reveals the Last Things – death, judgement, heaven and hell – and what we need to do now to prepare for eternity."

**Join the New Evangelization
Teachers**

Wondering what the Theology of the Body is all about and how it can help your school and students' lives? NOW is the opportunity to plug in and find out. Embrace the New Evangelization and make a difference in your class and school.

Take the time to invite our group, GSML Ministry (Archdiocese of Toronto

approved) into your classroom for 12 weekly sessions using the Theology of the Body for Teens program. You, will experience it along with your students and therefore be prepared to teach and use the material next semester.

Just think 12 classes, once a week where you sit, observe and participate as you like and learn new material. See the [article](#) from the Diocese of Pembroke to see how one group put this into effect in their school.

We have been in several schools in the Toronto Archdiocese and have effectively brought the Theology of the Body to their students. Because their teachers took on the responsibility of this message, one school went from Pro-choice to **Pro-life**. The whole fabric of the student body changed.

You can make the difference in your school.

For more information contact Rose at 905-683-9055 or gsmlministry@gmail.com

Parents

We can no longer sit back and leave sex-ed up to the schools; the government program is focused on society's views of sex. Chastity, abstinence, and other Catholic teachings are not taught.

You must join the fight for YOUR child's soul. Encourage your schools to have the Theology of the Body programs taught in them, both Secondary and Elementary School. Encourage your parish to run these programs.

We have the tools that you need to equip yourself and your child to resist the pull of the world.

Contact Rose at 905-683-9055 regarding programs and workshops we can run in your schools or parishes. Or email gsmlministry@gamil.com

You can make a difference.

Pastors

The hardest thing is to talk about sex and while we don't in our Theology of the Body programs and workshops, we do talk about the Church's teaching on morality. We give parents tools that can help safeguard their children and themselves against the influences of society.

Make a difference in your parish life.

One program you might consider is:

- ***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.

Free, but you do need to sign up.

Be Not Afraid: A Retreat Guide

on St. John Paul II

When Karol Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, emerged onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome after being chosen by the conclave of cardinals as Pope John Paul II, he made history.

That night, he hand-wrote his first papal homily, which set the tone for the next 26 years of his papacy. In it he said:

Brothers and sisters do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power... Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ... So often today man does not know what is within him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. (Homily, 22 October 1978)

"Be Not Afraid!" That is the title of this Retreat Guide, which will give us a chance to reflect on what made this Polish Pope so holy, inspiring, and spiritually fruitful.

- The First Meditation will explore his conviction about the power of ideas.
- The Second Meditation will explore his belief in the power of witness.
- And the Conference will reflect on the theme of vocation—of life as a calling.

If you are interested in signing up [click here](#)

Dynamic Women of Faith Conference

http://dynamicwomenfaith.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/DWOF-2017_Digital-1.pdf

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017

John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre 4300 Cawthra Rd., Mississauga, ON

REGISTRATION – 8:00 am

MASS – 9:00 AM

CONFERENCE – 10:00 AM

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord

Opening mass celebrated by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, next to the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre

9:00 a.m.

Light Breakfast • Lunch • Free Parking

Cost: \$60 + HST

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Josephine Lombardi
- Deacon Robert & Gabrielle Suthers
- Tanya Granic Allen
- Cheryl Thompson
- Dorothy Pilarski

TOPICS

- The Call to Holiness
- Why Minister to Moms?
- Finding Your Catholic Voice
- Marriage and Sanity?
- How Does CatholicMomsGroup.com Work?

For more information [click here](#)

Practicing Catholic Singles (25 & UP) Social & Meet & Greet

It's FREE to Join Our Group! It's EASY! Just *press the JOIN US button at the TOP Right side of [their page](#)* and Then RSVP Yes for our low-cost upcoming Events for Practicing Catholic Singles. You will be seated with Members in YOUR age group from 25 yrs old to Seniors... at a Reserved Party Room in a Restaurant!!! You can also privately message Members on-line... We have 300 Members & GROWING and some are from outside Toronto!!! ... In the future I hope we will have Meet & Greet All Members in every city across Canada & the U.S. etc.....

- Tuesday, March 7, 2017 7:30 PM

Toronto WORKSHOP: Successful Romantic Relationships - Led by Prof. Life Coach

46 Practicing Catholic Singles attending

- Saturday, March 11, 2017 9:45 AM

1.5 Hr TOUR-THEATRE LOVERS-BEHIND THE SCENES at the Elgin & Wintergarden Theatre

[Click here](#) for more information

The Amore Project Presents:

Re-imagining the Family on Mission

March 15-17, 2017

Cardinal Keeler Conference Center
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Christopher West and Msgr. Renzo Bonetti (founder of Mistero Grande) will speak at the third plenary session at 1:20 p.m. March 16.

Conference website: <http://freshexpressionsus.org/amorelaunch/>

[Click here for the official flier.](#)

Re-Imagining the Mission of the Family

The Amore Project helps the whole Church rediscover the family as the domestic church and the New Testament 'oikos' as a center for community and mission. Amore trains married couples to embrace their marriage as a sign of the gospel and a calling to minister among those who are far from God.

The theme of the 2017 conference, "Bringing Church Home: Reimagining the Family on Mission" focuses on the goal of releasing a movement of married couples who live as agents of Christ's self-giving love. Believing that mission often arises when the people of God seek reconciliation in the broken places, the conference will help attendees seek a great awakening in homes, networks, neighborhoods and families.

The conference is a partnership and collaboration between the Diocese of Harrisburg, Mistero Grande, Truro Anglican Church, the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Fresh Expressions Team.

Date: March 16, 2017

Time: 1:20-4 p.m.

Event: [Bringing Church Home: Reimagining the Family on Mission Conference](#)

Topic: The Amore Project Presents: Reimagining the Family on Mission

Venue: Cardinal Keeler Conference Center

Location: 4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA
USA

Public: Public

Registration: Click [here](#) to register.

More Info: Click [here](#) for more information.

Purchase "Our Bodies Proclaim the Gospel" for home study, now with facilitator resources! Visit the shop at www.corproject.com!

Theology of the Body & Art: The Way of Beauty

May 7 - 12, 2017 | Taught by Bill Donaghy

Malvern Retreat Center | MALVERN, PA

The heart of the Theology of the Body & Art course will be the invitation for students to "walk the Way of Beauty" as a path leading to God, and to see Beauty as a key to evangelizing others into an encounter with God.

For more information [click here](#)

Theology of the Body at The Movies

By Christopher West

Download a FREE copy of Christopher West's latest book. 26 essays covering 22 files and tips on how to view art with the Theology of the Body lens.

[Click here to download](#)

The download works better on Firefox or Google Chrome than Internet Explorer



Theology of the Body, Part 2

Matthew Coffin

The Exchange of Persons in the Trinity

The three-leaf clover used in religion classes to explain the mystery of three Divine Persons in one God does not begin to penetrate the incomparable majesty, boundless love, and total communion, which the Church in her Tradition and creeds ascribes to the Godhead.

To the early Church Fathers the idea of *perichoresis* (the exchange of Persons in the Trinity), was indispensable to understanding God. This sublime, metaphysical concept is central to John Paul's Theology of the Body. The inner life of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Divine Love Itself, is dimly but unmistakably reflected in the beauty of the conjugal embrace, the nuptial meaning of our bodies, and the echo of original innocence that resides in the human heart.

Before continuing, the term "person" should be defined. A person has an intellect, with which to know and a will, with which to choose. As a result, a person is always a "someone," never a "something." Animals are not persons. Their intellects are governed by instinct and they do not have free will. Only persons can freely choose.

There are three types of persons: Divine Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), angelic persons (angels), and human persons (human beings). God alone possesses the Divine Nature that is the Divine Intellect and the Divine Will. As Persons, each member of the Trinity has a Divine Intellect and a Divine Will, separate from and in accordance with each other. Christ incarnate also possesses a human intellect and a human will. Angels are persons because they know and choose, as do human beings. This is what it means to say we are made in the image and likeness of God. Our personhood images

the Divine Personhood of the Trinity.

<http://www.bigccatholics.com/2010/03/theology-of-body-part-2.html>

Woman, Self-Giving and Receiving: New Feminism, Theology of the Body, and Society

By Aneta Gawkowska – University of Warsaw

New feminists are the ones who believe in reality and its goodness: its being meaningful and teleological because of the love creating it and keeping it going. Either one discovers and believes in love

or not... To read more [click here](#)

<http://docplayer.net/42026616-Woman-self-giving-and-receiving-new-feminism-theology-of-the-body-and-society-1.html>

Recommended Reading

Who Am I to Judge? By Edward Sri

"Don't be so judgmental!"

"Why are Christians so intolerant?"

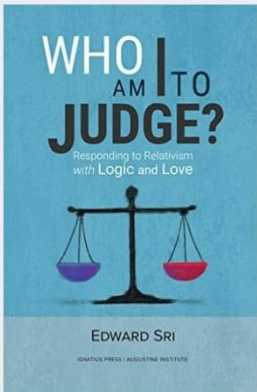
"Why can't we just coexist?"

In an age in which preference has replaced morality, many people find it difficult to speak the truth, afraid of the reactions they will receive if they say something is right or wrong. Using engaging stories and personal experience, Edward Sri helps us understand the classical view of morality and equips us to engage relativism, appealing to both the head and the heart. Learn how Catholic morality is all about love, why making a judgment is not judging a person's soul, and why, in the words of Pope Francis, "relativism wounds people." Topics include:

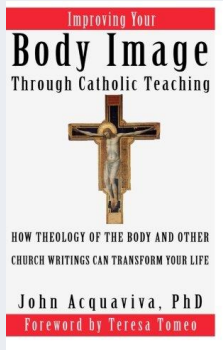
Real Freedom, Real Love

Sharing truth with compassion

Why "I disagree" doesn't mean "I hate you"



What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Improving Your Body Image Through Catholic Teaching: How Theology of the Body and Other Church Writings Can Transform Your Life Dr John Acquaviva

The “body image crisis” has never been greater, but this book gives great reason to hope! - Christopher West John Acquaviva has done a great service to the Church – Greg Popcak I have learned that the Church does have the answers to all of the struggles and issues that life throws at us—yes, even the issues of body image and general health. – Teresa Tomeo Feel better about your body today. For the first time, here’s a book that will get you to accept and love your body using the best tool of all: God. Considering that so many people suffer from a poor body image, many will ...

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.

St. 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.

The Importance of Fertility Awareness in the Assessment of a Woman's Health

Written by Professor Pilar Vigil

Fertility awareness constitutes fundamental knowledge for every woman and is an important tool for health professionals. The objective of this review is to show how fertility awareness can be useful in the assessment of a woman’s health. The main techniques for detecting ovulation are explained, and then the events that characterize a normal menstrual cycle are discussed. The relevance of cervical mucus from the perspective of female fertility is highlighted. Finally, the usefulness of fertility awareness 1) to identify fertile and infertile periods, 2) to help to detect several pathologies, and 3) in regards to how it exerts an important role in the success of programs in education for affectivity and sexuality are discussed.

To read the full 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

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