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God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

MAY 3, 2010

VOLUME 13

Please keep Christopher West, his family and his mission in our prayers.

Freedom to Love Conference - **Postponed**

From the Couples for Christ: "It is with great regret that we pass along the news that The Theology of the Body Institute has advised that for personal and professional reasons Christopher West has gone on a six month sabbatical (to end September 2010). Details of this announcement can be read from their website:

www.tobinstitute.org/announcement.asp?AnnouncementsID=31

In this regard, our "Freedom to Love" Conference in Toronto on May 8, 2010 will be rescheduled to a later date. If you have registered, thank you. Your registration payments will be reimbursed and mailed back to you. Please give us time to process all these documents.

On behalf of Couples for Christ Pro-Life Ministry planning team, our deep gratitude for your overwhelming support.

We ask for your prayers that God will allow us to host this event later this year. Most importantly, please pray for Christopher West and his family."

Any inquiries regarding this development may be done by emailing CFC at: prolife@cfcontario.ca or by calling CFC at Tel: (416)321-1937, between 1:00pm and 7:00pm.

Note: Email gsmlministry@gmail.com to book a Workshop for your Parish or Group we are now taking bookings for the fall and 2011.

GSML Workshop in Orillia

The next GSML Workshop will be held at:

- Guardian Angels Parish, Orillia all day Saturday May 15 from 9:30 to 4:30. Doors open 9:00 am. - Admission is \$5.00 (lunch is included); Study Guide is \$10.00 (optional).

Contact Anne Waggoner 705-323-9552 email: eviea3@sympatico.ca Discover why God created us male and female. Everyone welcome, bring a friend.

Theology of the Body Congress



"The Theology of the Body Institute announces the first annual National Theology of the Body Congress — what organizers hope will be the most expansive gathering of Theology of the Body experts and enthusiasts ever assembled.

The Congress will be held at Normandy Farm Hotel and Conference Center outside Philadelphia from July 28- 30, 2010 with the theme "Receiving and Proclaiming the Gift." Registration is now open at tobcongress.com/

Early Bird Registration is now open! Don't miss your chance to register by May 22 and save! Due to space restrictions, limited spots are available - **so register now!**

Featured speakers include: Justin Cardinal Rigali, Fr. Richard Hogan, Dr. Michael Waldstein, Fr. Brian Bransfield, Dr. Janet Smith, Helen Alvare, and many more. To view a list of speakers go to: tobcongress.com/program/speakers

Registration Fees:

Early Bird registration (by May 22) \$269
Regular registration (by June 25) \$309
On Site registration (based on availability) \$329
Clergy and Religious and Students:
Early Bird \$239 Regular \$279
Seminarians:
Early Bird \$229 Regular \$269

All registrations must be done through the secure online site which you can reach by clicking on this [registration link](#).

Full Registration Fee Includes

- More than 35 workshops, roundtable and panels
- A luncheon and two dinners
- Artistic performances
- Theology of the Body Awards Banquet
- Opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation and daily Mass"

Accommodations

Normandy Farm Hotel and Conference Center
1431 Morris Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422-1424

All reservations for Normandy Farm Hotel and Conference Center must be made through online registration. **No reservations will be accepted over the phone by Normandy Farm Hotel and Conference Center.** Conference room rates:

King Standard \$128.52, tax included
Queen Double \$128.52, tax included

To view the brochure go to: tobcongress.com/files/2010CongressBrochureF.pdf

Speakers include:

- Justin Cardinal Rigali
- Fr. Richard Hogan
- Helen M. Alvaré
- Fr. Brian Bransfield
- Fr. Thomas Loya
- Sr. Helena Burns, F.S.P.
- Dr. Janet Smith
- Katrina Zeno
- Dr. Pia de Solenni
- Anastasia Northrop
- Fr. Roger J. Landry
- Dr. Peter Colosi
- Bill Donaghy
- Damon Owens
- Dr. Michael Waldstein
- Monica Ashour
- Dr. Gregory Popcak, MSW, LISW
- Glen Stanton
- Jake Samour, MTS
- Bob Schuchts Ph.D.
- Dr. Philip Mango

Don't forget that the ToB in the Classroom can be presented at anytime of the year, not just Respect for Life Week.

Respect for Life Week – May 20 – 14. 2010

If you are a teacher, consider holding a Theology of the Body in the Classroom session in your classroom. This introductory Theology of the Body presentation on Pope John Paul II's teachings will be in DVD format with discussion following the short video (i.e., question/answer period) and handouts will also be provided.

Length: One classroom period but can be adjusted. It will provide a perfect opportunity to experience this program.

Contact gsmlministry@gmail.com

ToB Study Groups

Presently, we are running two at St. Bernadette's Parish at 21 Bayly St Ajax

- Monday Morning from 9:30-11:30
- Every 2nd & 4th Monday evening from 7:-9:00.

For more information contact:

gsmlministry@gmail.com
[m](#)

Learn Presentation & Training Techniques Report

The first of two sessions, held on March 27 at St Bernadette's Parish in Ajax, was well received according to feedback from several of the attendees. In this session, the participants were presented with information on how to speak in public, effective use of a microphone, how to set up basic audio visual equipment, how to prepare and deliver a presentation, how to arrange an event, how to arrange for and set up a venue, how to facilitate a group discussion, and much more. Following the instructional part of the day, as a demonstration of effective presentations, the participants watched the video "Theology of The Body: Toddlers, Teens and Beyond" by Katrina Zeno and participated in small group discussions of the video. This allowed them to experience how we facilitate these types of groups. Each participant left with an assignment to prepare a short presentation using the Theology of the Body For Teens manuals.

At the next session on May 29, each person will have the opportunity to practice the techniques they covered in session one, and will receive individual comments from the God, Sex and The Meaning of Life Ministry facilitators after the session.

For those unable to attend GSML Ministry is planning a training session next year. More information will follow.

Theology of the Body Film Festival -

This was the first annual ToB Film Festival and was held in Sept. 2009.
www.jp2filmfestival.com/festival_09/films/features/index.html

Their mission: "To organize an annual faith-based film festival modeled after the views and ideals of the late Pope John Paul II. With the help of filmmakers from around the world, we will create an alternative to the Hollywood industry by fostering filmmakers longing to use their God-given talents to share their faith with the masses. The festival will also feature talks, seminars, music, and art that celebrate our humanity through God's eyes."

The festival has already occurred but the website lists many features films that are worth seeing and supporting. For examples go to the website and click on the titles to see a synopsis on the others.

Features

THE 13TH DAY - Director: Ian and Dominic Higgins

Based on the memoirs of the oldest Seer, Lucia Santos, and many thousands of independent eye-witness accounts, The 13th Day dramatizes the TRUE story of three young shepherds who experienced six interactive apparitions with a "Lady from Heaven" between May and October 1917, which culminated into the final prophesized Miracle.

After the Truth- Director: Roland Suso Richter

This powerful, award-winning film tells the story of one of the greatest challenges the legal system has ever faced. Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous "Angel of Death" in Auschwitz, and one of the most wanted Nazi war criminals, turns himself in after 30 years in hiding to tell his "truth" to the world. Thus ensues a battle between conscience and evil... *After The Truth* presents us with Mengele's hypothetical trial, which forces us to review that judgment, especially in the context of the wider negative attitudes towards the dignity of human life in the German society.

As We Forgive - Director: Laura Waters Hinson

A. documentary about Rosaria and Chantal—two Rwandan women coming face-to-face with the men who slaughtered their families during the 1994 genocide. The subjects of *As We Forgive* speak for a nation still wracked by the grief of a genocide that killed one in eight Rwandans in 1994. Overwhelmed by an enormous backlog of court cases, the government has returned over 50,000 thousand genocide perpetrators back to the very communities they helped to destroy. Without the hope of full justice, Rwanda has turned to a new solution: Reconciliation.

BandSlam - Director: Todd Graff

She appears to have just one goal in mind: go head-to-head against her egotistical musician ex-boyfriend, Ben, at the biggest event of the year, a battle of the bands. Against all odds, their band develops a sound all its own with a real shot at success in the contest. Meanwhile, romance brews between Will and Sasm, who plays a mean guitar and has a voice to die for. When disaster strikes, it's time for the band to make a choice: Do they admit defeat, or face the music and stand up for what they believe in?

Others include:

Bella - Director: Alejandro Gomez Monteverde
The Birth Of Freedom - Director: Jay Richards
The Boy In The Striped Pajamas - Director: Mark Herman
Duska - Director: Wanda Rozycka
Faith Like Potatoes - Director: Regardt Van Den Bergh
God In China - Director: Raphaela Schmid

Short Films:

The Bible Contains Bread Of Life - Director: Kevis Antonio And Victor Carter
Comfort
The Don't Song
God In The Streets Of NYC
Gone - Director: Stephanie De Latour
I'm Alive
It's Not Over
Messy Spirituality - Director: Jim Eimmerman

GSML Ministry is not endorsing any of the films as we have not viewed most them. We are only listing the ones that appeared in the festival. The comments are from their website.

The Human Experience - Director: Charles Kinnane
The Mighty Macs - Director: Tim Chambers
Road Of Hope - Director: David Naglieri
Rosary Stars - Director: Jake Alba
Taking Chance - Director: Ross Katz
Testimony - Director: Paweł Pitera
The Wager - Director: Judson Pearce Morgan
The Water Project - Director: Lissette Decos

Regrets
Smart
The Stool
Suddenly The Sunrise - Director: Jhonny Obando

Recommendation:

Road Of Hope - Director: David Naglieri

Road of Hope: The Spiritual Journey of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan was screened at the John Paul II International Film Festival in Miami, a new festival modeled on and inspired by the writings of the late Pope.

Produced by Salt + Light Television, the movie helped to close the week-long festival in front of an international audience that included the documentary's director, David Naglieri, leaders from Miami-based film and university programs and a relative of Cardinal Van Thuan.

Road of Hope documents the life of Nguyen Van Thuan, a Cardinal in the Catholic Church who overcame imprisonment, political oppression and nine years of solitary confinement at the hands of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Launched in 2008, *Road of Hope* offers an unprecedented glimpse into the life of a modern day martyr and saint.

For more information, or to purchase a copy of *Road of Hope*, visit roadofhope.saltandlighttv.org

**What's Online
about the Theology
of the Body?**

ToB Online

Christopher West talks online

Eight Lectures are listed, some are an hour long at: dev.annunciation-ottawa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=22&id=114&Itemid=181/

ToB Videos on YouTube

There are many video talks on the Theology of the Body on YouTube. Enter Theology of the Body in their search engine for a list of different speakers including:

- Cardinal Arinze recorded these teachings with the Apostolate for Family Consecration - www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDVQgsXtwSc
- Fr. Roger Landry www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDVQgsXtwScSc
- Vicki Thorn explains the biochemistry of sex and the fascinating science of attraction - www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_mMwiXZdCg
- Fr. Tom Loya Part 1 of a talk on the Theology of the Body and the importance of who man is for woman and who woman is for man. - www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJBOgnYiny4
- Christopher West: "Is the Theology of the Body all about Sex?" - www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFw1VjuOvDI
- Glenn Stanton from Focus on the Family, presents the Theology of the Body from a Protestant Perspective. To order the complete talk on CD or DVD visit: www.theologyofthebody.net - www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAoo5pTFYqs
- Jason Evert Girls Segment - Theology of the Body for Teens - www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoL_i0Qizlg

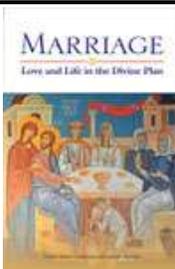
Plus many, many more...

Podcast

www.adrationem.com/2010/02/22/theology-of-the-body-part-1/

This website makes available many of the radio programs first broadcast on Knoxville's [WITA AM 1490](http://www.wita.com) on Thursdays and Sundays at 4:00pm, underwritten by Holy Ghost Catholic Church. They are intended to allow those who listen to be able to give reason for the hope that is within them, to respond in Faith.

The podcast is delivered by Reverend John Arthur Orr, MA, MDiv, PhD



USA Bishops on Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement on marriage and the family entitled, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*. This pastoral letter summarizes the Church's teachings on marriage and invites all Catholics and people of good will to rediscover the true meaning of marital love. The document draws heavily on the Catechism to provide the definition and meaning of marriage. It also includes many references to the writing of John Paul II, who during his years as pope worked tirelessly to proclaim and defend the dignity and sanctity of marriage. His writings on the Theology of the Body cite the fundamental importance of the family as the core unit of society, of which marriage is the primary source.

www.usccb.org/meetings/2009Fall/docs/Marriage_Love_Life_pastoral_letter.pdf

Recommended Reading

Theology of His Body: Discovering the Strength & Mission of Masculinity and Theology of Her Body: Discovering the Beauty & Mystery of Femininity. by Jason Evert

"*Theology of Her Body and Theology of His Body* will feed your teens with liberating answers to their most pressing questions about love and sexuality. These books offer solid, relevant teachings in a language teens understand. But more than just presenting the truth itself, they deliver the tools teens need to achieve the greatness for which they were created.

This book comes at a critical time, because tragically, many teens have forgotten their calling, or worse, have never heard it. As a result, they don't know who they are or who and what they are meant to be for one another. This means they often resort to "using" instead of authentically loving others and themselves.

Theology of Her Body and Theology of His Body are two books in one. Teens are encouraged to not only learn the truth about their own body, but also to discover the beauty of the opposite sex, for it is in seeing the complementarities of the two sexes that one discovers the real meaning of his or her own body. This is the perfect companion to the Theology of the Body for Teens program, and is also ideal for teens new to the Theology of the Body.

One thing is certain: anyone who reads this book will never look at his/her body, or anybody, in the same way again." (from the Website)

Quotes from the Book:

- "When a woman veils her body with modest clothing, she is not hiding herself from men. On the contrary, she is revealing her dignity to them."
- "Christianity is not a set of rules, but rather an encounter with a Person who knows and loves you perfectly."
- "In order to be filled by God, we must first empty ourselves. We must do our part, and allow God to do His."
- "As you allow His love to transform you, you will realize your tremendous worth and you will become a persuasive force in teaching boys how to become the kind of men women truly deserve."
- "The man's body is made for a woman's body - made to be a life-giving gift to her."
- "If a man does not possess interior strength, he is a walking contradiction of what it means to be a man."
- "When men and women live out authentic masculinity and femininity, they reveal something of God to the world."



Theology of Her Body and Theology of His Body by Jason Evert.



Familia's Event

MARRIAGE: Free, Fruitful, Faithful, Forever

Familia invites you to spend a romantic evening celebrating marriage at: Le Dome Banquet Hall, Caterina's Room
May 15th at 5:00 p.m. 1173 North Service Road, Oakville ON

Event includes:

- Buffet Dinner
- Guest Speakers:
 - Allan and Nicole Cruz
 - Fr. Kenneth Leblanc, LC
- Live entertainment by:
 - Charlie Graci and Paul Chesla

Cost: \$100/per couple

Registration Deadline: May 5, 2010

Contact: David & Fatima Borges,
Local Directors of FAMILIA-Toronto

E-mail: borgest@sympatico.ca

Phone: 647-227-0697

Synopsis

"From Grassroots Films of Brooklyn, New York comes THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE – the story of a band of brothers who travel the world in search of the answers to the burning questions: *Who am I? Who is Man? Why do we search for meaning?* Their journey brings them into the middle of the lives of the homeless on the streets of New York City, the orphans and disabled children of Peru, and the abandoned lepers in the forests of Ghana, Africa. What the young men discover changes them forever. Through one on one interviews and real life encounters, the brothers are awakened to the beauty of the human person and the resilience of the human spirit."

Dante Alighieri High School - Faith Day

"The Human Experience" - Dante Alighieri High School is hosting this event as their 5th FAITH DAY! Robert Quaglia, (the school's Chaplain) is organizing this event showing a film not to be missed!

This is the FIRST CANADIAN SCREENING of a film that has been shown all around the world!

FACEBOOK EVENT: www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/event.php?eid=112182395488117

HUMAN EXPERIENCE TRAILER: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctyX5ItSQEI

WHERE: Dante Alighieri Academy (60 Playfair Ave, Toronto)

WHEN: Friday, May 28th, 2010

TIME: 7pm

COST: \$10.00

For more information or to reserve tickets email Nicole at faithday5dante@gmail.com

"Thus, continence 'for the Kingdom of heaven' carries above all the imprint of likeness to Christ who himself, in the work of 'for the kingdom of heaven redemption, made this choice.'"

- from *Man and Woman He Created Them*, 75:1

Points to Ponder

It's hard to ignore the criticism that the Church has faced in recent months related to the sexual abuse scandals around the world.

In one of the many recent media articles, it was suggested that the resolution to this problem lies with the Church's stance on the celibate priesthood. The reporter suggested that if priests were able to satisfy their sexual urges within marriage, they wouldn't feel the need to hurt minors. Unfortunately such a statement lacks an understanding of the Church's teaching on love, and the role of celibacy.

First, and probably most misunderstood, celibacy is not an imposition of the Church. The candidate that presents himself for priestly formation knows and understands that his vocation requires a lifelong, freely given commitment to celibacy in the same way that a couple presenting themselves for marriage must understand that their commitment to love one another is lifelong and freely given.

The Church forces no one to be celibate – the priests freely give their gift of sexuality as a gift to God. The celibate vocation is meant to proclaim that the love of God is the greatest love of all.

Secondly, and of equal importance, marriage is not a legitimate outlet for relieving one's sexual urges. While it is true that marriage is the sacrament of sexual love the sexual embrace of husband and wife must always be freely given by both spouses, otherwise it is lust! A lustful using of one another (eg. a means to relieve ones own sexual urges) has many consequences on the family, and on society as a whole. Marriage is first and foremost a sacrament of love, which must never be confused with lust.

In closing let us recall the words of John Paul II on July 28, 2002 to the young people gathered in Downsview Park for the 17th World Youth Day. "If you love Jesus, love the

Church! Do not be discouraged by the sins and failings of some of her members. The harm done by some priests and religious to the young and vulnerable fills us all with a deep sense of sadness and shame. But think of the vast majority of dedicated and generous priests and religious whose only wish is to serve and do good! ... At difficult moments in the Church's life, the pursuit of holiness becomes even more urgent."

Let us unite in prayer for the victims, and the priests who are in need of God's healing love. Let us also pray for the Church, and the pursuit of holiness, which is especially urgent at this time



Light Weigh

The Light Weigh is a 12 week Video Series - Bible Study where you will learn a new approach to eating and to prayer. Light Weigh members learn to eat the foods they enjoy in moderation. The Light Weigh is international and is done throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland and Australia. All Light Weigh groups use the same format.

The Light Weigh Video Series is designed to be done in small groups in your parish or in your home. The Light Weigh is Catholic, and so it is able to draw upon the FULLNESS of the Truth found in our beautiful Faith, the Faith that Jesus Himself founded personally and designed.

By following The Light Weigh, you will learn to attain peace with food by imitating the example of Jesus and the spirituality of two of His devoted followers; St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Therese, The Little Flower.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." For more information about the program go to: www.lightweigh.com/

Contact us if you are interested in this program.

A Weight Loss program written from the Catholic perspective.

We are planning a program in the fall. If you are interested in losing weight using the Bible and Catholic teaching then contact us at gsmlministry@gmail.com

P.S. you don't have to be Catholic to attend.

Visit our website for news, and resources for:

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

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 body of your email.