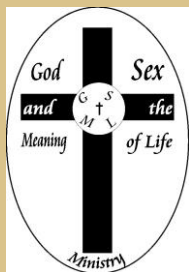


If you received this twice, please accept our apologies. If the Newsletter does not appear as it should please go to our Website at <http://www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com/Newsletters.html> - click on Volume 39 - to view the document. If you would prefer to receive this email as a PDF attachment please let us know.



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

NOV 2014

VOLUME 40

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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We are now booking into the fall of 2014.

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](#)

"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:

gsmlministry@gmail.com

or 905-683-9055



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.

Nov. 22 Christmas Legends

Was Christ really born on Dec. 25? And other questions. Also, share your family Christmas customs

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

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

Jan 24 Following the Discipleship of Pope Francis

"The true disciple of the Lord commits himself personally to a charitable ministry whose scope is man's multiform and endless poverty." Pope Francis (10/31/13)

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 New Year

Teachers: There is still time to book a *Theology of the Body in the Classroom* for the Winter Semester.

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.

It will also provide a valuable experience with the ToB material to see how easily it can be incorporated in the curriculum without a lot of study on your part.

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 Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

We started the Bible TimeLine program in September with over 70 people in the Tuesday evening session and over 60 different people for the Wednesday morning sessions. Everyone is enjoying the program and some have said that they are getting more out of the Sunday readings.

We recommend that your parish or group consider this wonderful program.

To better understand JPPII’s writings we have decided to include summaries of the ToB.

Fullness of Interpersonal Communication Pope John Paul II

Summary of Audience Twelve - by Tom Kennedy

What is shame and why did it not exist in the state of “original

To read the Audience [click here](#)

"In manifesting him, it [the body] acts as intermediary, that is, it enables man and woman, right from the beginning, to communicate with each other according to that communio personarum willed by the Creator precisely for them."

innocence"? In the way it is defined today, particularly with respect to sexual modesty, we can see how complex the basic way in which man expressed himself as a person within his own existence. With the feeling of shame, humans feel fear with regard to their "second self" e.g. woman when confronted by man. We have to recall that Adam considered the second person created as part of himself ("bone of my bones"). This then, is fear of one's own "self". With fear, man is in fact showing the need for recognition and acceptance of "self" according to his own worth. He feels shame in two ways – inside himself, and in front of the other. Shame is complicated. It almost keeps people apart, but at a certain level, it also brings them closer.

For the same reason, shame is an integral part of the formation of ethos (the guiding beliefs or morals) in our society especially in the man / woman relationships. Shame is deeply rooted in the way we behave in mutual relationships, it shows the rules of "the communion of persons" and how it touched man's "original" solitude. Shame, in Genesis 3, is multi-dimensional, but more of this later.

First we have to understand that it is a non-presence of shame, and not a lack of it. We cannot think of, or understand shame in its earliest or original sense. Not only does Genesis 2:25 definitely exclude the possibility of us thinking about shame or immodesty, it excludes us even explaining it by analogy by comparing it to another human experience. Genesis 2:25 "they were not ashamed" does not show a lack of shame, but a knowledge and understanding of it. It shows a full understanding of the meaning of the body, tied into the fact that they were naked.

In the Yahwist text, the appearance of shame, particularly sexual modesty is connected to the loss of original fullness. If we take experiencing shame as a "borderline" experience (the point where a major change occurs), then what does original nakedness refer to?

To understand this, we have to remember that "original solitude" showed itself as a lack of knowledge of "man's" own humanity with respect to the rest of the animals. It was not until after he was created male and female they discovered their own humanity with the help of the other person. They started to see the world from the point of view of their bodies. This perspective led to their understanding their unity in their humanity. We can then understand that nakedness depended on a consciousness of their bodies through their senses.

They knew they were naked, they knew they were given to each other that way, and this means that this is the true way they were meant to be. This came before any other human knowledge or experience as it came first, and is closely connected with experiencing the meaning of the human body. Since they were given to each other naked and knew this was the way they were meant to be, their original "knowledge" was innocent. And uncorrupted.

We cannot understand original nakedness by mans' understanding of the world around him. We have to understand his interior understanding of it,

and Genesis 2:25 starts to show us this. Our language today is totally different from the original way of communicating. Much of our communication is indirect, for example from the media, but originally it was a communication between people. It was about the common union that existed between man and woman. It was all about their common environment and experiences.

This way, the human body had a different meaning. It was based on the human "self". It was more than just the external, and was more than the individual. It was those plus a knowledge of "self" as humans.

The Bible shows us that the visible body "makes visible the invisible self". The body tells people who we really are. It is not just a physical shell. God made us to know each other that way, and that is what allows us to understand the meaning of original nakedness. If we only look at the externally, we will not understand it, but when we look at it "internally", it will make sense. The words - "they were not ashamed" can mean that, as male and female, through their physical being, their personal intimacy and communication was pure, but to understand the body completely, we also have to look at it fully, we have to include the interior man in relationship to God, how he was made "in the image" of God. According to this internal understanding, man "is" really naked.

Couples for Christ:

Gift of Life Conference

Session 1: Desire

Session 2: Design

Session 3: Destiny

Session 4: ...Special
Topics

Christopher West is Coming to Toronto

Let Me Love You

November 22, 2014

Canada Christian college

50 Gervais Drive, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Z3

Ticket/person: **\$25.00** (+\$12 Workbook)

Mass at 8:30am to be celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ben Ebcas

For more information and ticket sales

please contact **Couples for Christ:**

905-209-7025 • cfcgolqta@gmail.com

[Click here](#) for the Poster

Foundational Course
on the Theology of the
Body - online

Foundations of Theology of the Body: An Invitation to Love

The Archdiocese of Atlanta in partnership with the University of Dallas' School of Ministry offers a one year online certificate program called Foundations on Theology of the Body: An Invitation to Love. The course is designed for all parish leaders, and is especially relevant to those who minister in the areas of: Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, Marriage and Natural Family Planning.

For more information please visit: www.archatl.com/ofd or call Monica Oppermann at 404-920-7620.

To see more [click here](#)

George Weigel on Saint Pope John Paul II

A fifty minute talks at Mundelein Seminary By George Weigel on "Saint John Paul II and the New Evangelization".

To watch the full video [click here](#).

Also, Mundelein Seminary Presents: Fr. Barron on Blessed John Paul II – [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

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

part of this community event.”

globe.

Please check back often for information on registering for the meeting and booking your stay in Philadelphia - [Click here](#)

Theography:
Sketches of Spiritual
Truths for a New
Evangelization

Some interesting
sketches. [Click here](#)
to see them

“Why Theology of the Body might make me a Catholic Priest... -

“From my earliest days, I have always desired marriage. And now at this moment, my desire for marriage has never been as strong as it is today. This is precisely why I am beginning a discernment year to form me for celibate priesthood.

Confused? Me too.

I love girls. They are so pretty!! I have known so many beautiful married couples that have really inspired me. I long deeply within me to have kids and be a father, a good dad. And just being honest, here are a couple of other things that appeal to me about marriage:

- Sex whenever you want it with your spouse.
- Never feeling lonely again.
- Being perfectly, totally loved by someone forever.

You can imagine then why I was shocked to discover some of the following that the Church teaches and what married couples have shared openly with me:

- It is sinful to lust for your wife.
- You can still feel lonely in a marriage.
- You are not married to your spouse in heaven.”

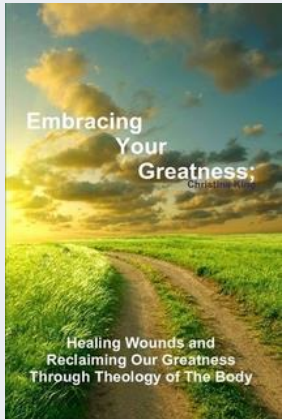
To read the rest [click here](#)

Recommended Reading

Embracing Your Greatness: Healing Wounds & Reclaiming Our Greatness through Theology of The Body

By Christina King

Many people live a life of darkness and suffering under the weight of childhood

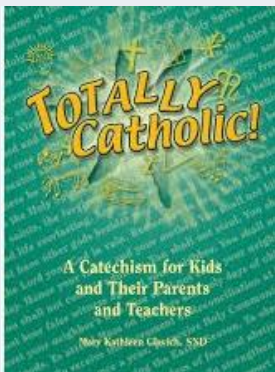


trauma, neglect or abuse. Anger and rage are distress symptoms of a deeper issue. The Holy Spirit knows the gentlest way to guide you to truth and freedom and He desires to woo His bride gently. He does not desire to kick in your doors or expose you in shame.

My journey of Inner-healing and deliverance based on Theology of The Body has truly transformed my life so that I could reclaim the truth that God has made me for greatness. One person can change the world and that person is you.

What a good idea!

It is a hands-on approach to the material in the Catechism.



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Totally Catholic!: A Catechism for Kids and Their Parents and Teachers by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

“In this comprehensive resource for faith formation, children ages 9-12 and the grown-ups in their lives are provided with child-appropriate, helpful, and theologically-correct language to explain the faith...*from A to Z!* Whether you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, or catechist, this guidebook of all things *totally Catholic* offers you an exciting way to share and pass on the faith!

Drawing from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and using 'hip' terminology and acronyms such as "BTW" and "VIP," content is presented in a way that reaches out to young people-and even to adults looking for an accessible window into the faith. Analogies illuminate difficult concepts, bolded key terms are defined, and a pronunciation aid accompanies more advanced language. Clip art style illustrations and call-out boxes present the faith in a fun way.

Containing extensive information on what Catholics believe and how they live as members within the community of believers, this manual not only equips you with knowledge of the faith, but also encourages you to engage in it.” – from Amazon

Peter's Points to Ponder

On Sunday, September 14th, the Holy Father Pope Francis married 20 couples in St. Peter's Basilica, and made media headlines around the world. The Holy Father made headlines not only because it's rare for the Pope to preside over a marriage ceremony, but also because the couples were less than "perfect", including those who were living together before

marriage, and another couple who had a child together. Social Media was also buzzing with comments that the Holy Father is signaling a change in church doctrine towards marriage, and sexuality.

It's important to realize that Pope Francis did NOT condone the behaviour of the couples, he simply signaled that the Sacrament of Marriage should not be denied to sinners, and wanted to bring couples into the sacrament even though they were living a less than perfect life. Throughout the course of Pope Francis' pontificate, he has continually emphasized the need for mercy and forgiveness, and the fact that there is no sin too great for God's forgiveness and love. As the Holy Father has expressed numerous times, he believes the Church is meant to be a field hospital for sinners, not a sanctuary for saints. The reality is, we are all sinners, and we are all in need of God's love and forgiveness, and the sacraments of the Church are outward signs of God's love and mercy. When we close the doors of the Church to sinners, we cut ourselves off from God, because even the greatest of saints were sinners. As a priest once said to me, "Saints have a past, but Sinners have a future"!

Let us pray for Pope Francis as he continues to steer the See of Peter.

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

Natural Family Planning

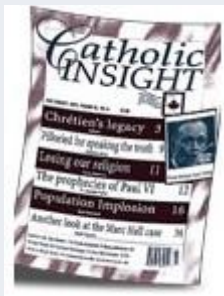


toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca

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.

all women can use it to monitor their health.



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.godsexandthemeaningoflife.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.