



# God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

NOV 2017

VOLUME 57

**Note:** Email [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto: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

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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](mailto:roseheron@gmail.com)

## We are now booking into the fall of 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

**Teachers!!! Pastors!!! Youth Group Leaders!!!**

### New 10 week program for Teens

#### ***YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body***

A New Language for A New Generation

Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body presents beautiful vision of human sexuality and personhood. It has revolutionized the way parents and educators teach morality to teens, providing the "whys" behind the "whats," and paving the way to true freedom and happiness. Years after he wrote it, his vision is all the more relevant in today's world, where teens are receiving so many differing viewpoints about sex, love, and their bodies.

**Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity.** The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love.

In an age of "selfies" and egocentrism, *You* cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals. But the program doesn't stop there.

**We are ready, willing and able to come to your school and deliver this 10 week program.**

**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](mailto:roseheron@gmail.com) to find out the details. It is presented at a very minimal cost.

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

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**Theology of the Body Study Group**

Our group started studying the Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* (*On Human Life*). Pope Paul VI knew that *Humanae Vitae* would be controversial. But, he declared, the Church "does not, because of this, evade the duty imposed on her of proclaiming humbly but firmly the entire moral law, both natural and evangelical." Like Christ, the Church "is destined to be a 'sign of contradiction.'"

As an addition, we will also, look at the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Take this opportunity to learn about your faith. Bring your questions and we will find the answers together.

Please join us on Monday mornings starting on Sept 11, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. in St Bernadette's church hall 21 Bayly St. E. Ajax. Hope to see you there.

We will be using **A Study Guide to Humanae Vitae** by the Priests for Life. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/contraception/humanae-vitae-study-guide.htm>

Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30

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

Contact: Tom or Susan Kennedy 905-427-6137  
[gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

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**Bible Study**

***James: Pearls for Wise Living* – Starting January 2018**

Have you ever struggled with living your faith practically? Do you want advice on how to live as a Catholic where you are? James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to all those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith.

*James: Pearls for Wise Living* offers practical guidance by applying the wisdom of James to our current lives. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

St. Bernadette's will be hosting James: Pearls for Wise Living Bible study in beginning Friday January 5th at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm or Wednesday January 10th at 9:30 am to 11:30 pm and continuing every Friday or Wednesday until Friday March 23 or Wednesday March 21, 2017.

It is a 11 week course which will start Wednesday, Jan 10, 2017. 13 or Friday, Jan 5. Please join us:

Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**OR**

Friday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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

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

Contact: [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

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

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### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Nov 25**            *Cancelled*

**Jan 27**            *The Story Behind the Sign of the Cross*

When did we start using the Sign of The Cross? Why do we use it? What does it mean? What does it symbolize? Why are there so many variations? Join us and find the answers.

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## **Join the New Evangelization**

We offer various workshops for **Every Body** including:

- *God, Sex and the Meaning of Life*—for adults
- Theology of the Body for Young Adults
- *Theology of the Body for Teens*—in school program or in the Parish
- *Theology of the Body for Grade School*—Gr 6-8
- *Guiding Your Child Through the Sexual Minefield*
- *Theology of the Body and Confirmation*
- *Girl Talk*
- *Marriage Preparation and Theology of the Body*
- *Theology of the Body in the Classroom*

- *Training on the Theology of the Body*
- *Retreats on the Theology of the Body*

***We can custom tailor any Workshop for your Group.***

## ***Teachers***

**You can make the difference in your school.**

**New** 10 Week Theology of the Body program for Teens - *YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body.*

### **A New Language for A New Generation**

See the [article](#) from the Diocese of Pembroke to see how one group put this into effect in their school.

For more information contact Rose at 905-683-9055 or [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

## ***Parents***

**You can make a difference.**

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.

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](mailto:gsmlministry@gamil.com)

## ***Pastors***

**Make a difference in your parish life.**

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. Parents get the tools that can help safeguard their children and themselves against the influences of society.

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## Families, Let's Build A Better World Together!

All the choices and decisions made by our governments and courts sooner or later directly impact every family – my family. A mobilization is needed. It is up to families to get together and develop a culture and legislation that benefit the family and reflect their true needs — it's a matter of social justice.

Even the smallest act can make a difference in advancing the common good, and all the baptized have a responsibility to play an active role in the democratic process, and to be present where public opinion and the future are being shaped, in order to infuse a Christian perspective into cultural, social and economic transformations.

In this 12 page brochure written in a dynamic and accessible style, the Catholic Organization for Life and Family invites families to reflect on their thoughts and feelings towards the political class, and on their own commitment to building a culture of life.

For more information on how to obtain a copy, please [click here](#)

This is a Social Site for Heterosexual Practicing Catholic Singles. You will meet new CATHOLIC Singles of the opposite sex in your age group-- either here On-line, at a Workshop, Outing or Fun Event or on a Saturday night from 8pm-9:30pm at an organized MONTHLY Event.

## Practicing Catholic Singles(19-99 YRS)-Social Meet & Greet

Catholic Singles group is inviting **All Heterosexual Catholic Singles aged 19-99 yrs to join us for our Formal Christmas Dinner and Dance for Catholic SINGLES on Sat Dec 9/17 from 7:30pm to 11:45pm.**

**Pre-Pay all Tickets by Nov 25/17 by Cash in person or email transfer at [canadacatholicsingles@gmail.com](mailto:canadacatholicsingles@gmail.com)**

See below for details.

**Cost of Ticket:** \$45.00 including Tax plus Cash/Bar

**This Dec 9/17 Dinner Dance will be held  
Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto at  
515 Broadview Ave.**

[Click here](#) to read about our NATIONAL FREE Membership Meetup site.

You can also call Barb at **647 207 3162**. Please leave a message if I'm not available or email me here at [barbarajazzchaisson@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajazzchaisson@gmail.com) or [canadacatholicsingles@gmail.com](mailto:canadacatholicsingles@gmail.com)

**Up to 350 Catholic Singles WILL BE ATTENDING-aged 19-100 yrs!  
Formal Wear. Christmas Dinner will be served! Cost of Ticket \$45.**

**Incl. Tax. + Cash Bar. See below.**

Festive Elegant Decor & Table Settings ! All Pre-paid tickets only as I have to Pre-Pay ALL !! ! RSVPing YES does NOT hold your ticket. You must Pre-Pay asap. Thanks. DOOR PRIZES !! :P

**Deadline of Nov 25th to Pre-Pay Tickets please**

<https://www.meetup.com/preview/Practicing-Catholic-Singles-Aged-19-99-yrs-SOCIAL-AND-ONLINE>

By teaching women about how their reproductive systems work through natural fertility tracking, "we want to help these girls foster a respect for their bodies and have them empowered with choices for when they are going off to college. That in itself is very powerful."

## **Wonder of Eve offers science-based approach to women's natural health care**

By Jennifer Brinker

A newly revamped program is teaching young women about a natural approach to their health care.

The archdiocesan Office of Natural Family Planning debuted the Wonder of Eve at the archdiocesan Religious Education Institute and Leadership Conference earlier this month. The nearly hour-long program is for teenage girls and includes information on the design and function of the female body, including the reproductive system and menstrual cycles and how to track them naturally.

<http://stlouisreview.com/article/2017-08-17/wonder-eve-offers>



## **Who am I?**

This fundamental question is asked ultimately by every person ever born. What is this great mystery of human life? What is our origin, and what is our destiny?

As Catholics, informed by Sacred Scripture (God's Word) and the great gifts of reason and human experience (Man's understanding), we propose the following points to serve as a kind of manual on this mission of self-discovery.

To read more [click here](#)

## How to Have a Religious Argument (Facebook HQ)

by Bishop Robert Barron • September 18, 2017 •

Every day, millions of people argue about religion on social media. The comboxes of religious and atheist sites are among the most visited and the most heated in the virtual space.

But what I find interesting is how few people really know how to have a good religious argument. Lots of energy, lots of sharp words, and lots of strong feelings are expressed. But rarely do we come across productive, rational argument about religion.

In my talk, I'll pave a way forward, showing how we all, believer and nonbeliever alike, can share better religious discussions.

To watch the talk, [click here](#)

*“Children have the right not to be exposed to a world full of lies, and I do believe it’s a lie to accommodate a person’s perception of themselves [as the opposite sex] in a public manner,”* - Father Livingston

## Switching sexes? Transgender ideology and the Church

At that point in time, the mother of seven and parishioner of Holy Family in St. Louis Park considered the ideology, which advances the claim that gender and sexual identity are not inherently tied to biological sex, to be a “fringe issue.” In her estimation, it was something that played out in celebrity tabloids and progressive academic circles, but certainly had no direct impact on her or her family.

An email from the principal of Nova Classical Academy, a public charter school in St. Paul where Zinos and her husband, Nick, enrolled several of their children at the time, announced that was about to change.

Under pressure from the parents of a newly enrolled kindergarten student who claimed to be “gender nonconforming,” the grade school principal announced that Nova would be “taking steps to support [the new student]” by introducing transgender ideology into the classroom. Through books like “My Princess Boy,” children as young as 5 would be introduced to the idea that their sexual identity was independent of their biological sex.

To read more [click more](#)

Dr. Hruz stated "*as many as 90 percent of youth outgrow gender dysphoria by the end of adolescence and realign their identity with their biological sex*"

## 'No science' behind transgender therapy for kids, doctors warn

Children who struggle to match their gender identity with their biological sex should not be pushed into transgender therapies, but given treatments that help treat the underlying cause of the dysphoria, said doctors in the field.

From a medical standpoint, deciding not to offer hormonal therapy to children who experience gender dysphoria is "not a judgment" on the child, but a matter of the best medical healthcare, said Dr. Paul Hruz, associate professor of Pediatrics, Endocrinology, Cell Biology and Physiology at the Washington University of Medicine. "It's the best outcome, because they're not exposed to all these harms that we know they will experience if they move forward" with the hormone treatments, he said.

Dr. Hruz also voiced serious concerns about treating young people with intense and potentially dangerous off-label hormone therapy, without subjecting the regimen to rigorous scientific testing. This falls short of the scientific standards used to evaluate other treatments, he said. "We search for the truth by testing it with experimental evidence."

Hruz spoke at an Oct. 11 panel on Gender Dysphoria in Children at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C. Also speaking at the event were Dr. Michelle Cretella, president of the American College of Pediatricians, and Dr. Allan Josephson, professor and division chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

To read more [click here](#)

## Theology of the Body and the Saints

By [Cradio](#)

Madeleine Vella looks at the Theology of the Body from the examples of the saints – who lived life in chastity and purity according to their state in life.

She also explores the lives of the saints and highlights how we can strive to imitate Jesus and Mary through the example of the saints who encourage us to live a life of purity and virtue.

To listen to the talk [click here](#)

- In the First Meditation, we will reflect on the background of St. Thérèse's Little Way and how it fits in with our call to holiness, which means greatness in love.
- In the Second Meditation, we will delve into Christ's great commandment to love one another as he has loved us.
- In the Conference, we will unite the two meditations by looking at how St. Thérèse lived that great commandment in her own life, and we will draw out some practical conclusions.

## Love One Another: A Retreat Guide on St. Thérèse's Little Way of Charity

*Written by Fr. John Pietropaoli, LC and presented by Fr. John Bartunek, LC, SThD*

Christ's great commandment is that we love one another as he has loved us. Inasmuch as we live that out, we are Christians in name and in fact. But we encounter an obstacle: our own weakness and sinfulness.

Luckily, God has given us the saints, friends who can guide us along the narrow path that leads to eternal life. St. Thérèse of Lisieux is such a friend.

St. Thérèse offers us a Little Way of Love which we can follow no matter where we are in our spiritual journey. And in this Retreat Guide, *Love One Another*, we will explore that Little Way in the following stages:

To read more [click here](#)

*"Young people want to talk about sexuality and love," she told Catholic News Service. "They love learning about the theology of the body," a term referring to St. John Paul II's approach to sex and sexuality. "I don't know why no one here is speaking about love. It's amazing." - Hargot*

## Don't be embarrassed to talk about sex, youths tell Vatican officials

**VATICAN CITY** — Several young people attending a Vatican-sponsored seminar on the upcoming Synod of Bishops urged the Vatican and the bishops themselves to be open to listening to youths talk and ask questions about love, sex and sexuality.

A "big gap" exists between the concerns young people want to talk about and the issues most bishops are comfortable discussing, said Therese Hargot, who

describes herself as a philosopher and sexologist

To read more [click here](#).

*So unleashing the Gospel in our local Church means learning how to make unchurched people a priority. To seek them, invite them, welcome them and accompany them on the way of discipleship is the business of every parishioner. - Archbishop Vigneron*

## **Accompanying and Welcoming Seeking to move from maintenance to mission**

By Janet Smith

Many of the movements responding to the call for the New Evangelization are realizing the need to reach out to, to welcome and to accompany those on the periphery of the culture. They are beginning to look to parishes to nurture the harvest they are starting to cultivate.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has put together a master plan for transforming parishes into instruments of the New Evangelization. "Unleash the Gospel" has the potential of absolutely revolutionizing the lives of the Catholics of the archdiocese and those they encounter. The result of two years of planning, "Unleash the Gospel" notes, "For evangelization to have its effect we must ensure that our communities extend a warm welcome to everyone who walks through the door. This entails changing the way we envision the parish. It is natural to think of the parish as the place for those who belong; we are less accustomed to seeing it as the place for those who do not yet belong but are taking their first steps on the journey toward God."

To read more [click here](#)

The words "from the beginning" are essential if we are to understand the crisis in our day surrounding marriage and sexuality, West explained, and we are suffering today because we do not know what it means to be male and female. Today, he observes, culture continues to add an "infinite number" of identities and sexualities and the confusion is only deepening.

## **Why the Message of the Whole Bible Is 'God Wants to Marry Us'**

By Christopher West

The whole Bible can be summed up in five words: "God wants to marry us," says a Catholic lay minister whose ministry showcasing the beauty of Christian sexuality and marriage is growing in popularity among evangelicals.

As debates about sexual identity continue to rage in contemporary American society and in some churches, Christopher West, founder of the Cor Project and author of *Fill These Hearts: God, Sex and The Universal Longing*, is anchoring this, the touchiest of subjects, to the greater biblical story. And this great story is a nuptial one.

To read the whole article [click here](#)

Father George Woodall warns against calling into question the Church's ban on artificial contraception as some senior Church leaders look to soften the teaching of the encyclical which turns 50 next year.

## Theologian: Tampering With *Humanae Vitae* Could Cause Untold Damage

Edward Pentin

Any papal decision that calls into question the Church's ban on artificial contraception either expressly or implicitly would do "untold damage to the Church's magisterium," a moral theologian has warned.

Father George Woodall, who teaches moral theology at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome, also said he was concerned that a commission tasked with examining the process of writing Blessed Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae vitae* would provoke "serious problems" if, as part of a "revision," it advocated exceptions to allow artificial contraception in opposition to the Church's moral teaching.

He said it would also weaken the Church's ability to combat moral relativism and unleash "a new pastoral crisis at least as grave" as the one that followed the publication of the encyclical which marks its fiftieth anniversary next year.

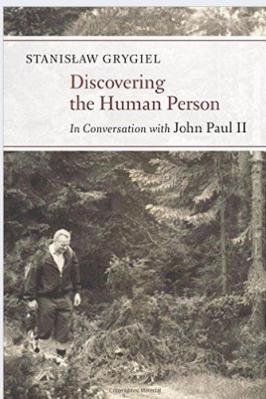
To read this article, [click here](#)

## Recommended Reading

***Discovering the Human Person: In Conversation with John Paul II***  
[Stanislaw Grygiel](#)

A longtime friend and student of the late Pope John Paul II, Stanislaw Grygiel in this book reflects on the life and thought of this extraordinary pope, giving new insight into his character and his vision of beauty as the path that leads us to God.

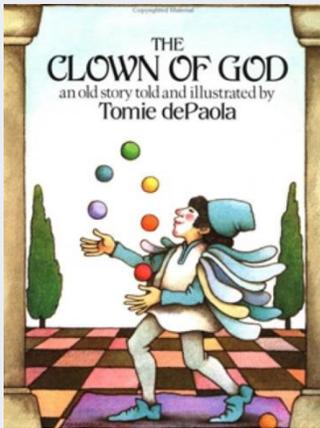
More than simply biographical information about John Paul II -- who was Bishop Karol Wojtyla before he became pope -- or a dry academic analysis of his teaching, *Discovering the Human Person* derives from Grygiel's extensive firsthand interaction with Wojtyla. Grygiel reflects on the importance of Christian personalism, or communion, as the ground of John Paul II's life, particularly in response to the communist environment that surrounded him in Poland. Grygiel also addresses the pope's call for a new evangelization, his



understanding of marriage and family, and the relationship of those to a genuine, healthy understanding of nation and state

Your marriage has been called to be a physical sign here on earth and is both a great call and a great responsibility. You were created to live forever in communion with the God who loves us, and this fact is written right into your body! Here's an opportunity to answer God's call to you to live this truth in your marriage.

**What a good idea!**



## **Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries**

### ***The Clown of God***

Retold and Illustrated by Tomie dePaola

Tomie dePaola is easily my favorite children's author and illustrartor. His unique artistic style and striking illustrations rival some of the more beautiful pieces of art in modern culture. The Clown of God is my personal favorite among his numerous books, which include Strega Nona, The Song of St. Francis, and Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland. The Clown of God made a profound impact on me when I was a child. I know, I know, you all are thinking "A story about clown, really?" But trust me, this story will surprise and touch you and your children. The plot is as complex and rich as the illustrations. The story is about a little orphan boy named Giovanni, whose desire in life was to make people happy through juggling. This story is very serious, and I would recommend previewing it first as certain twists in the plot may upset sensitive children. Nevertheless, I highly recommend it because this book quite possibly could be life-changing for your children. It should inspire them to play, to work, and to live in a way that always brings glory to God.

**St. Clare Church, 1118  
St. Clair Av. West,  
Toronto. (one block E. of  
Dufferin). Initial  
Presentation 2nd Tuesday**

## **The Billings Ovulation Method™**

The Billings Ovulation Method™ teaches a woman to understand her natural signs of

of each Month starting at 8pm in Padre Pio's Room, basement room in the Church.

**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.*

fertility through all her changing life stages from puberty to menopause. The Billings Ovulation Method™ is easy to learn and is highly successful when used by a couple to achieve or avoid a pregnancy.

This method of natural family planning engenders co-operation and respect between the woman and man. It develops love and concern for each other and for the child, thus enriching their relationship. As the Billings Ovulation Method™ is a natural method, respecting fertility instead of suppressing it by drugs or devices, it is acceptable to couples from all cultures and religions.

The Billings Ovulation Method™ of natural family planning was developed by husband and wife team Drs. John and Evelyn Billings and Fr. Maurice Catarinich, all of Melbourne, Australia, and has since spread worldwide.

The Natural Family Planning Association is a charitable organization promoting and teaching the Billings Ovulation Method™ of natural fertility regulation throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

The Natural Family Planning Association, in Toronto, is an affiliate of the provincial organization Natural Family Planning Association - Ontario whose head office is in Kingston, Ontario.

For more information contact Natural Family Planning Association at [toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca](http://toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca)



*Natural Family Planning Association*

[toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca](http://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](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

[www.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/](http://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](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com) with unsubscribe in the subject line of your email.