



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

NOV 2018

VOLUME 64

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

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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

We have held over

Today's Tough Moral Issues

- [Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries](#)
- [Natural Family Planning](#) - Nun-physician has spent much of her life educating young people about NFP



We are now booking into Fall of 2018.

Toronto's Cardinal, Thomas Collins stated: *"One crucial area is the Catechesis of Human Love, or Theology of the Body, developed by Blessed Pope John Paul II which, when widely offered, can greatly strengthen Christian family life, and the life of discipleship."* – Archdiocese of Toronto: Pastoral Plan, 2013

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

GSML News

Special Event:

Our Lady of Guadalupe and Theology of the Body Talk by Sr. Helena Burns

On Saturday, October 27, Sister Helena Burns came to St. Bernadette parish hall in Ajax, to make a presentation relating Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. John Paul II's teaching, The Theology of the Body.

Sister filled in the history of Our Lady's apparitions, to St. Juan Diego, which took place in December of 1531. Some notable facts about this event are:

- In response to the Bishop's request for a sign, Mary left a relic, Juan Diego's tilma (cloak) with her image upon it. In no other appearances has she done this.
- Tilmas made from the same material as Juan's have been hung in the cathedral and have completely disintegrated within 7 years. Yet, Juan's has lasted over 450 years.
- Her appearances occurred on a place of human sacrifice. Now, on that spot, Masses take place all day long.
- The second most popular pre-Columbian shrine in Spain was dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Although this Madonna did not resemble the one from Mexico, there was an image in the choir loft that did.
- The Mayans had a prophesy that conquerors with hair like the sun would come and defeat the Aztecs and put smiles on the faces of the Indians again.
- The further one stands from the image, the larger Our Lady appears.
- Scientists have been unable to explain the image other than to say that it is not

23 Theology of the Body for Teens Workshops and Classroom Sessions

plant, animal or mineral in origin.

- Nitric acid was once spilled on the image and a bomb once exploded below the image. In both cases the image was unharmed, though surrounding items were damaged.
- The tilma always remains 36.5 °C (normal body temperature), no matter the surrounding temperature.
- An ophthalmologist fainted as he examined her eyes, saying he was looking into a human eye.
- Within 10 years of her appearances, there were over 8 million conversions.

In the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary is pregnant with Jesus. Together, they block out the sun and stand upon the moon, as they are greater than both. In Mary, all human longing is fulfilled. Our healing and hope are in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To augment the talk by Sr. Helena Burns here are 4 talks by Christopher West on The Theology of Mary's Body: Hidden Mysteries of Our Lady of Guadalupe

[Click here](#) to hear the talks

Our Programs

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

Now is the time to arrange a Theology of the Body course for your students or youth or young adults.

Let us facilitate the program, while you study the various aspects to increase your proficiency to present all or parts in the future.

Invite us in for 10 weeks and you will be surprised by the results.

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.*

We can do this together.

Contact Rose Heron 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

At the present time we are studying the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, with an eye towards the **Theology of the Body**. Take this opportunity to learn about your faith. Bring your questions and we will find the answers together.

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

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

Bible Study

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother— Starting January 2019
An Eight-Part Bible Study Featuring Dr. Edward Sri

St. Bernadette's will be hosting *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* Bible study beginning Wednesday, January 9, at 9:30 am to 11:30 am, or Friday, January 12, at 7:00 pm to 9:00, pm and continuing every Wednesday or Friday until Wednesday February 27, 2019, or Friday, March 1. 2019. This is an 8 week course. Please join us.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. She will become a part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

In Mary you will:

- Visit the grotto of Mary's home, the cave where Christ was born, and other rarely seen places in the Holy Land.
- See the significance of Mary as you explore the Biblical roots of our beliefs about her.
- Deepen your devotion to Mary as you discover our Blessed Mother in a uniquely personal way.

Start Dates: Wednesday, January 9, **OR** Friday, January 12, 2019.

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

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

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.

'Family social and fun day'

Saturday, November 3 at
Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall,
24 Cheritan Ave, Toronto

Painting competition for children (up to 14 years), 10:00 am
Making Ornaments (up to 14 years), 11:00 am
Games Station for Families 11:30 am
Maple Leaf Craft (up to 14 years), 12:30 pm
Community Art (Guided, open to all), 1:00 pm
Silent Auction 2:00 pm
Photo Booth, Exhibition



Face Painting

Tickets – Individual \$10 and Family \$20

Visit toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/

Or call us (Tel: 416-481-5465)/[email](mailto:) for tickets. Also available @ the door

For more information [click here](#)

“Women’s Happiness, Women’s Health: The feminist fight against abortion.”

November 8 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

7 Hart House Circle

Toronto, Ontario

The deVeber Institute would like to invite all to our **free** annual public lecture happening on Thursday, November 8th, 2018 in the Debates Room of Hart House, University of Toronto St. George campus. This year’s guest lecturer will be Andrea Mrozek, who will be speaking on the topic “Women’s Happiness, Women’s Health: The feminist fight against abortion.”

Andrea is an accomplished writer, speaker and expert on family and women’s issues. She is the founder of a website and group called ProWomanProLife which advocates that strong, confident women are pro-woman when they are pro-life and that these are consistent views, not at odds with each other. A woman’s voice on this issue is crucial, and gives other young woman a female role model to look up to, who understands the current culture and climate surrounding the topic.

The deveber Institute

Phone: 416.256.0555

Email: bioethics@deveber.org

Faithful to God's Design

Humanae Vitae at 50 Conference

Saturday, November 10, 2018!

All are welcome to attend a one-day conference marking the 50th anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI’s encyclical letter Humanae Vitae.

Mary Eberstadt, Dr. Maria Wolfs, Steven Mosher and Fr. Raymond de Souza will speak on the prophetic and enduring wisdom of this encyclical.

Join us on Saturday, November 10, 2018! The day begins with Mass with Cardinal Collins at St. Basil's Parish followed by a full-day conference at Sam Sorbara Auditorium, Brennan Hall, University of St. Michael's College.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and FREE for religious and clergy. [Get your tickets today!](#)



- [See full schedule and topics](#)
- [Get to know our speakers](#)
- [Learn more about Humanae Vitae](#)
- [View and print the poster](#)

Please contact events@archtoronto.org if you have any questions.

Celebrating Humanae Vitae at 50

Reflections on life and Love for a New Generation

Presenter: Dr. Patricia Murphy

Saturday, December 1, 2018

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM (Includes Mass in the Seminary Chapel)

St. Augustine's Seminary
2661 Kingston Road - Scarborough

Cost: \$50 (lunch Included)
9:30 am - 3:00 pm (includes Mass in the seminary chapel)

Register online [Click here](#)

Same-Sex Attraction And Gender Identity:

Welcoming and Accompanying with the Heart of Christ

Presenter: Father Kevin Belgrave

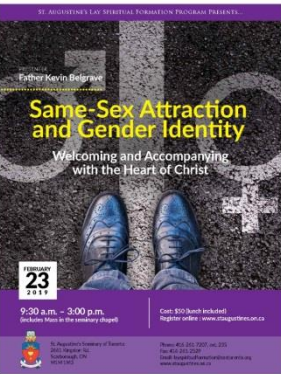
Saturday February 23, 2019

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (including Mass).

St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto
2661 Kingston Rd, Scarborough

Cost is \$50 including lunch.

Registration: [Click here](#)



This week long course is amazing.

**The Theology of the Body I
Head and Heart Immersion**

November 4 - 9, 2018
St. Mary's Retreat Center
Elverson, PA

The Theology of the Body I Head and Heart Immersion Course examines the main themes of Pope Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Focused themes include: creation in the image of God, fall and redemption, Christian ethics and ethos, freedom and person, gender and vocation.

All our week-long retreats include:

- Five days of learning & interactive lecture (30 hours of master's level instruction)
- Fantastic workbook so you can focus on receiving vs. note-taking
- Daily Mass, adoration, and confession
- Accommodations & delicious meals
- Time for relaxation and networking
- Gorgeous grounds to soak in God's natural beauty
- Optional round trip shuttle from Philadelphia International Airport

All-Inclusive,
(accommodations, meals, workbook & materials, etc.)

[Click here](#) to register

Theology Of The Body Youth Retreat Created Retreat

Every day teens face a variety of new experiences and challenges. They are given expectations for school, work, and friendships. They are challenged to grow from children into young adults in the four short years of high school, and during that time they will experience new social relationships and responsibilities. Inevitably, teenagers will face challenges to their sexuality, temptations and have questions about what it means to be a man or a woman in our modern world.

Join us **Nov 16-18** for an awesome retreat experience with games, talks, skits and more as we explore how we are created to love, for love, and by love and how you were created good. Everyone from Grades 8-12 welcome!

The Created Retreat sponsored by Sacred Heart College and is being held at St. Alphonsus Parish Hall. 1066 Western Ave, Peterborough.

For any questions regarding the retreat please contact Laura Mason at

lauramason@sacredheartcollege.ca or call at (705) 745-5549

Online registration: [click here](#)

Sr. Helena Burns, fsp & others present

The Rooted series, based on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body teachings given during public audiences from 1979-1984, uses children's literature and journaling exercises to help students recognize their unique gifts as children of God. [Click here](#) for more information

Lifetime of Learning – Theology of the Body standards added to elementary school religion curriculum

One of the church teachings that receives greater emphasis in the new religion framework is St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. As part of the morality anchor standard at each grade level, kindergarten through eighth-grade students will be exposed to St. John Paul's teaching on the meaning and purpose of the human person made in the image and likeness of God. Fundamental questions of human experience will be explored in age-appropriate ways using the themes of love, gender, gift, vocation, creation, redemption, purity and covenant. Archdiocese of Louisville students will develop a deep understanding of self-sacrificing love, one that might help them combat the confounding moral issues that social media and technology bring to light.

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



The Inversion of Masculine and Feminine in Popular Culture | Furman College talk

[Jonathan Pageau](#)

Published on Sep 12, 2018

We see an increasing trope in popular culture of inverting the masculine and the feminine. Traditional symbolism of the church offers a powerful and beautiful alternative to this war of the sexes.

This talk was given at Furman University on Sept. 10th, 2018 and was sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky4MIftjUDE&feature=share>

7 Effective Ways To Respond To Crisis In The Catholic Church

Crisis, accusation, and the revelation of sin has left a wake of sorrow and devastation in the Catholic Church over the last few weeks. Bill Donaghy and Christopher West have collaborated to write a short resource to guide us through these times. This resource intends not to fix the problems in the



Church today, but rather forms a path ahead for believers who are a mixture of righteous anger, frustration, horror and hope for justice and conversion to happen in the hearts of our shepherds and in the broken structures of the Church. God of Justice, deliver us. Merciful Lord, heal us. Immaculate Mary, pray for us!

To read more [click here](#)

Girls tend to underestimate their own abilities. Boys tend to overestimate their own abilities. They also enjoy taking risks much more than do girls. The more a young man takes risks the more favorably they are seen by their peers.

Boys Think, See, Hear & Process Very Differently Than Girls

By Jacqueline

BOYS SEE DIFFERENTLY

Males have more rods in their eyes versus cones. Rods help us to see distance and speed. Females have more cones than rods. Cones help us to see color and shape. Because of this difference, males tend to draw verbs with little color variation in their pictures while girls tend to draw nouns with lots of different colors.

To read the article [click here](#)

Listen to the talk

Theology Of The Aging Body

by Cindy Black

What can we learn from aging?

[Click here](#) to listen to this short talk

A lowered probability of pregnancy in females in the USA aged 25–29 who received a human papillomavirus vaccine injection

Birth rates in the United States have recently fallen. Birth rates per 1000 females aged 25–29 fell from 118 in 2007 to 105 in 2015. One factor may involve the vaccination against the human papillomavirus (HPV). Shortly after the vaccine was licensed, several reports of recipients experiencing primary ovarian failure emerged. This study analyzed information gathered in National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, which represented 8 million 25-to-29-year-old women residing in the United States between 2007 and 2014. Approximately 60% of women who did not receive the HPV vaccine had been pregnant at least once, whereas only 35% of women who were exposed to the vaccine had conceived. For married women, 75% who did not receive the

shot were found to conceive, while only 50% who received the vaccine had ever been pregnant. Using logistic regression to analyze the data, the probability of having been pregnant was estimated for females who received an HPV vaccine compared with females who did not receive the shot. Results suggest that females who received the HPV shot were less likely to have ever been pregnant than women in the same age group who did not receive the shot. If 100% of females in this study had received the HPV vaccine, data suggest the number of women having ever conceived would have fallen by 2 million. Further study into the influence of HPV vaccine on fertility is thus warranted.

To read more [click here](#)

Six Part Series

Theology of the Body Bible Study

Beginning in 1979, Pope St. John Paul II gave a series of talks which are now popularly referred to as the Theology of the Body. At the heart of John Paul II's message is the belief that the human person reveals the nature of God's love in his or her body, and this happens most especially in the spousal communion between man and woman (TOB 9:3). We hope that this study allows your group to understand these realities and live out their sexuality in accordance with God's designs.

Theology of the Body Bible Study

- **Part 1:** Theology of the Body: Eros and Agape – [click here](#)
- **Part 2:** Theology of the Body: "In the Beginning" – [click here](#)
- **Part 3:** Theology of the Body: Sexual Authenticity – [click here](#)
- **Part 4:** Theology of the Body: Celibacy and the Resurrection of the Body – [click here](#)
- **Part 5:** Theology of the Body: Pornography Exposed – [click here](#)
- **Part 6:** Theology of the Body: The Pill: No Small Matter – [click here](#)

Includes readings and notes.

[Click here](#) for more information

Marriage is the free, full, faithful, and fruitful union of a man and a woman, ordained by God from the beginning. Nothing less deserves to be called marriage.

Marriage as God intended it from the beginning

Father Vincent Hawksell\This Sunday's First Reading, from Genesis 2, tells how God instituted marriage. "It is not good that the man should be alone," he said; "I will make him a helper as his partner." Therefore "a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh."

Genesis 1 is different. There, "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female He created them." And God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."

Both of these accounts precede the story of the original sin committed by Adam and Eve when they preferred themselves to God, denying the fact of their "creaturely status," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says.

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

Recommended Reading

Made This Way: How to Prepare Kids to Face Today's Tough Moral Issues

By Leila Miller and Trent Horn

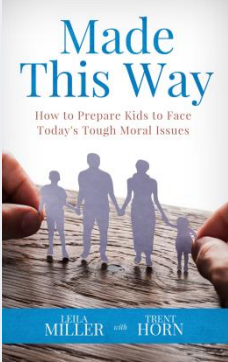
A generation ago, Christian parents didn't have to worry about how to explain transgenderism to their nine-year-old, or help their teenager deal with mockery at school for believing in traditional marriage.

But today, as our culture's moral center continues to fly apart and with every form of deviance publicly aired and celebrated, we have no choice but to equip our kids to understand and to own the truth about such issues.

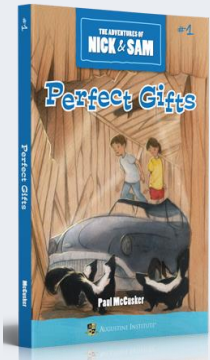
It's not easy, though—these are sensitive questions, and with the wrong approach we can harm our kids' innocence even as we try to preserve it. In *Made This Way: How to Prepare Kids to Face Today's Tough Moral Issues*, Leila Miller and Trent Horn give parents (guardians and teachers, too!) crucial tools and techniques to form children with the understanding they need—appropriate to their age and maturity level—to meet the world's challenges. Their secret lies in an approach that begins not with the Bible or Church teaching but with the natural law. In kid-friendly ways, Miller and Horn help you communicate how the right way to live is rooted in the way we're made. God's design for human nature is a blueprint or owner's manual for moral living that any child can grasp through reason and apply to modern controversies over sex, marriage, life... and the quest for human fulfillment.

Topics covered include:

- Sex Outside of Marriage
- Same-Sex "Marriage"
- Divorce
- Contraception
- Abortion
- Reproductive Technologies
- Modesty
- Pornography
- Transgenderism
- Homosexuality



What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Perfect Gifts: The Adventures of Nick & Sam

Paul Mccusker

The end of summer means two things for the twins Nicholas and Samantha. First, pack in a lot of fun before school starts. Second, get presents for their birthday.

But this year has its share of trouble when Nick and Sam get caught sneaking peeks at their hidden presents. And that's just the start! Later, Nick turns a family hike into a stinky event. Sam discovers just how dangerous disobedience can be. And an unwise buying spree leads to more problems than Nick could imagine.

Will the twins be able to celebrate their birthday this year?

St. Clare Church, 1118 St. Clair Av. West, Toronto. (one block E. of Dufferin). Initial Presentation 2nd Tuesday of each Month starting at 8pm in Padre Pio's Room, basement room in the Church.

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.

Theology of the Body in a Nutshell – #NFPAwarenessWeek

So why NFP (or Natural Family Planning)? NFP is safe, healthy and effective. Most importantly, it is a morally acceptable way to avoid and achieve pregnancy.

If we look at the four components of God's love for us (free, total, faithful, fruitful) and compare God's love to marital love, we can discover how to live the Sacrament of marriage as the ultimate expression of spousal love.

Free: We need to be able love our spouse freely. If we ask for conditions, that's not love. If we force our spouse to do something, that's not love. If we cannot say no to our sexual urges, then we are not free.

Total: The love for our spouse must be total. We can't say, "Well, I'll give you everything, honey, except for my fertility." Total means total. (Re: CCC 1643).

Faithful: Obviously, faithfulness means we must only have intercourse with our spouse and no other. But if we want to be truly faithful to our spouse, we must be faithful in word, action and thought.

Fruitful: Marital relations must be fruitful, open to children, each and every time. That doesn't mean we will conceive (or want to conceive) a child with every marital embrace. It just means we need to be open.

Birth control, in fact, destroys all four of the essential components (free, total, faithful, fruitful). Birth control violates not only God's plan in fruitfulness, but it also encourages an "I can't say no" mentality to sex. When an action, device, medication or operation is purposefully used to remove fertility, a

couple cannot give themselves totally, no matter how much they love each other. Contraception says, "I give all of myself to my spouse – except my fertility."

Natural Family Planning allows a couple to love each other as God loves: freely, totally, faithfully and fruitfully. Couples using NFP chart the wife's cycle and, if avoiding pregnancy, they abstain in the fertile time. If they are planning a pregnancy, they engage in relations during the fertile time. They are not using devices; they are fully giving of themselves and they are open to children with each and every act of marital relations.

NFP allows us to love our spouse as God loves us: freely, with no reservation, faithfully and open to children. Marriage can be a holy vocation when a couple loves as God loves: freely, totally, faithfully and fruitfully.

Want to live the highest expression of your marital love? Use NFP and be open to life.

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

For more information 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.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 subject line of your email.