

God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

January 2009 Edition, Volume 4

Website: www.godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com

Contact us at: gsmlministry@gmail.com



Christopher West is coming to Toronto!

Mark your calendars for this exciting "Theology of the Body" conference with guest speaker Christopher West. Mr. West will be speaking on Friday evening October 16, and all day Saturday October 17. Stay tuned to future newsletters for more information including location and cost. All information will also be posted on our website as it becomes available.

This promises to be an exciting weekend!

Love And Responsibility

Before writing "Theology of the Body" Pope John Paul II published a book entitled "Love and Responsibility".

St. Leo's Parish in Brooklin (North of Hwy 7 / Winchester) is offering a number of courses in early 2009 including "Love and Responsibility". The course runs for 6 weeks starting January 10, 2009 from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM. The cost to register is \$30.

More information can be found at www.catholicministry.ca or by calling 905-655-3286.

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Workshops

We are now booking into 2009. If your Parish is interested please call Susan or Tom Kennedy at 905-427-6137 or e-mail: gsmlministry@gmail.com



Theology of the Body for Teens

We have recently concluded a successful 12 week "Theology of The Body For Teens" workshop at Holy Redeemer Parish In Pickering.

We would like to extend a very special "thank you" to Fr. Morrosco Lett for allowing us to use the parish, and for providing his thoughts on the sessions.

We would also like to thank all of the "youthful facilitators" for your hard work, and dedication.

Our biggest thanks of all goes to the young people who attended the workshop, and gave the facilitators good insights into the youth of today as well as helping them understand more about living the truth. The sessions were well attended, and extremely well received. Positive feedback included comments like "I realize now that sometimes when I looked at a girl before, I wasn't looking at her the right way. This will help me understand them better."

What a positive comment!

We pray that the Lord will continue to outpour his many blessings on the youth who attended, and we hope these sessions will bring you much happiness and holiness throughout your lives.

For more information please see our website, or the <http://www.tobforteens.com> for more information, books and additional resources.

Music for the Culture of Life

Canadian composer Gerard Baklinski has written 12 original compositions based on Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body".

For more information, or to assist in Gerard's mission of promoting the "Theology of the Body" please visit his website:

http://web.me.com/peteanderinbaklinski/resonance_of_the_gift/Welcome.html.

Humanae Vitae Conference

A very successful Humane Vitae Conference was held on November 15, 2008 in Toronto.

The conference's goal was to study Pope Paul VI's controversial encyclical from all aspects, including historically its impact on Pope John Paul II, in particular to his "Theology of the Body". The speakers an in-depth understanding of the church's teachings on human sexuality, and the transmission of life. Guest speakers at the conference included priests / bishops, a doctor, as well as lay people who have lived the teachings of Humane Vitae in their married lives.

The interest in the conference was overwhelming, and unfortunately many people were turned away due to the limited capacity in the hall. While it was sad to turn people away it was a true blessing to have a packed hall, with everyone "thirsty" to learn more about this important church teaching.

If you were unable to attend, or would like to re-listen to the guest speakers, audio files (MP3 format) are available for download at

<http://godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com>
and follow the links

Study Groups

As a reminder, we offer two different study groups.

On the second and forth Monday of every month we study the Holy Father's General Audiences. On January 12 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM) we will be looking at the 4th and 5th general audience. Summaries of the first 3 general audiences are available on our website:

<http://godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com>
and follow the links

We also offer a study group that meets on Monday mornings from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM studies Christopher West's book "*Theology of the Body for Beginners*".

Both study groups meet in St. Bernadette's Parish Hall at 21 Bayly St. in Ajax. Please e-mail us if you require more information.

Sisters of Life

Sisters of Life – Canadian Co-Worker training will be held on Saturday February 28, 2008 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM in Toronto.

Co-workers for Life will prove the practical support and love a pregnant woman needs to welcome her child into life. It is a mission of love, building the culture of life one heart at a time, loving each woman with the heart of Christ.

Topics include: The Nature of Vulnerability, Understanding the Heart of a Pregnant Women, the Language of Adoption, Delighting in the Women We Serve and Communication Skills.

For more information contact the Sisters for Life at 416-261-7207 (ext. 266) or sistersoflife.toronto@yahoo.com.

Points to Ponder

According to a recent radio broadcast, a study has demonstrated that over 75% of women would prefer a chocolate desert over sex. The study then went on to explain that it's believed this to be true because chocolate provides an instant gratification, and sex is usually seen as a 'chore' that needs to be done – similar to doing the laundry or taking out the garbage.

Unfortunately neither the study nor the radio broadcast provided any insight into why sex would be seen as a chore. So how is it that the world has reduced sex to a chore, similar to taking out the garbage?

We live in a "culture of latex" that promotes "loveless sex" as being "good sex". When the sexual act is not as God intended (loving and life-giving), it becomes easy to understand how it can be replaced by any other 'coping agent' (eg. chocolate, drugs, alcohol, etc). It's unfortunate that our society has been duped by Hugh Hefner's vision of life and sex (as promoted through the mainstream media) to the point that it becomes difficult, if not impossible to understand that artificial contraception is the underlying reason for our sexual problems in today's society.

