

God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

February 2009 Edition, Volume 5

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“Theology of the Body: Discovering The Master Plan for Your Life”

On October 16-17, 2009 Christopher West will be presenting two conferences in Toronto.

Public Conference

The “Theology of the Body: Discovering The Master Plan for Your Life” featuring Christopher West begins Friday evening (October 16), and runs all day Saturday. (October 17)

The conference will be held on 50 Gervais Drive, Toronto; and, admission is \$30 before July 1, 2009, and \$40 afterwards. The registration fee includes course material.

Archbishop Thomas Collins will celebrate Mass for the conference participants on Saturday October 17 at 8:30 AM.

You won't want to miss out, so mark your calendar, and reserve a ticket by emailing stbreg@gmail.com. Our website is updated as new information becomes available.

Priest Event

On Friday afternoon (October 16) Christopher West will be presenting “Proclaiming the Theology of the Body for Priests”. Lunch and all course material will be provided at no charge to all priests and interested seminarians.

This private event will be held at Blessed Trinity Parish (3220 Bayview Avenue, Toronto). More information, including an invitation will be mailed out to all of the parishes in the coming months.

Sponsor A Priest

To truly evangelize the “Theology of the Body” we need the support of our parish priests. In order to keep costs low, and encourage as many priests to attend the conference we're asking for your generosity to “Sponsor a Priest”. A tax receipt will be issued for donations. For more information, or if you wish to donate please email: stbreg@gmail.com.

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Workshops

Let this Lenten season be a blessing by attending our next workshop. The workshop will run on March 5, 12, 26 and April 2 at St. Boniface Parish, 142 Markham Road, Scarborough, with doors opening at 6:45 PM. Admission is free; the optional study guide is \$10.00. For more information, or to register contact Rose Heron (905-683-9055) or Jan Noonan (905-420-8696), or email: stbreg@gmail.com.

Study Groups

As a reminder, we offer two different study groups.

On the second and fourth Monday of every month we study the Holy Father's General Audiences, and on Monday mornings from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM we study 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.

Natural Family Planning Association

The Natural Family Planning Association teaches the Billings Ovulation Method across the Greater Toronto Area. There are 5 locations across the GTA which hold initial presentations each month, starting at 8:00 PM:

1) St. Joseph's Health Centre

30 The Queensway, Toronto
1st Tuesday, each month

2) 3050 Yonge St. Suite 205 (in room across

the hall from suite 205, second floor).
4th Wednesday, each month

3) St. Mary of the People Church

570 Marion Ave., Oshawa
2nd Tuesday, each month

4) St. Patrick Church

921 Flagship Dr., Mississauga
2nd Thursday, each month

5) St. Bernadette Church

21 Bayly St. East, Ajax
4th Wednesday, each month

To register for any of the above initial presentations please contact the office at 416-481-5465, or visit

<http://www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/>

Follow-up chart consultations are available at all centres by appointment.

Vatican on YouTube

The Vatican has further embraced the internet by launching it's own YouTube channel. For video from Vatican events check out:

<http://uk.youtube.com/vatican>.

Our Apologies!

We had a few technical issues with the publication of our January newsletter. Unfortunately, an earlier draft was sent out in error instead of our final edited copy which corrected a number of spelling mistakes. Please accept our apologies for this error.

Humanae Vitae Conference in Kingston

The Archdiocese of Kingston is hosting the *"From Humanae Vitae to Theology of the Body: Celebrating the Church's Teaching on Sexuality & Marriage"* on Saturday March 28, 2009 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, 1085 Woodbine Rd. in Kingston.

It will be an exciting day with a number of great speakers including Archbishop Prendergast who will speak on Humanae Vitae giving a historical overview and explanation of what it means, Cale Clarke will speak on the Theology of the Body, Dr Maria Kraw will offer a medical perspective of the biological effects of medical contraception, and Fr. Tom Lynch will explain the relevance of Humanae Vitae in our time. The conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by Archbishop O'Brien.

The conference Registration starts at 9:00 am, and the cost is \$25.00 / person, or \$40 / couple, and \$10 for students. To Register please contact Sr. Lucy Kearney, SP (613-548-4461) or email: family@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca.

FX: The Faith Explained Seminars

Cale Clarke, the director of FX: The Faith Explained Seminars equips Catholics with the tools they need to explain and defend their faith. He is a frequent speaker at retreats and conferences, and has also appeared on Salt and Light Television.

If you would like to book a dynamic, engaging and exciting presentation on the Theology of the Body, or one of Cale's many other seminar topics, or if you'd simply like to read his articles and his blog, please visit www.thefaitheexplained.com for more information.



THEOLOGY OF
THE BODY



Points to Ponder

In previous newsletters we've reflected upon Marriage as an icon of the Holy Trinity, and how the mutual self-giving love of the spouses brings new life into the world.

So why do marriages fail if marital love is meant to be an image of the Holy Trinity? Perhaps the spouses fail to live their love in this way for many reasons. As Melinda Selmy says "How can you see your sex life as an image of the Blessed Trinity when your wife consents only on a full moon when Mars is in Virgo, and makes love with the enthusiasm of a dead frog?" (*"Heaven's Song" by Christopher West quoted from the Catholic Register, Sept. 30, 2007*)

The Passion Story serves as a constant reminder to Christians that true love requires sacrifice, and love isn't always easy. Christ suffered greatly for his bride (the church), and often times couples must also suffer greatly for the sake of their marriage. When couples don't understand the demands of love, and enter into marriage thinking it's a 'vacation' instead of 'vocation' they're often unprepared for the demands of true love, and sadly many times these marriages end in divorce.

It is through the demands of love that couples are united with Christ. Not only during the "One Flesh Union" (as an icon of the Holy Trinity) but also during those times of great pain and suffering. Understanding this can help couples realize that the blood, sweat and tears of marriage are a small price to pay for the great happiness that springs forth from loving as Christ loves.

Parish Missions

Fr. Dan McCaffrey from NFP Outreach will be conducting Parish Missions at Epiphany Of Our Lord Parish (Scarborough) on March 2-5 Mission from 7:00PM - 9:00PM; and St. Lawrence Martyr (Scarborough) on the weekend of March 7-8. Fr. McCaffrey's mission is spreading the church's teaching on Theology of the Body, Humanae Vitae, Family Life and Natural Family Planning.

Additional information is available by calling 416-497-2274 or 416-937-8253.

Recommended Reading

Christopher West's most recent book *"Heaven's Song: Sexual Love as it was Meant to Be"* expands upon some of his earlier writings on Theology of the Body by explaining Pope John Paul II's hidden talks. These hidden talks were never presented at his general audiences because they were deemed too risqué for some of the younger members in the audience.

These talks are for the most part a reflection on the biblical stories of the marriage of Tobias & Sarah, and the Song of Songs.

Unlike some of his other works Christopher West applies the Theology of the Body to real world examples, and reflects upon many of the stories people have told him.

Familia

Familia invites you to say "I do" all over again. The fairy tale marriage didn't end with the fairy tale wedding! Come and discover how to continue the fairy tale beyond your wedding day on Saturday, April 4th, 2009, Le Dome Banquet Halls: Caterina's Room, 1173 North Service Road East, Oakville.

Reception/Registration starts at 5:30 PM followed by dinner. The cost is \$80 / couple before February 27, and \$100 afterwards and includes entertainment with singer Marc Mallett. The deadline for registration is March 13, 2009.

For more information visit www.familiacanada.net, or to register contact: David & Fatima Borges, (647-227-0697) or email: borgest@sympatico.ca.

Toronto's Serena NFP Sessions

Toronto's Serena is presenting NFP sessions on April 1, July 8 and October 7 at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, 3200 Pharmacy Ave, Scarborough, Ontario. For more information contact Wies and Val Danukarjanto at danu@sympatico.ca

