



God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

January 2010 Edition, Volume 11

Website: www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com

Contact us at: gsmlministry@gmail.com



On behalf of all of us at GSML Ministry we hope that everyone had a holy and blessed Christmas and a safe New Year. If you are considering a New Year's resolution, you might add studying the Theology of the Body to your list. Check our website at www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com and select **Further Study** from the menu on the left. There are many links to articles by various writers that should prove very interesting.

2009 in Review

2009 has been an eventful year!

We started to prepare for the Theology of the Body Conference early in 2009 sending posters and information to all the parishes in Southern Ontario and Western New York. On top of our preparatory work, we held a Lenten workshop at St. Boniface in Scarborough and a full day workshop for the Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community. We also ran a Theology of the Body for Teens at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Toronto with the help of a number of Youth Leaders. During Respect for Life Week in Toronto, we were invited to present the ToB in the Classroom to grade nine and grade ten classes.

After the Conference, we had a full day workshop at St. Theresa's Parish in Scarborough. Two weeks later, we held our first workshop in Hamilton at St. Margaret Mary with over 60 people attending. It was a powerful workshop and there was considerable interest in the ToB. We also held our first full day ToB for Teens Workshop at St. Nicholas Bari. We are thankful to God to have these opportunities to present the Theology of the Body.

God blessed us this past year with an opportunity to bring the world-renowned speaker on the Theology of the Body, Christopher West, to Toronto giving both a public conference and a priest luncheon. Pictures of the Conference can be found on our Website but also at: <http://picasaweb.google.ca/gsmministry/TheologyOfTheBodyConferenceTorontoOctober2009#> Over a thousand people attended this conference.

Pictures for the Priest Luncheon can be found on our Website and at: <http://picasaweb.google.ca/gsmministry/PriestLuncheonProclaimingTheTheologyOfTheBodyOct2009#> Over 110 Priests and Seminarians attended.

Visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2L8ppM6R5s&NR=1> to see 6 short videos Click on the "More From: gsmlministry" link. - videos on YouTube – Thank you Francis Berroya for providing these videos.

Would you like to share your experience about the Conference?

If you have more comments about the conference – or would anyone like to share how the conference affected you, email us at gsmlministry@gmail.com or send us your photos.

Upcoming Workshops

Join us for a God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Workshop.

- All Day – Saturday Feb. 13, 2010 at Epiphany of Our Lord in Scarborough – Register by email or phone: epiphanychruch@rogers.com or 416-499-2196 or stbreg@gmail.com
- All Day – Saturday Mar 13, 2010 at Holy Martyrs of Japan in Bradford - register at stbreg@gmail.com
- Four week evening Workshop - Tuesdays Apr. 20, Apr. 27, May 4, May 11 at St. Dunstan's Church 3150 Danforth Ave, just east of Victoria Park Ave. - register at stbreg@gmail.com

Don't forget to indicate which Workshop you will be attending. Check our Website for other times and locations. If you are interested in holding a Workshop at your Parish or with your group, please contact us at gsmlministry@gmail.com

Training

There will be a Two-day training – Facilitator and Presentation techniques – March 27 & May 8 at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. E. Ajax, from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm. Cost \$25, which includes handouts and lunch. The sessions will use Theology of the Body for Teens and Katrina Zeno's Theology of the Body from

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Toddlers to Teens. Contact gsmlministry@gmail.com or Tom Kennedy 905-427-6137 for more information.

FYI

A group called FLRM (Family and Life Renewal Ministry) has started in Mississauga. One of their goals is to spread the Theology of the Body. More information about this group will be included in the March newsletter.

ToB Study Groups

Don't forget to attend our Study Groups at St Bernadette's Parish - 21 Bayly St. Ajax

- Monday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30
- 2nd & 4th Monday of the month

Theology of the Body in Other Languages

If anyone know of websites or resources on the ToB in languages other than English please let us know so we can share with others. We are increasingly receiving requests on this info. Thus far, we have:

ToB in Portuguese

Teologia do Corpo www.teologiadocorpo.com.br
A website in Portuguese hosted by the TOB Brazil Team

ToB in Spanish

TOB Chile www.tobchile.cl
A website in Spanish dedicated to the theology of the body, run by members of the TOB Chile group out of Santiago, Chile

Also at Our Father's Will Communications – www.ourfatherswillcommunications.com

These resources are in Spanish.
http://ourfatherswillcommunications.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=TOTBMC&Category_Code=E

ToB in French

www.colf.ca

Yves Semen

Notre conférencier invité, Yves Semen, est un expert de la théologie du corps. Auteur de l'ouvrage [La sexualité selon Jean-Paul II](#) il enseigne la philosophie

politique à la [Faculté libre de philosophie de Paris](#) et il est directeur de l'[Institut européen d'études anthropologiques Philanthropos](#) (Fribourg, Suisse). **Le CD (en format MP3) des conférences de Yves Semen est maintenant disponible!** Il contient également l'homélie prononcée par le Cardinal Marc Ouellet à l'occasion du symposium.

[Dans la lumière des "origines": du sens de la sexualité?](#)

[Au cœur du vécu de la sexualité?](#)

[Mariage et célibat : opposition ou complémentarité ?](#)

[Le mariage chrétien: voie de sainteté?](#)

ToB Articles

Look on our website at www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com under Further Study for these and other articles on the Theology of the Body.

Avoiding Fatal Attractions by Edward P. Sri

A person is easily attracted to someone of the opposite sex in two ways: physically and emotionally. First, a man is attracted physically to the body of a woman, and a woman is attracted to the body of a man. The Pope calls this attraction to the body *sensuality*. Second, a man is also attracted emotionally to the femininity of a woman, and the woman is emotionally attracted to the masculinity of a man. The Pope calls this emotional attraction *sentimentality*. Find out more about attractions in Edward P. Sri interesting article at: www.cuf.org/FileDownloads/LayWitness/MJ05sri.pdf

Natural Family Planning and the Theology of the Body: A New Discourse for Married

Couples by Mary Shivanandan
<http://www.christendom-awake.org/pages/mshivana/nfp&tob/nfp&tob-pdf.pdf>

"NFP is much more than simply a method of family planning. It is a way of discerning God's plan for the family. Many couples view it as a "way of life." Being inserted in a contraceptive framework has almost totally obscured the fact that NFP itself is an innovation revealing to couples in a new way the riches of the Church's teaching on marriage and family life. Thanks to John Paul II's development of a theology of the body and renewal of a sacramental vision of marriage, natural family planning

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has finally found a voice and a language...." (Click on the above link to read more.)

ToB and Humanae Vitae

by Thomas D. Williams, L.C.

"Much attention has been given to John Paul's Theology of the Body in recent years. Few, however, realize that this five-year catechetical series the Holy Father began shortly after his election was aimed precisely at undergirding and explaining the teachings of *Humanae Vitae*. The first major teaching of John Paul's pontificate, in fact, was this series of papal catecheses given in his Wednesday audiences in the Pope Paul VI Hall between September 1979 and November 1984. These 129 lectures, known collectively as the "Theology of the Body," were divided into "cycles" and culminated in the sixth and final cycle devoted to a study of *Humanae Vitae* and its teaching on responsible parenthood and the regulation of birth."... To read more go to

www.upra.org/archivio_pdf/ao83-williams.pdf

Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body - A Cliff Notes' Version

by Fr. Roger J. Landry

www.catholicpreaching.com/content/docs/TOB.pdf

Theology of the Body Channel

tob.catholicexchange.com

Articles and blogs on the Theology of the Body

Marriage Conference:

A Time for Hope: Finally, Good News About Marriage!

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon National Marriage Enrichment Conference
March 19-20, 2010

A national marriage enrichment conference
Sheraton Cavalier, Saskatoon, SK
1-877-661-5005, ext. 229
www.marriage2010.ca

Recommended Reading

Man to Man: A Real Priest Speaks to Real Men about Marriage, Sexuality and Family Life by Fr. James Farfaglia - <http://www.mantomanbook.com/>

"The book isn't for sissies. This is straight talk, and Fr. James doesn't pull any punches or beat around the bush. He gets right to the heart of the matter, confronting the difficult topics without fear, always with a pastor's love.

Readers will be rewarded with Fr. James' refreshing directness about the real meaning of chastity, the difference between sex and making love, the difficulties of marriage, the importance of leadership in the family, the role of a father in the home, and most of all, the necessity of a committed life of prayer

With loving firmness and encouragement he reminds men, "*Remember, the goal of our spiritual life is to become a new person in Christ. It is not enough just to be a 'good person' or to be 'nice.' We are called to be saints.*" – from *Catholic Insight* –By Jennifer Hartline http://www.catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=34936

"Father Farfaglia has taken a subject that is much maligned in today's sexually saturated culture, that of being a man's man, and has turned it back toward the Lord and His design in a way that is both captivating and challenging not only for men but for every Catholic. Understanding God's design for a union with Him through marriage is fundamental for a couple considering matrimony, but particularly for the male in this age of feminized masculinity. That is perhaps the most important aspect of this book for it dignifies man because he is masculine, he is strong and he is Godly. It is my hope that every young Catholic considering marriage will read this with an open mind and a heart for truth." – **Judie Brown, President American Life League**

Critical Mass Giveaway

Critical Mass, the Canadian Catholic rock band, is pleased to announce an mp3 giveaway! The band is a two-time winner of the Canadian Gospel Music Association Award for Best Rock Album and played for over a million at World Youth Day 2002. Their new album, "Body Language", is based entirely on the Theology of the Body and is about the Church's view on love, sex, communion and our eternal destination. By going to the URL below and clicking the REDEEM IT button, you will have an opportunity to download an alternate mix of the

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title track "Body Language (loops version)". Enjoy AND PLEASE forward this info to any youth who might be interested. For more information go to www.indieheaven.com/ct/?ad=3&ref_id=47608

A Message from Catholic Land

We have NOW opened our **CLUB HOUSE** for Catholic Families to call 'home'. Every day throughout the year, you can celebrate with family and friends at our 'Club House'. Experience Family-Time together, TYF, a meal and the Rosary every Saturday from 5 pm to 10 pm. or Sundays from 3 pm to 7 pm. Some events will include speakers, 'theology on tap', movies... We will keep you informed. Please register online by email or call us if you are coming.

Our **MISSION**: to provide a Catholic environment for **Recreation, Reflection & Retreat** (RR&R) for Families, Parish Ministries; youth, choir, prayer groups & associations like the KoC, Cursillo, F4C,... Our mission is dedicated to Our Lady; **Stella Maris** (Star of the Sea).

Contact Marilyn & Victor Carvalho 647 834 2046
Victor@Catholicland.com Website:
<http://www.CatholicLand.com> for more information about what they offer.

Take their Catholic quiz for a chance to win \$20.00 – must be in by Jan. 31, 2010
<http://www.catholicland.com/TYF112.html>

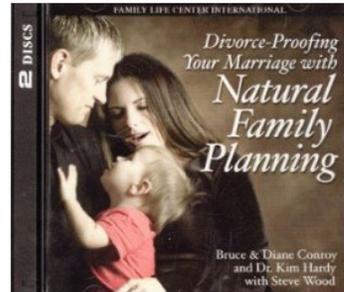
MOTHERING - FULL OF GRACE MOTHERS' GROUP:

If you have young or school-aged children (including teens) and would like to connect with other Catholic moms, consider joining us every other week (alternate Wednesdays/Thursdays) from 8 - 9:30 pm. The purpose of this group is to support each other as we endeavour to raise our children to be pure and good in the face of the secular world's influences, such as the media, school settings, peers, etc. We will also build up our own faith life, our children's faith, and the overall family's. For more information please contact Cathy Haynes at 905-686-3653 or by email at cmd2598@yahoo.com

Natural Family Planning

Divorce-Proofing Your Marriage with Natural Family Planning - CD

Steve Wood with Bruce and Diane Conroy & Dr. Kim Hardy



Bruce and Diane Conroy, a teaching couple of Natural Family Planning (NFP), help couples understand how and why NFP is a vital way to strengthen their marriage and family life. They answer common concerns such as: Is NFP safe? Is it

effective? What is the Catholic Church's teaching on birth control and NFP? How will NFP affect my relationship with my spouse?

Dr. Kim Hardy, an OB-GYN, shares how his perspective on life and contraception was dramatically changed when his young son died in a tragic car accident. He offers a physician's perspective on why NFP is a safe, effective, and valuable method for couples.

New book on ToB

BOSTON, MA (December 31, 2009) — Pauline Books & Media is pleased to announce the release of Katrina J. Zeno's *Discovering the Feminine Genius: Every Woman's Journey*. Zeno, a renowned speaker on John Paul II's groundbreaking theology of the body, presents a framework in which women can discover and understand their human and spiritual journey as a daughter of God, a woman, a unique individual, and a spouse of the Spirit. Based on an immensely successful women's retreat, *Discovering the Feminine Genius* continues Zeno's exploration of the role of women in our complex world.

Christopher West commends *Discovering the Feminine Genius*: "Oh, how much the Church needs [Zeno's] gifts!...[This] is not only a must-read for women. Men, too, will benefit from her beautiful illumination of the feminine mystery."

Katrina J. Zeno is co-founder of Women of the Third Millennium (www.wttm.org) and the founding coordinator of the John Paul II Resource Center for the Diocese of Phoenix, Arizona. A popular retreat speaker, she is the author of *The Body Reveals God: A Guided Study of*

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Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body and When Life Doesn't Go Your Way. Katrina is an avid hiker, Argentine tango enthusiast, and the blessed mother of a young-adult son, Michael.

ToB Among Evangelicals

Interest in the ToB among Evangelicals is growing. Chris Carter a teacher of theology and ethics at an evangelical college in Canada attended the Theology of the Body Conference. In a recent class on marriage, he had his students read *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* by John Paul II. He relates the **effect it had on his students**:

"They were mostly surprised to be reading a biblical-theological study by a Roman Catholic that seemed to them to be informed by a high view of Scriptural authority and a deep engagement with the text. They found him to be Evangelical in his view and very convincing.

By the end of the class about half were convinced that artificial contraception is wrong and most of the rest were very open to the idea of Natural Family Planning. All found John Paul II's arguments to be impressive and not to be dismissed lightly. In fact, I have arranged for a speaker from [the Billings Ovulation Method] to come to campus on Feb. 4 to make a presentation on the practical questions surrounding NFP.

My experience is that the problem is simply ignorance. Evangelicals and Roman Catholics live in "two solitudes" and communication is bad. Christopher West, who has devoted his life to spreading the message of TOB, was in Toronto for a conference in [Oct.] and I attended with about 8 of my current and former students. It was quite an experience to be in such a heavily Catholic environment. (We even attended the 8 am Mass with Archbishop Thomas Collins as homilist and main celebrant and, no, we did not communicate.).

But John Paul II is bigger than Roman Catholicism, if I might be permitted to put it that way. He represents the Tradition and he also represents the apostolic message of Scripture as the fount of that Tradition. I have a student doing an honours thesis this year on how John Paul II's TOB differs from the teaching of St. Augustine, which is a very interesting topic. The TOB is for the whole church. I believe it is a gift given by God now for the post-sexual revolution Church in the West

and I agree with George Weigel's famous prediction that it is a time bomb set to go off some time in the third millennium with great blessings for the entire world."

You can read the full article on his blog at: <http://politicsofthecrossresurrected.blogspot.com/2010/01/theology-of-body-1-teaching-john-paul.html> There are also some interesting comments.

CONQUEST CLUB FOR BOYS:

The ConQuest Club for Boys 5 – 16 will begin registration starting January 1st, 2010. This rapidly growing club is based on Catholic principles of spiritual development and offers its participants challenging physical, intellectual and spiritual activities within a fun filled atmosphere of adventure. The program, offered by Regnum Christi, supports parents in the formation of their boys as future Catholic leaders. Starting on January 28th, 2010, the club meets on Thursday nights at 7pm at Our Lady of The Bay School in Pickering. For more information or to receive a registration form, please call David Wilson 905-839-7665 or email hrconquestclub@gmail.com

The BXVI Retreat 2010

The BXVI Retreat is quickly coming up! Register today!!!

The retreat will be held on Jan. 28 - 31, 2010 at St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral and adjacent Bishop Doyle Hall in Peterborough ON.

The BXVI Retreat is an apologetics retreat open to young people ages 15 to 30. All lectures are open to the public.

SPEAKERS

Mr. Anthony Schartz, lawyer and Director of Ernescliff College in Toronto and Dr. Leslie Tomory, who holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto in the History and Philosophy of Science as well as Fr. Cris Graas, a member of Opus Dei community and chaplain at Ernescliff College, will be the guest lecturers

TOPICS

The topics of this year's retreat include controversial topics of Church history such as anti-Semitism; the Eastern schism; faith & science; the persecution of witches; the Church, power & politics; St. Joan of Arc; evolution and Catholic teaching; Galileo and the Church; and more.

Registrations received before Jan. 15th will save \$10 on their registration fee! \$60 before Jan. 15th, \$70 as of Jan. 16th. Please make cheque payable to "R.C.E.C. - BXVI".

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The schedule and register information are available at www.veyopeterboro.org, or call by calling VEYO at (705) 749-0330.

40 Days for Life

Toronto's third 40 Days for Life Campaign, Feb. 17th-March 28th, is back in Toronto!

Location: Women's Care Abortion Facility (960 Lawrence Ave W near Dufferin...same location as last time) Vigil Hours: 7am-9pm each day!

MID POINT RALLY MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP Thomas Collins is on Monday, March 8th at 7pm at St. Charles Borromeo! Please call Campaign Life Coalition at 416-204-9749

Points to Ponder

A Rose by Any Other Name: Part 2

In the April 23, 2009 edition of the *Globe & Mail* there was a Question & Answer article written about an interview with Sharlene Azam, author of "Oral Sex Is The New Goodnight Kiss".

This article highlights what should be of great concern to our society, teenage prostitution. The young girls involved in these prostitution rings are "swapping sex for ... just about anything". Of even greater concern than the behavior of these young girls, is the fact that "none of the girls, not even the recruiters, are willing to call what they do prostitution, even when cash is exchanged. They say 'hooking up' and 'one-night stands'". As a society, we need to recognize that these kinder, more gentle words make the behavior sound more acceptable, but they in no way change the harmful effects these behaviors have on the individuals, and society as a whole.

So what lures these girls to teenage prostitution? Ms. Azam argues "that father absenteeism, ineffectual sexual education classes, Internet porn, a hypersexual 'poisonous culture' that promises status through the accumulation of luxury goods" are to blame.

So is this a problem only for our young girls? NO! "[The boys] have this idea of what sexy is and it's a total fabrication. It has nothing to do with girls that they know, but it's really influencing how they treat girls. They will have an inability to relate to a girl in a normal,

healthy relationship." In short, the boys need to learn not to treat these girls as objects.

Unfortunately, this behavior is an endless circle of degradation. The sexual problems of today's teens will have a huge impact on the teens of tomorrow. If this problem isn't solved, the teens of today will have a problem relating to each other in a normal healthy sexual relationship (marriage). The further breakdown in marriage leads to more single parent families. The *Globe & Mail* article points out that "nearly all of the girls were living with single Moms". As the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, writes in his *The Gospel of Life*, "the trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life."

Prayer to End Abortion in Canada

New Pro-life Prayer Cards /Bookmarks are now available. Up to 10 copies are free, additional copies are 7 cents each. Please call Priests for Life at 1.888.300.2007. www.priestsforlifecanada.com/

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.

I know there is nothing that
destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have
conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.

I am ready to do my part in
ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the
unborn.

I commit myself to be active in the
pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters
are protected,
And our nation once again
becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen!



Prayer to End Abortion

Priests for Life Canada
Fr. Tom Lynch, National Director
P.O. Box 31, Pembroke, Ontario
PriestsForLifeCanada.com
Tel: 1-888-300-2007

Working to support,
inform, and empower
Catholic clergy
to build a culture of life

