



God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

November 2009 Edition, Volume 10

Website: www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com

Contact us at: gsmlministry@gmail.com



Theology of the Body Conference Results

On October 16 and 17, one thousand people came to the Canada Christian College to hear renowned educator and speaker Christopher West, deliver an introduction to Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. The God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry, in partnership with the Natural Family Planning Association, brought West to Toronto for this public conference as well as for a private conference for priests and seminarians. With both groups, West used humour and music to "crack open" the complex teachings of Pope John Paul II for the average person.

The conference was an overwhelming success with everything going as planned. In response to a participant request, we even set up an impromptu book-signing table. On Friday night, Christopher West introduced the topic to an almost full house. Our Saturday morning session started with a Mass organized by the Sisters of Life and celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Collins. We were pleased that, the Archbishop, unavailable for the rest of the day, was able to be with us in the morning. West led the enthusiastic conference participants through the teaching throughout the rest of the day. In evaluating the conference, over ninety percent of the participants said the conference met or exceeded their expectations.

- "I am really blown away by this conference. It has really changed my view about God and sexuality."
- "Awesome would highly recommend it to others: Information needs to be shared within Parishes."
- "The atmosphere of the conference as a whole is one of the best ever experienced. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the selfless and devoted work accomplished by all."
- Morning Mass with Archbishop Collins was an excellent way to set the tone for the day ... Critical Mass were great - lively, respectful & energetic. Great Conference! Thank you!"
- "It was exhilarating, educational, entertaining, inspiring and blessed."

- Absolutely incredible - eye opening, deep and enlightening. Didn't want to come at first, but I say "WOW" God is good!!!

For those who missed the conference, West will be speaking in Ottawa in 2011. As well, he leads the Head and Heart Immersion courses in Pennsylvania. Information can be found at www.tobinstitute.org

Conference Pictures

Pictures of the conference can be see the end of this Newsletter or go to our website www.godsexandthemeaningoflife.com

Could anyone who took pictures please email them to us? We would like to post some of them. – Send them to gsmlministry@gmail.com

Thank You!!!

Thank you to the many great people who made our conference a huge success.

- Thank you for attending and participating. You were the main contributors. Without your support, it would never have happened, and without your cooperation, participation, fellowship, and spirit, it would never have gone as smoothly as it did.
- Thank you Archbishop Collins for your beautiful celebration of the Eucharist
- Thank you to the volunteers who worked so hard before, during and after, and who were a delight to work with. We could not have asked for more.
- Thank you Christopher West's staff for your help and cooperation during all of the preparation, and during the conference itself.
- Thank you Natural Family Planning Association for partnering with us, and for the service and help you provided.
- I believe I speak for all now. Thank you Christopher West for your excellent, humorous, musical and informed presentation. Hopefully we will see you here again soon.
- Thank you to my fellow committee members whose dedication, hard work, and patience

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over the last year brought this conference to fruition.

- Thank you Lord for sending your Holy Spirit down on all of us. Thank you for the graces you showered down on all of those I have mentioned. We pray that you will continue to send us your grace and your help as we try our best to apply what we have learned at the conference in our daily lives.

Lost and Found

Lost CD and DVD:

- *Help women to their Destiny*
- *Men in changing their Attitudes.*

Lost Book:

- *Theology of the Body Made Simple* by Kenneth Schmitz and Anthony Percy

If you found any of these items, please email gsmlministry@gmail.com

Couple of Comments

Thank you for all your suggestions. Some were very interesting and we will certainly keep them in mind when we hold another Conference. We did want to make some comments regarding food and parking

- The food – Unfortunately the venue would not allow outside food or drink.
- The Parking – we hired and paid for parking attendants for both Friday and Saturday, but unfortunately, they did not show up on Friday.

Christopher West with Critical Mass

Christopher West jammed with Critical Mass at the end of the Conference and a recording of it appears on Youtube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ9MLucyY0I

Michael Coren interviews Christopher West

The day before the Theology of the Body Conference, on Oct. 15th, Christopher West appeared on the Michael Coren Show on CTS. Click on the link to see it. www.ctstv.com/ontario - choose Michael Coren, or go to:

www.ctstv.com/ontario/player.php?show=Michael%20Coren%20Show

Question:

Were there any promotions of this conference in the educational system, Elementary, High & Post Secondary School?

Yes, each school board in Southern Ontario received a number of flyers for distribution. Each high school received a fax as well as an email (if they had email). Each elementary school in Toronto received a fax. As well, each trustee for all the Catholic Boards received at least one email. All private Catholic Schools received information.

For Post Secondary, several of the Catholic Groups were represented at the Conference. For example Ryerson Chaplaincy, York University Chaplaincy, CCO – Catholic Christian Outreach from Kingston and National Campus Life Network. Every University Chaplaincy received information, as did all employees of any Catholic University.

The conference was extensively promoted with posters and bulletin requests sent to all Parishes in Southern Ontario and Buffalo. All Archdioceses were also notified and invited to participate. Every Archdiocesan Lay Association received at least one email.

Priest Luncheon / Seminar

As Saturday is a very busy time for Priests – Saturday morning Mass, Saturday evening Mass, weddings etc., a separate event was held for them. Though we missed them at the main conference, over 110 Priests and Seminarians attended the Lunch Seminar with Christopher West on Friday, October 16.

“He encouraged them to see their celibacy not as a repression of eros but as a charismatic sign of the ultimate destiny of every human being. The hunger of the heart for love can only be satisfied by God and must be directed at God, through prayer.

“We have to live the truth of our sexuality in order to be authentic witnesses to it and so we cannot reduce our sexuality to sexual activity,” West said. “John Paul II would be one example of many celibate men who have lived the full truth of their sexuality, of their masculine identity and this is why I’ve learned more about sexuality from this celibate man than from anybody else on the planet, because he’s a true father.” (from *the Catholic Register Week of Oct. 25, 2009, Carolyn Girard*)

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Theology of the Body in French:

We received several requests for the Theology of the Body in French.

CD: Vers une nouvelle révolution sexuelle (MP3)

Today, there is a greater need than ever to re-propose the Catholic vision of love, marriage and family. **Yves Semen**, author of the book *La sexualité selon Jean-Paul II* (see below) and an expert on the Theology of the Body, was the keynote speaker at the 2nd National Symposium on the Theology of the Body, organized by the Catholic Organization for Life and Family in Quebec City in November 2008. His four talks, which introduce this prophetic teaching of John Paul II, as well as the profound homily of **Cardinal Marc Ouellet**, are now available on CD (MP3 format, French only).

Price: \$5.00 www.colf.ca/

For PDF go to <http://www.renouveau.ch/pdf/sexJP2.pdf>

La Sexualité selon Jean-Paul II (Broché) de Yves Semen

Présentation de l'éditeur

Véritable "bombe à retardement théologique", selon George Weigel, biographe américain du pape, l'approche de la sexualité par Jean-Paul II va marquer un tournant dans l'histoire de la pensée moderne. Durant les quatre premières années de son pontificat, Jean-Paul II a consacré ses audiences générales du mercredi au plus vaste enseignement jamais délivré par un pape sur un même sujet : la " théologie du corps ", une approche aussi originale que parfaitement méconnue sur le corps, la sexualité et le mariage. Paradoxalement, cet enseignement demeure ignoré non seulement du grand public, mais aussi des époux chrétiens et de la plupart des pasteurs. Pourtant, toutes les vérités de la Foi chrétienne apparaîtraient sous un jour nouveau si les théologiens exploraient l'apport de ces thèses, véritables tournants dans la théologie catholique, mais aussi dans l'histoire de la pensée moderne. Faciliter la découverte d'une pensée d'une richesse inouïe et profondément libératrice qui chasse définitivement de la morale catholique toute condamnation de la sexualité humaine et toute méfiance à son égard, tel est le but de cet ouvrage, accessible à tous. (from Amazon.ca)

Upcoming Workshops:

These Workshops provide an opportunity to discuss the Theology of the Body. Be the first to contact us about our Lenten Workshop

St. Theresa's Shrine will host a **God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Workshop, Saturday, November 14th from 9 – 4**, in the Parish Hall 2559 Kingston

Road, Scarborough, ON

Registration of \$15 will include lunch. To register, please call the parish office at 416-261-7498 or stbreg@gmail.com

St. Margaret Mary Church will host a **God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Workshop, Saturday, November 28** from - 9:30 – 4:30 at 20 Idlewood Ave,

Hamilton, ON.

Registration of \$5.00 – will include lunch, Call Evelyn 905-575-4265 or

Grazyna 905-3852542 or stbreg@gmail.com

Learn Presentation & Training Techniques

Are you interested in presenting or helping with Theology of The Body workshops?

A presentation is an effective method of conducting a seminar or workshop. As a public speaker, you will be able to communicate effectively using a variety of tools and media. Participants will learn presentation techniques such as how to use visual aids in presentations, how to maintain audience attention, and how to conduct a work group. This two-day session will allow participants the opportunity to practice these skills with other attendees. Personal and private feedback will be provided by a facilitator.

The sessions will use *Theology of the Body for Teens* and Katrina Zeno's *Theology of the Body from Toddlers to Teens* as a basis for the training.

Where: St. Bernadette's Church, 21 Bayly Street East, Ajax.

When: Saturday March 27 and Saturday May 8, 2010 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$25 which includes material handouts and a cold lunch.

Email: stbreg@gmail.com

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Theology of the Body Study Groups

Come and delve more deeply into the richness of the Theology of the Body at two different Study Groups. Everyone is welcome

- Monday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am
- 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of the month from 7-9 pm

Both groups meet at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly Street East, in Ajax

The Theology of the Body and Modern Medicine:

Informing the Practice of Healing. by Tara L. Seyfer, M.T.S. and John M. Travaline, M.D. www.christendom-awake.org/pages/mshivana/tob&mm.pdf

"In the following pages we will draw upon John Paul II's view of the human person as developed in his *Theology of the Body*, to introduce a perspective of medicine viewed in its essence as a healing of the body person, with a special emphasis on the human person's dignity. At the center of this healing activity is the relationship between the healer and patient. The specific question we pose and herein attempt to answer is "How does the *Theology of the Body* inform the physician, or more broadly, one who within the health-care world cares for the sick and suffering?" – (from the introduction)

Recommended Reading

Dressing With Dignity by Colleen Hammond - <http://www.valoramedia.com/dignity.html>

"In this ground-breaking book, Colleen Hammond challenges today's indecent, demeaning fashions and provides you with the information you need to protect yourself and your loved ones from the onslaught of tasteless, immodest clothing. She explains that there is a difference between dressing attractively and dressing to attract. Colleen Hammond shares real-life example of how women can accentuate the grace and beauty of their femininity, and she shows that "modest definitely does not mean "frump"!! – from the back cover (published by Tan)

A big thank you to all our Sponsors and Friends.

Natural Family Planning Association
www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/toronto
Paul O'Connor Funeral Home -
www.pauloconnor.yr.ca
Sunrise Marian Centre - www.sunrisemarian.com
Interpretation Joseph Blain Inc. - www.josephblain.com
Haber Blain Insurance Brokers Ltd -
www.haberinsurance.com/
Marguerite Bourgeoys Family Centre –
www.fertilitycare.ca
St. Joseph's Workshop –
www.st-josephsworkshop.com
Catholic Youth Studio – www.catholicradio.ca
Serena Ontario - <http://serena.ca/>
Federation of North-American Explorers -
<http://fourarrows.ca/index.php?page=96>
Familia - www.familiacanada.net
Holy Inspiration - www.holyinspiration.ca/
Catholic Insight - www.catholicinsight.com/online/
St. Joseph's Workers for Life and Family - www.sjw.ca
Metro - www.metro.ca/en/on/accueil.html

Other Events

NFPA

Basic Teacher Training Workshop Part 1
November 13 to 15, 2009
Location: Blessed Sacrament Church
24 Cheritan Ave., Toronto

Topics covered in this workshop

Scientific Understanding
The Hormones (work of Prof. J. Brown)
The Cervix (work of Prof. E. Odeblad)
Overview of the Billings Ovulation Method
Six Requirements of Fertility
Rules of the Billings Ovulation Method
Charting with Symbols
Normal Cycles
Recognition of the Peak
Basic Infertile Pattern of Dry
Cycles of Average, Short and Long Length
Thinking in Patterns
BIP of Discharge/Combined BIP
Different Types of Bleeding
Natural indicators of Ovulation
Breastfeeding, helping the Lactating Mother

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Who should attend? Billings Ovulation Method Teachers; Trainees and users; Physicians; Medical Professionals; School Teachers; Clergy; Seminarians; and interested individuals & couples. *For more information visit our Web Site To Register* Contact the Natural Family Planning Assoc. in Toronto by our Online registration form at www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/toronto or call our office at 416-481-5465

Christ the King Rally

On 21 November 2009 at the Canada Christian College. All are invited, it is \$15.00 at the door and \$5.00 for youth. 50 Gervais Dr. Don Mills & Eglinton. E from 8:30 to 6 pm.

One guest speaker is Mr. Jim Murphy from the USA

Critical Mass CD Release Concert

Critical Mass is pleased to announce their CD release concert for their new CD, *Body Language!* The celebration for this concert is happening on November 13th at Woodside Bible Fellowship, 200 Barnswallow Drive, Elmira. This is the fourth album by the band, which has won two Rock Album of the Year honours from the Canadian Gospel Music Association and played for a million youth in Toronto at World Youth Day 2002.

The concert will start at 7pm, admission is \$4 and all CDs will be on for a special CD release price. For ticket reservations, please email dwang@uwaterloo.ca or call 519-888-4567 x 33968. Admission is limited so act early.

"[Body Language] is the best they've ever sounded. There is clarity and musicality in its guitar riffs, accompanied by solid production chops that are equal to what I hear on secular radio"- The Grapevine-Review

Theology of the Body Advent Women's Retreat – Chicago – December 5

9 – 3 p.m. "Every Woman's Journey"—answering "Who Am I?" for the feminine heart.

DIRECTOR: Katrina J. Zeno is co-Foundress of Women of the Third Millennium, author of "Every Woman's Journey" and "God Reveals the Body," and

an international speaker on the genius of women, the Theology of the Body, marriage and the Eucharist, chastity, the single life and prayer. She is the co-host of a 13-part series on the Theology of the Body for EWTN. Born and raised in San Diego, Katrina earned her B.A. in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is a single mother and dance instructor living in Arizona. Read more about Katrina at her website:

www.facebook.com/cf7da; www.wttm.org

Pre-registration/Pre-payment required to hold your place.

Please call: 312-346-4228. Space is limited, so don't delay!

\$35 (includes breakfast and lunch)

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 27.

Sponsored by: Pauline Books & Media/Daughters of St. Paul

NEW LOCATION: Marytown

1600 W. Park Ave., Libertyville, IL

<http://www.facebook.com/cf7da>; www.Marytown.com

(Overnight accommodations not part of retreat package, but can be arranged separately w/Marytown: call Chris at retreat house: 847-367-7800 x225 retreats@marytown.com)

Letter of support

Cardinal Justin Rigali and Bishop Kevin Rhoades on the Theology of the Body Institute and Christopher West:

"We are convinced that John Paul II's Theology of the Body is a treasure for the Church, indeed a gift of the Holy Spirit for our time. Yet, its scholarly language needs to be 'translated' into more accessible categories if the average person is to benefit from it. To do this is the specific mission of the Theology of the Body Institute, and we believe that Christopher West, the Institute's popular lecturer and spokesman, has been given a particular charism to carry out this mission. With great skill as a presenter, with keen insight as a thinker, and with profound reverence for the mystery of human sexuality, he has been able to reach thousands in our sexually wounded culture with the Gospel of salvation in Christ."

www.tobinstitute.org/images/TOBI%20Letter%20of%20Support.pdf

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Points to Ponder

A Rose by Any Other Name: Part 1

In his play *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare wrote, “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet”, which has been quoted on countless occasions since then. Was Shakespeare correct in saying this, or would a rose by any other name smell as sweet?

In today’s society, we often use ‘kinder’ more gentle words to hide what is really occurring. The Oxford dictionary describes the word ‘Murder’ as ‘the unlawful premeditated killing of a human being by another’. What if the word ‘Murder’ was simply described as the ‘premeditated killing of a human being by another’ what would happen?

The first thing, we wouldn’t need the words ‘abortion’ and ‘euthanasia’, which both result in the premeditated killing of another human being. Can you imagine what would happen if we were to openly refer to those doctors that perform abortions as murderers, or those that consent to the killing of their unborn child as a murderer? It is easy to imagine that there would be a public outcry and those using the word ‘murder’ would be the target of hate propaganda, etc. Proof of this can be seen in Canada’s decision to award Dr. Morgentaler its highest award – the Order of Canada.

In his Encyclical Letter “The Gospel of Life” the Holy Father Pope John Paul II wrote “*In particular, there is a need for education about the value of life from its very origins. ... The trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life.*” We need not go any further than our TV or internet to see how much society has trivialized sex, and thus the contempt for life in general, especially ‘new life’.

