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God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

JAN 2014

VOLUME 35

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We are now booking into 2014.

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 - 11:30) at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. Ajax

**We have held
over 20
Theology of the
Body for Teens
Workshops**

*A Theology of
the Body
Workshop would
help your parish
or group grow in
the knowledge of
their Faith.*

Contact:

gsmlministry@gmail.com

Let's give our teens an
opportunity to
discover the truths.

Contact: Rose and Pat
Heron at
roseheron@gmail.com
or 905-683-9055

Consider booking a Theology of the Body Workshop for Lent.

GSML News

Theology of the Body Study Group

Every Monday morning at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. E, Ajax from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

The group is enjoying the book, *Theology of the Body for Every Body*, by Leah Perrault.

Contact us at gsmlministry@gmail.com

Everyone welcome. Also bring your Catholic Faith questions as we delve into many topics.

Theology of the Body for Teens

Why host a Theology of the Body for Teens at your school, parish or group?

- **Insight into Theology of the Body Gives Teens Hope**
- **Theology of the Body for Teens is a life-changing chastity program winning rave reviews from teens and teachers.**

"I've been involved in Catholic education for 20 years as a teacher and administrator, and I've seen how teenagers are at a most spiritual time. This program is extremely timely and it touches all aspects of their development: mind, body, soul, and spirit. It is a tremendous source of hope for the young amid the culture of death. It gives them an insight into the theology of the Church that I have not seen in any other program."
Rev. Robert Knippenberg, Diocese of Victoria

The Need It Meets

Teenagers' sexuality emerges as they search for meaning in their lives, and they are bombarded by a consumeristic view of sex and relationships. *Theology of the Body for Teens: Discovering God's Plan for Love and Life* is a Catholic curriculum tailored to helping them understand the positive significance of their sexuality and ultimately the purpose of their lives in light of God's plan

Book a Theology of the Body for Teens Workshop in 2014

We have held over 20 Theology of the Body for Teens Workshops and therefore know the material extremely well. We can answer any question regarding the material. Set you up to teach it yourselves or guide you through it.

If you would like more information about these programs, or to book one in your school, church or group, contact our youth leaders, Rose and Pat Heron, at roseheron@gmail.com or 905-683-9055 or gsmlministry@gmail.com

IF you would like more information about the Theology of the Body for Teens [click here](#) for some videos

Theology of the Body for Grades 6,7 & 8

At present we are facilitating this wonderful program at St. Bernadette's Parish, 21 Bayly St. E., Ajax, once a month, after the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday.

Feb. 1, 2014

Vocation: God's Call, My Response

This Chapter will focus on:

- The universal vocation to holiness and the particular vocations to marriage, consecrated life, and ordained life.
- Identify flaws in the secular understanding of dating
- Understand the universal call to holiness
- Consider how to live the universal call to holiness in our daily lives.

If you are interested in this new program, please contact us at gsmlministry@gmail.com

Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation

Our Facilitators are ready to speak about Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation.

As Pope Benedict XVI said, The Theology of the Body is a way to find true love.

Let's make use of this wonderful tool to help strengthen marriages.

Contact us to arrange this talk at your parish Marriage Preparation Course.
Contact Rose Heron at: roseheron@gmail.com or 905-683-9055



To better understand JP II's writings we have decided to include summaries of the ToB.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE
OF WEDNESDAY, 31
OCTOBER**

"Man is a subject not only because of his self-awareness and self-determination, but also on the basis of his own body. The structure of this body permits him to be the author of a truly human activity."

To read the Audience [click here](#)

In The Very Definition Of Man, The Alternative Between Death And Immortality

Pope John Paul II

Summary of the Seventh Audience by Tom Kennedy

We have looked at man's original solitude, which allows us to see that man is not only conscious of his body, but also aware of its meaning. The problem with the science of the human body, is that it is concerned only with the physical structure of the body, whereas the person who studies and thinks about the origin, nature, and destiny of the body finds the relationship between body and soul.

We should first look at the body from the physical perspective before we consider the abstract or non-tangible aspect. The Yahwist text of Genesis contains the first evidence of the meaning of one's existence as well as the meaning of one's body, but it is shown on the basis of the concrete reality of man, and not on the understanding of an un-seeable and untouchable reality.

Man knows himself not only as a person, and a person with freedom of choice, but also as a physical being because of his body, and because of his self-determination and consciousness, man almost becomes transparent. In other words, the invisible self becomes apparent because of the activity of the body. This is why the meaning of the body can be seen from original solitude.

Man, with a basic understanding of his body is put in front of the tree of knowledge, and told that if "you eat of it you shall die." Man now becomes aware that his existence depends on God. He has no idea of the concept of death, as it actually is because he has never experienced it, but he realizes that it is the total opposite of what he has experienced so far. God confirmed to man that his existence was dependent on the Creator, that man did have his limits, and that, by the nature of his existence, he was

exposed to the possibility of non-existence.

When man was told that he would die if he ate of the fruit, he realized the truth of his "solitude". It depended on his decision, his free choice, whether or not he was going to know the difference between good and evil. If he chose to know the difference, then he would also experience death and dying. This way, man knew that good and evil did not just have roots in the garden, but also in his own humanity.

We already distinguished the meaning of man's body because of its differences from all other bodies. As well, it has become clear that the "invisible" man is more significant than the "visible" one. Now we find that choice between death and immortality goes way beyond the meaning of "body". It points to the ultimate destiny of humanity. So the choice between death and immortality has been part of man "from the beginning", in his solitude along with his original solitude is fundamental to the whole theology of the body.

*From the National
Catholic Register*

www.ncregister.com

The John Paul II-Francis Connection

By Bill Maguire, Friday, Dec 20, 2013

Pope Francis is building upon the insights of the theology of the body — especially with respect to the fundamental goodness and dignity of the human person — by privileging love of the poor as a centerpiece of the New Evangelization, something he has done both through his actions and teaching.

Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/the-john-paul-ii-francis-connection/#ixzz2p4Fg6uKg>

Short Video

Pope Proposes JP II Theology Of The Body As A Way To Find True Love

Benedict XVI met with the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family for the 30th anniversary of its foundation. The group discussed how the theology of the body and the theology of love build strong marriages and families. The pope also noted the importance of love

and respecting one's body.

To see the video [click here](#)

A very interesting and enlightening article on the Theology of the Body.

"Jesus' birth, passion, death, and resurrection were all bodily experiences. His body was never an obstacle to his relationship with the Father. Rather it was in his body that he expressed his love for the Father and brought about our redemption" (Heb 10:10).

Theology of the Body: An Overview

By Jim Seghers

My first introduction to Pope John Paul II's theology of the body occurred a few years ago when someone asked me to listen to a Christopher West audiotape on that subject. My initial reaction was one of surprise because I had come to similar conclusions from previous studies that came from different sources. My first major influence was the concept of the covenant, which is the major theme in the Bible. Sacred Scripture frequently describes this relationship in marital imagery. As I examined the covenants God made with a man in the person of Adam, with Noah's family, with the Hebrew people through Abraham, with a nation of many tribes through Moses, and a kingdom covenant through David, I recognized how all these advancements were incorporated and transformed into the new covenant of Christ's blood.

To read more [click here.](#)

This website is chock full of useful and meaningful resources.

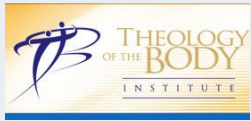
chastityproject.com

The Chastity Project

By Jason Evertt

Chastity Project believes that young people play a pivotal role in the new evangelization, and therefore invites them to launch chastity projects within their schools and churches to promote the good news of purity to their peers. As Pope Francis said, "Do you know what the best tool is for evangelizing the young? Another young person. This is the path to follow!"

Chastity Project exists to promote the virtue of chastity so that individuals can see God, and be free to love (Matt. 5:8). The orange and green colors of the Chastity Project logo are from the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to whom the ministry is consecrated.



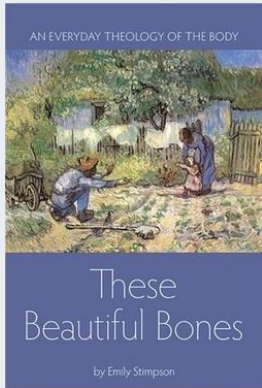
www.tobinstitute.org

Theology of the Body Institute

Quite a number of informative and interesting articles are available at the Theology of the Body Institute. The more recent ones include:

- [Priesthood: Steward of the Sacrament and Icon of Christ, the Bridegroom](#) : 11/6/2013
- [Christ's Theology of the Body Applied to the Five Senses](#) : 10/15/2013
- [Twenty-first Century Evangelical Catholicism](#) : 9/11/2013
- [It Is You I Have Loved All Along by Bill Donaghy](#) : 7/31/2013
- [The Great Task We Face in the New Evangelization by Christopher West](#) : 7/9/2013

To read these and many more [click here](#)



Recommended Reading

These Beautiful Bones: An Everyday Theology of the Body

by Emily Stimpson

It was Blessed John Paul II's greatest gift to the Church: The theology of the body. A window into who we are, the theology of the body is a theology for the rooms where we make love. But it's also a theology for the rooms where we work, where we eat, where we laugh, and where we pray. ***These Beautiful Bones*** takes you on a walk through those rooms. With both humor and practical wisdom, it sheds light on what the theology of the body has to say about life beyond the bedroom, about the everyday moments of life, helping you discover how to let grace enter into those moments and make of them something extraordinary.

What a good idea!

Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Did Jesus Have a Last Name?: And 199 Other Questions from Catholic Teenagers

[Matthew J. Pinto](#) (Author), [Jason Evert](#) (Author)



Did Jesus Have A Last Name?

And 199 other questions from Catholic teenagers.

Matthew Pinto & Jason Evert

This long-awaited sequel to the best-selling ***Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?*** uses the same easy-to-read, question-and-answer format that has proven successful in capturing the hearts and minds of Catholic teens. With 200 actual questions from teens, ***Did Jesus Have a Last Name?*** offers clear and concise answers to some of the most burning questions about the Catholic Faith.

Teens will learn the answers to questions such as:

- How can we believe in a God we can't see?
- Is the Catholic faith the only true religion?
- Did the miracles in the Bible really happen?

Though written for teens, this book is perfect for people of all ages who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Matthew Pinto and Jason Evert have a gift for providing clear, theologically-precise explanations without losing the masterful charm of contemporary language.

"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

Pope John Paul II

Peter's Points to Ponder

While attending Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent, I was struck by a paradoxical statement made by the homilist. He was speaking on the final preparations for Christmas, and how some in the congregation maybe fearing the arrival of Christmas because they had lost a loved one, their family may not be with them to celebrate, or they may be suffering from unemployment that would limit their generosity. The priest then went on to say that we must focus on the true meaning of Christmas, the arrival of a Jesus as a baby, and he went onto add that babies are a source of much joy, and questioned who could be afraid of a baby.

I observed my own parents, with the joy of observing their granddaughter on Christmas Day dressed in her new princess costume, or friends that fade into oblivion when they bring their young children to another house. All of the focus is on the baby, and everyone is patiently waiting for his or her turn to hold the baby.

Who could be afraid of a baby?

We need look no further than the Gospel reading on the Feast of the Holy Family (1st Sunday after Christmas) where St. Joseph is instructed to pack and lead the family into Egypt. We also need not look any further than the abortion clinics to observe how many people are truly afraid of children today.

Let us all pray that we can one day all say "Who could be afraid of a child?"

St. Joseph's Health Centre 30 The Queensway (Education Centre A, #1B 105A), Toronto - Initial presentation: 1st Tuesday, each month at 8 p.m.

St. Patrick Church 921 Flagship Dr., Mississauga - Initial presentation: 2nd Thursday, each month at 8 p.m.

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.

Learn the Billings Ovulation Method™

(also known as the Clinics)

Overview

The Natural Family Planning Association provides instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method™. The Billings Ovulation Method™ is easy to learn and is highly successful when used by a couple to achieve or avoid a pregnancy.

Introductory Sessions

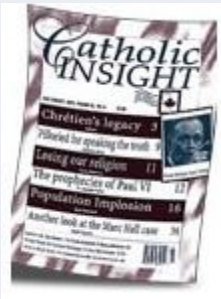
An introductory session is the first step in the process of learning the Billings Ovulation Method™. These sessions are held at our clinics throughout the Greater Toronto Area. The introductory session provides the basic concepts of the method and will give the woman or couple the information needed to start charting and to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of fertility in the woman's body. Follow up sessions are then required to actually use the Billings Ovulation Method™. What you may learn on the internet or in the introductory session is not enough to be able to use the method successfully. There is no cost to attend the Introductory Session, however there is a small materials charge (approximately \$5) for the charts and stamps. To read more [click here](http://toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca)



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.



Catholic Insight

Consider subscribing to Catholic Insight, the magazine for Canadians who would like to deepen their knowledge of the Faith and to discover the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church.

To view articles or subscribe go to www.catholicinsight.com

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 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.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/

God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry has Toronto Archdiocesan approval

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