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# God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

JULY 2013

VOLUME 32

**Note:** Email [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**Book a Theology of the Body for Teens Workshop for the Year of Faith**



## 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. (summer excluded)

We will be studying a new book, *Theology of the Body for Every Body*, by Leah Perrault. If you are interested in joining us please contact us to order a copy, price approximately \$12.00 Contact us at [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

#### **Review of book:**

*"Just beneath the surface, and at times exultantly surging through, this book is an Hallelujah chorus of thanksgiving to God for making us human. It is imbued with a love for what is human, and a love of God for making us – in our bodies – the way we are, and in the Incarnation, for becoming what we are. This book is a little treasure, which will bring blessings for those who allow it to draw them into a personal conversation with God. Those who take the time to ponder each section, to reflect on the questions posed, will find this book has the effect of a great retreat, renewing, giving insight, leading one to become more at home in one's life, more turned towards the presence of God in it."*

– **Bishop Donald Bolen, Diocese of Saskatoon** (from back cover)

Everyone welcome. Bring your questions on Catholic Faith.

### *Theology of the Body for Teens*

GSML Ministry has presented over **20 programs** using the *Theology of the Body for Teens Leaders Guide* by Jason & Crystalina Evert and Brian Butler. We just completed a program in a school and are starting another in June with a youth group. Let's start one at your parish or school.

Rose Heron, along with her husband Pat Heron are GSML Ministry Teen Leaders and facilitate these programs.

Along with presenting to 6 groups or parishes, we have also been welcomed into 4 High Schools. In each of these schools for 12 weeks we presented to 4 classes a day with an estimated 100 students participating at each school. That is a lot of teens being introduced to Theology of the Body and Chastity.

Our facilitators are well versed in the Theology of the Body for Teens, and engage the teens in many activities and discussions along with DVD talks. They provide a perfect forum to examine this great teaching. Another assistant, Jan Noonan is a retired Catholic school teacher with a Masters of Theological Studies.

If you would like to arrange a Teen Workshop in your parish or school please contact our youth leaders, Rose and Pat Heron, at [roseheron@gmail.com](mailto:roseheron@gmail.com) or Rose Heron 905-683-9055 or [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)



*Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed the Year of Faith, which began on October 11, 2012, and will continue through November 24, 2013..*

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

Contact:

[gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

We are training several volunteers at the ongoing *Theology of the Body for Teens workshops*. These interested people will take the program back to their own parishes.

Consider holding a *Theology of the Body for Teens* workshop at your parish in order to learn how to facilitate it.

## ***Theology of the Body for Grades 6,7 & 8***

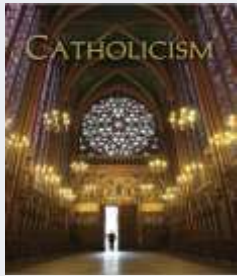
At present we are facilitating this wonderful program at St. Bernadette's Parish, 21 Bayly St. E., Ajax, once a month.

Oct. 5, 2013                      Sex, Love, and Chastity

If you are interested in this new program, please contact us at [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

## ***Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation***

Our Facilitators are ready to speak about Theology of the Body and Marriage Preparation. Contact us to arrange this talk at your parish Marriage Preparation Course.



### **Session Eight – Sept. 28**

A Vast Company Of  
Witnesses - The  
Communion Of Saints

### **Session Nine - Oct. 26**

The Fire Of His Love -  
Prayer And The Life Of  
The Spirit

**These sessions are  
free and truly  
inspiring.**

## **Catholicism**

**By Fr. Robert Barron  
DVD series with discussion**

**DATES:**                      Every 4th Saturday **next two Sept. 28 & Oct. 26, 2013**

**TIME:**                        10:00 am to 11:30 am (doors open at 9:30)

**LOCATION:**                 St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21 Bayly St. E, Ajax

**COST:**                      Free (please register)

**REGISTRATION:**        [stbreg@gmail.com](mailto:stbreg@gmail.com)

You do not have to attend all sessions to enjoy this series

### ***Catholicism Dates***

Sept. 28, 2013; Oct. 26, 2013; and Nov. 23, 2013

### **Sept. 28 - A VAST COMPANY OF WITNESSES - THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

The story of the Church is told in the examples of those men and women who dedicated their lives to knowing and serving Jesus Christ. The Catholic Faith is made visible in real human lives.

Father Barron gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church. Highlighting Katharine Drexel, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Father Barron tells the story of

the Church as a vast company of witnesses who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

### **Oct. 26 - THE FIRE OF HIS LOVE - PRAYER AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT**

In this lesson, Father Barron explores Catholic spirituality, which is centered on prayer. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God.

On pilgrimage to the places where the great saints and spiritual masters lived, Father Barron explores the different types of prayer: contemplation; adoration; petition; and intercession. In telling the stories of Catholics like Thomas Merton, St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, Fr. Barron demonstrates how the human person can be transformed through prayer that manifests a deep, spiritual commitment centered in Christ.

For more information on the series go to: [www.catholicismseries.com](http://www.catholicismseries.com)

**From the Catholic Register**

## **Church approved sex-ed**

Written by Ruane Remy, The Catholic Register

Friday, 14 June 2013 10:05

Theology of the Body for Teens teaches Pope John Paul II's teachings on sexuality.

When Toronto-area residents want to teach teens about God and sex, they call Rose Heron.

Heron is a volunteer with God, Sex and the Meaning of Life Ministry in the Archdiocese of Toronto. The goal of the ministry is to spread Pope John Paul II's teachings on sexuality. And for the last four years, she and her husband Patrick, coordinator of the teen program, have offered sessions on Theology of the Body for Teens to youth groups and high schools across the archdiocese.

"We want to reach as many young people as possible," said Heron. "It's such an important program for them to understand what the Church teaches and why. And it gives them a better understanding of Church teachings around sexuality."

To read more [click here](#)

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

**GENERAL AUDIENCE OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1979**

*Despite the bad weather and a slight drizzle of rain more than 20,000 people attended the General Audience in St Peter's Square on 26 September. The following is the text of the Pope's address.*

"When Christ referred to the "beginning," he asked his questioners to go beyond, in a certain sense, the boundary which in Genesis passes between the state of original innocence and that of sinfulness, which started with the original fall....."

To read the Audience [click here](#)

# Boundary Between Original Innocence And Redemption

Pope John Paul II

## Summary of the Fourth Audience by Tom Kennedy

According to the Pope, when talking about the "beginning", Christ drew a boundary between the state of original innocence, and the state of sinfulness that started with the fall, and told his listeners to go beyond that boundary. The limits of these two directly opposite states, which influence the inner person in every way, were set by this boundary. By referring to the "beginning" Christ points to the continuity of the two different states or dimensions of man. The boundary did not stop with the fall, it continues today and throughout history.

When man fell, he broke the original covenant between the Creator and the created (man). Sin is what the Pope calls "part of historical man" that we read about with the Pharisees who questioned Jesus, as well as all those questioners in all history including modern man.

The Pope believes that it is impossible to understand historical sinfulness without understanding the state of original innocence, which is fundamental to man. This original innocence is the dimension of man being created in the image of God. If sin is the loss of grace, then that grace was the grace of original innocence. We were created in grace (innocence), were meant to live in grace (innocence), but when man fell we lost that grace (innocence).

This doesn't mean that original innocence has been lost. In Genesis 3:15(1) we find the first reference to our salvation, the salvation of original innocence. "I shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; it will bruise your head and you will strike its heel." In this way, historical and modern man participate in original sinfulness as it is hereditary (we have all lost original grace) and, at the same time, we all add our own sins to our lives, and we also participate in salvation as we are eligible to receive it and help create it with God. Paul, in The Letter to The Romans, tells us <sup>23</sup> And not only that: we too, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we are groaning inside ourselves, waiting with eagerness for our bodies to be set free. <sup>24</sup> In hope, we already have salvation; in hope, not visibly present, or we should not be hoping -- nobody goes on hoping for something which is already visible."

Since we were created male and female, only the redemption of the body ensures the continuation and unity between sin and original innocence. It is this redemption on which the original covenant between God and His people rests.

It is through the theology of the human body that we can analyze what the "beginning" means, as referred to in Genesis, but we must also look at the relationship between revelation and experience. As we mainly see bodily man by experience, we can only experience it back to the fall. We cannot experience it into original innocence since our individual humanity is incapable of experiencing it as it really was. However, our human experience is a legitimate way to interpret the "beginning" as we will see later.

"Theology of the Body is more than a course or theory, it's a sacred gift given to each person by God." by Fr. Alan Boisclair

## Pope John Paul II: 'Man cannot live without love'

By Father Alan Boisclair

Special to The B.C. Catholic

Scripture-based, divine revelation of our humanity, described by God as being "very good," according to Genesis.

The Second Vatican Council document *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, states in section 22 that Christ not only reveals the Father but "fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear."

In this, Christ not only gives us an "authentic anthropology" from Genesis, but reveals a "Spousal Love" that was "the mystery" hidden in the heart of the Father "before heaven and earth were created: that God always intended to create human beings, always intended to become human, always intended Spousal Love for humanity, and always intended that our heaven would be in the "heart of the Father," as one in Christ as He is one with the Father.

Therefore the (Logos) Son of the Father was sent not only to created heaven and earth, not only to reveal Himself as our "Yahweh-Creator," but also to reveal God's Spousal Love, as our "Adonai-husband."

To read the rest of the article, [click here](#)

*Father Alan Boisclair has a BA MDiv STL (Marriage & the Family) degree. An associate of the Formation Services Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, he runs a Theology of the Body teaching ministry*



If you have an opportunity to attend this Course you should. It is amazing.

## Theology of the Body Institute

**August 18-23, 2013**

Theology of the Body I: Head & Heart Immersion Course with Christopher West.

Quarryville, Pennsylvania

For more information [click here](#)

Video about the Theology of the Body Institute - [click here](#)

Theology of the Body in Vancouver

## Theology of the Body

By Fr. Alan Boisclair

From Priests for Life Newsletter.

To go to Priests For Life Website [click here](#)

"As of April 2013, I will begin my 36th Theology of the Body (TOB) 11 Week/22 Hour Course for the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Some would think this monotonous, my emphatic answer has been that, with each teaching, I learn a greater depth of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, that I had previously not appreciated; with each stage, I find a new level of being saturated with a reality of truth and holiness that is both revolutionary and essential.

For JP II, TOB is not personal opinion, but a solid, Scripture based Catechesis, the Divine revelation of our humanity, fully and authentically taught by Christ as "very good" according to Genesis. Gaudium et Spes 22 succinctly states that: "Christ not only reveals the Father but "...fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear". Therefore, the (Logos) Son of the Father, was sent not only to create heaven and earth, not only to reveal Himself as our "Yahweh- Creator" but also to reveal God's Spousal Love, as our "Adonai- Husband". It is He who walked and talked with Adam and Eve;

He who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, finally, He who became human, to fuse humanity to Divinity as an act of Spousal Love. In this, the main role of Christ was, not just to repair or redeem us from sin, but to complete and perfect the Divine Intent in Genesis "Let us make man in our own image and likeness". He gives authentic humanity."

To read more [click here](#)

## Wojtyla Summer Institute 2013

Book your calendars for the 3rd Annual Wojtyla Summer Institute for Teachers!

The Institute will run from **August 8 -11, 2013** at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Barry's Bay, Ontario. The theme of this year's conference is **Vatican II and Continuity: Always the Same Spirit**. In the wake of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and in this Year of Faith, this Institute will offer an opportunity to learn more about this historic council, reflect on the documents of Vatican II, and in so doing deepen your knowledge of the faith.

Here is the [registration form](#) for the conference.

*"But the Theology of the Body is not just about sex and marriage. It is about the mystery of the human person." – by Veronica Ferri*

## Theology of the Body Talk

Diocese of Raleigh

**Published on May 29, 2013**

This talk might seem strangely placed in a bioethics line-up, but John Paul II's Theology of the Body gives a particularly clear view into bioethics issues that

*"The Theology of the*

*Body is the message of the Church; it is Christ's message, Christ, the Word made Flesh.*" – by Veronica Ferri

involve sexuality. This talk can stand alone as an (incredibly condensed) overview of Theology of the Body, but is meant to be part one of a pair of talks on infertility treatment.

To see the video [click here](#)

By Dr. Gregory Popcak  
Author of [Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Raising Sexually Whole and Holy Kids](#) and for a look at what it means to build a family around the principles of the TOB, pick up a copy of [Parenting with Grace: A Catholic Parents' Guide to Raising \(almost\) Perfect Kids.](#)

## Teaching Theology of the Body to Children

By Dr. Gregory Popcak

"I would suggest that teaching TOB to kids means presenting the Bible as the love story between God and his people that begins and ends in union with him. It means discussing the Catechism in a manner that conveys that it reveals the basics of our quest to understand the intimate heart of God and his loving plan for his people. It means discussing morality, not in terms of rules and punishments and lines we may tiptoe up to but never cross, but as a guide to what it means to be truly loving to ourselves and others. And it means presenting a model of love that is openly physically affectionate, ordered to meeting the unique needs of every family member, is extravagantly generous (and expects extravagant generosity in return), and is rooted in a life of both communal and individual prayer.

Anytime parents do these things, they are teaching TOB to their kids. TOB isn't supposed to be a subject we study. *If that's all it is, then it is useless even as an intellectual exercise.* As an "adequate anthropology" TOB was always intended to be a message we live; the internal structure that guides our thinking, relating, and decision making as we live the gospel of Jesus Christ and labor to build his Kingdom (aka the "Civilization of Love.")"

To read more [click here](#)

## Philadelphia to host the 8th World Meeting of Families

On September 22-27, **2015**, Philadelphia will welcome the 8th World Meeting of Families, which is expected to draw a global audience. In June 2012, the 7th World Meeting, held in Milan, Italy, drew hundreds of thousands to the city with more than one million attending the Holy Father's Mass.

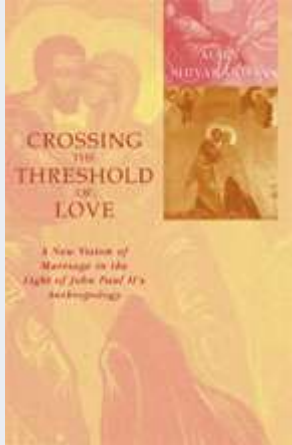
Since its inception by Blessed John Paul II in 1994, the World Meeting of Families has sought to strengthen the sacred bonds of family across the globe. Each World Meeting of Families has a theme, which aims to emphasize the good news of the family and highlight its intrinsic value to the good of society. The theme for the 2015 World Meeting of Families will be forthcoming.

Please click the link below for information on registering for the meeting and booking your stay in Philadelphia.

For more information [click here](#)



## Recommended Reading



### ***Crossing the Threshold of Love: A New Vision of Marriage***

by Mary Shivanandan

The papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* predicted the disintegration of marriage and family life, partly as a result of the widespread use of contraception. Pope John Paul II has since addressed the problem by articulating a fresh understanding of marriage, love, and sexuality which takes account of the dignity of the human person, and especially of women.

In this most exhaustive and scholarly assessment of John Paul II's Christian anthropology ever written, Mary Shivanandan examines the scientific data and the theological analysis that underlie his teachings on marriage and sexuality. Her book will be an essential text for the study of the development, meaning, and implications of Catholic doctrine in this controversial area. It is both lucid and multi-disciplinary. Its appearance marks a new stage in the debate over sexuality in the modern world.

*Mary Shivanandan is a professor of theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, DC, where she has taught since 1989. Her area of expertise is theological anthropology with an emphasis on the theology of the body. From 1999 to 2001 Dr. Shivanandan was associate dean of the Institute.*

### **What a good idea!**

"Did you know that you have a soul?"

"Did you know that there's more to YOU than anyone can see?"

*"Your soul is in all you are and do -- soul and body, forever you!"*

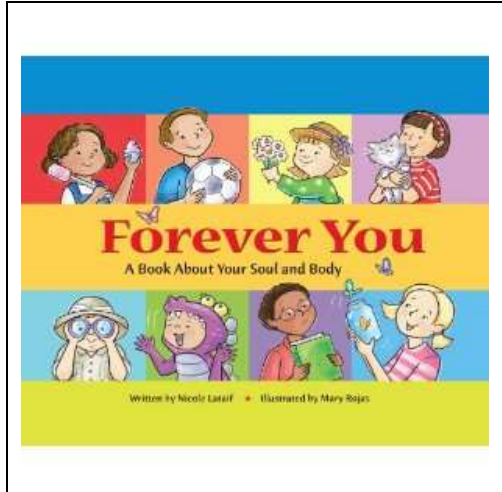
- from the back cover.

## Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

### ***"Forever You: A Book About Your Soul and Body"***

by Nicole Lataif

At the most basic level, this book is a resource for Christian faith formation introducing children ages 4-8 to what being human is all about. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or catechist, you will find this resource to be helpful in explaining the concept of a "soul" to a child, inviting them to understand and embrace the whole human person. Your child will learn about the soul's presence in their every moment, action, and emotion; its spiritual nature; its link to their body and physical experiences; its substance and origin as a gift to them from God; its commonality to all of humanity,



but also its individual uniqueness; its sacredness, with gentle allusions to John Paul II's Theology of the Body; its service-directed purpose through loving and helping their neighbors; and our call to eternal life in heaven, without explicitly referencing death.

To read more about the book [click here](#)

To watch Nicole discuss her new book [click here](#)

*The app is reportedly available in English, Spanish, Italian, German, French, Portuguese, Chinese and Arabic.*

## Peter's Points to Ponder

How often do we find ourselves complaining about our home life, the boss, co-workers, the weather, etc.? Based on a daily homily given by Pope Francis on April 3 constant complaining prevents us from noticing Jesus' real presence among us. In our complaints we focus only on the darkness, and fail to see the goodness of our lives. In the same homily, Pope Francis said, we have a tendency to withdraw and complain when we encounter the Cross, but the Cross is the Lord's presence made truly visible. Like the Holy Father's personal style, one of simplicity, his daily homilies offer simple life lessons that are easily understood.

For more information on the Pope's homilies consider downloading "The Pope App" available, at no charge, for Apple and Android smartphones at no charge. Summaries of the Holy Father's daily meditations can also be found on the Vatican website. Go to either: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) or [www.news.va/en](http://www.news.va/en)

For the app [click here](#)

**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.,

## An Introduction to Natural Family Planning for gr. 11-12 (co-ed)

Our goal is to educate older adolescents about the scientific aspects of natural family planning; to provide information on a wide range of family planning issues, including the health and fertility risks of contraceptive technology; to examine the positive dynamics for relationship with the use of natural family planning; to provide support for pre-marital abstinence.

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.*

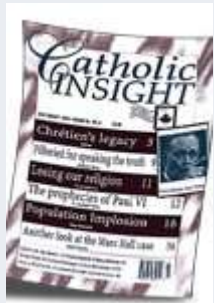
Each program stream can be customized to suite the audience and need. If you would like to arrange to have one of our teachers provide this program to your class or group, please fill out the form below. To learn more [click here](#)



[www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/toronto](http://www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/toronto)

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](http://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](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

[www.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/](http://www.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/)

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

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, reply back with this email to [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com) with unsubscribe in the body of your email.