



# God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

MAY 2018

VOLUME 62

## Contents

### GSML News

- [Cardinal Thomas Collins' statement on the \*Theology of the Body\*](#)
- [Theology of the Body Study Group - \*Catechism of the Catholic Church\*](#)
- [Bible Study – \*Psalms: The School of Prayer\*](#)
- [Apologetics](#)
- [Join the New Evangelization](#)

### Other News

- [Humanae Vitae 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference](#)
- [GOL Prolife Conference](#)
- [Into the Heart – Theology of the Body Level II](#)
- [What it Means to be Human](#)
- [Thriving in the Trenches](#)
- [Explaining the Forgotten Theology of the Body](#)
- [The Theology of Mary's Body: Hidden Mysteries of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- ["I Am Legend" and Humanae Vitae](#)
- [Creation of the Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family by the Archdiocese of Montreal](#)
- [Theology of the Body for Children](#)
- [The Priest Who Started #CelibacyMatters](#)
- [When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the transgender Moment](#)
- [Theology of the Tiny Bodies Podcast](#)
- [Reclaim Sexual Health](#)

**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 am - 11:30 am at St. Bernadette's Parish Hall, 21

Bayly St. E. Ajax

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" 1 Peter 3:15

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

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

Contact: Rose and Pat Heron at [roseheron@gmail.com](mailto:roseheron@gmail.com)

**We have held over**

- [Theology of the Body--Sr. Helena Burns, fsp](#)
- [Vatican: Against the New Gnostics, Embrace the Theology of the Body](#)
- [Chaput laments "unhinged" sexual culture, calls for "new men"](#)
- [Recommended Reading](#) - *Awakening Love: An Ignatian Retreat with the Song of Songs*
- [Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries](#)
- [Natural Family Planning](#) - *Managing Fertility Naturally During Breastfeeding*



**We are now booking into Fall of 2018.**

Toronto's Cardinal, Thomas Collins stated: [John Paul II] "*His teachings, and especially his Theology of the Body, are a permanent gift of immense benefit to us all. I earnestly invite everyone to study prayerfully the teachings of Pope John Paul, especially the Theology of the Body. -We need very much in these days to deepen our awareness of the dignity of the human person, and Pope John Paul helps us to do that.*" - Address of Archbishop Thomas Collins - 32nd Annual Archbishop's Dinner, Oct 27, 2011

To read the full address [click here](#)

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## GSML News

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### Our Programs

**Teachers!!! Pastors!!! Youth Group Leaders!!!**

**Now is the time to arrange a Theology of the Body course for your students or youth or young adults.**

Let us facilitate the program, while you study the various aspects to increase your proficiency to present all or parts in the future.

Invite us in for 10 weeks and you will be surprised by the results.

**Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity.** *The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to*

**23 Theology of the Body for Teens Workshops and Classroom Sessions**

love.

**We can do this together.**

**Contact Rose Heron** at 905-683-9055 or [roseheron@gmail.com](mailto:roseheron@gmail.com) to find out the details. It is presented at a very minimal cost.

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**Theology of the Body Study Group**

At the present time we are studying the ***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, with an eye towards the Theology of the Body. Take this opportunity to learn about your faith. Bring your questions and we will find the answers together.

Please join us on Monday mornings, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. in St Bernadette's church hall 21 Bayly St. E. Ajax. Hope to see you there.

Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30

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

Contact: Tom or Susan Kennedy 905-427-6137  
[gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com)

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**Bible Study**

***Psalms: The School of Prayer* – Starting September 2018**

St. Bernadette's will be hosting *Psalms: The School of Prayer* Bible study beginning Wednesday Sept 14 at 9:30 am to 11:30 am or Friday Sept 14 at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and continuing every Friday or Wednesday until Friday March 23 or Wednesday March 21, 2017. This is an 11 week course. Please join us.

At the heart of the Bible are the *Psalms*, prayers from God that help us learn to pray. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them, as did our Blessed Mother. These sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds for us. Their words captivate the imagination and draw us into a deeply personal encounter with God.

Join Jeff Cavins, Sarah Christmyer, and Dr. Tim Gray as they show you how to establish a deeply personal dialogue with God through the Psalms. Start Dates: Wednesday, September 12. **OR** Friday, September. 14 2018.

Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**OR**

Friday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Purchase of the Study Guide is Optional at a cost of \$35.

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

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

For more information about the program [click here](#)

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**Apologetics**

Apologetics means giving a reasoned explanation for your faith. A Catholic apologist charitably explains and defends Catholic doctrine using Scripture, history and common sense.

Join us the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (after the 9:00 a.m. Mass) of every month for an opportunity to learn to explain your faith clearly, defend it charitably, and share it confidently.

**May 26**      **Great Catholic Quiz**

Join us for the Great Catholic Quiz. Do you know your faith? Put it to the test.

**Prizes! Fun! Refreshments! And Prizes!**

## **Join the New Evangelization**

We offer various workshops for **Every Body** including:

- *God, Sex and the Meaning of Life*—for adults
- *Theology of the Body for Young Adults*
- *Theology of the Body for Teens*—in school program or in the Parish
- *Theology of the Body for Grade School*—Gr 6-8
- *Guiding Your Child Through the Sexual Minefield*
- *Theology of the Body and Confirmation*
- *Girl Talk*
- *Marriage Preparation and Theology of the Body*
- *Theology of the Body in the Classroom*
- *Training on the Theology of the Body*
- *Retreats on the Theology of the Body*

***We can custom tailor any Workshop for your Group.***

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## Save the Date Announcement

Oct 27, 2018

Humanae Vitae Conference 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

More details to follow.

## GOL Prolife Conference

THEME: REKINDLE THE GIFT OF LIFE...FULFILL GOD'S PLANS... THRIVE...

GUESTSPEAKER: SR. HELENA BURNS – DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Couples for Christ/Gift of Life Ministry is pleased to be hosting a prolife conference on Saturday, April 28th at **Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Catholic Church** located at 739 Browns Line in Toronto. Theme is "Rekindle the Gift of Life ...Fulfill God's Plans...Thrive... Our guest speaker is Sr. Helena Burns of the Daughters of St Paul. The conference will begin at 9AM and will end at 4PM. Registration will start at 8AM. Tickets are an affordable \$15.00 per person..

We want what is best for our families; to keep them safe and out of harm's way. But our Christian families are being attacked - by waves of the pro-choice movement. The pro-choice movement of course, first attacks the most vulnerable within our families, our children and grand-children, as they would be the ones easiest to pull into these dark waters and away from the path of love.

In order to keep our families, especially our children, safe from this 'wolf in sheep's clothing' movement, we want to be better informed, armored, of our prolife responsibility, being involved and stand up as a family and stand up as a Christian community.

Brothers and Sisters, as a Christian community, please join us in our Prolife Conference to learn together, educate ourselves of how we can defend and protect the basic unit of our society, our families and to revere God's love and the gift of life.

The topics are the following:

1st talk: **DOES GOD WANT ME TO BE HAPPY?**

2nd talk: **WHAT IS MY DEEPEST IDENTITY?**

3rd talk: **IS TRUE LOVE FOR EVERYONE?**

4th talk: **CAN WE WALK THE TALK?**



Prolife issues, parenting the media, sex-ed in the home, how can I keep my kids Catholic

For more information and for the tickets, please contact CFC office at 905-851-2119 OR email address: [cfcgolga@gmail.com](mailto:cfcgolga@gmail.com)

## Into the Heart

### Journey with the Theology of the Body (Level II)

#### A life of deep union with God is closer than you think!

#### DVD Presentation

**Where:** Merciful Redeemer Parish Hall

2775 Erin Centre Boulevard, Mississauga

**When:** Tuesdays from May 1 to June 26, 2018

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (8 weeks)

**Cost:** \$25 per person or \$30 per couple (cash)

**Pre-register:** email Tod at [TOB@bell.net](mailto:TOB@bell.net) or

Melvin at [marques2020@gmail.com](mailto:marques2020@gmail.com) or

Call Anthony (416-302-4253) for information



## What it Means to be Human

### Theology of the Body Series

#### An Introduction to Pope John Paul II's Teaching on Theology of the Body

Led by Sr Helena Burns, FSP

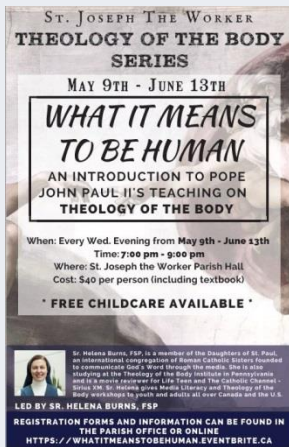
**When:** May 9th to June 13<sup>th</sup> - Every Wednesday evening

**Where:** St. Joseph the Worker Parish Hall

1100 Mary St N, Oshawa, ON

**Cost:** \$40 per person (including text book)

**Registration:** At the Parish Office or online [click here](#)



**Free Childcare Available**

## Thriving in the Trenches

We are women encouraging and equipping women to universally and uniquely serve Christ in their feminine vocation. By embracing joy, laughter, freedom

and friendship, we are seeking to thrive in the trenches of our domestic churches.  
To view the talks [click here](#)

*The theology of the body arises in the context of spiritual warfare that takes place in our contemporary culture. The case of human love, sex, and marriage is one of the major battlefields of the struggle.*

### Explaining the Forgotten Theology of the Body

I promised You I will try to explain the phenomenon of the theology of the body. As it is on the 50th anniversary of **Pope Paul VI** Encyclical Letter – ‘**Humanae Vitae**’, which showed now, that it was again a prophecy given by The Holy Spirit to us, even if a prophet (**Pope Paul VI**) was so much persecuted for that, as all the prophets. So it is a very appropriate time for some light on the teaching to show and to explain a very famous teaching of **St. John Paul II** about sexuality. A priest speaking about “these matters” always runs the risk of smiles. It’s hard but I know many, really a lot of married couples who say that this theology of the body works in their married lives, and their witness has convinced me that it is important to address this on the time of the significant anniversary and of Lent, when we are called by Jesus to repent, which literally means – to change our thinking. So, let’s be open for a challenge.

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

- Talks:**
- Theology of Mary’s Body
  - Building a Civilization of Love
  - Consecration to Jesus through Mary
  - Titles of Mary

### The Theology of Mary’s Body: Hidden Mysteries of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**NINE MILLION PEOPLE ENTERED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE AMERICAS JUST AS MILLIONS WERE LEAVING IN EUROPE. WHY?**

In December 1531, St. Juan Diego received the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on his tilma, a miracle that sparked the massive conversion among the Aztec people.

Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the world’s most popular Marian devotion, and the basilica built near the apparition site is the most visited shrine in the world. St. John Paul II named her “Protectress of the Americas” in 1999 and had a chapel built in her honor inside St. Peter Basilica in Rome. What is it about Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message that has pierced so many hearts over the centuries?!

Join Christopher West, the world’s most recognized teacher of St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, for an exploration of Our Lady of Guadalupe through the TOB lens.

To listen to these talks [click here](#)

*When pleasure is the main goal of sex, people*

### “I Am Legend” and Humanae Vitae

A friend of mine recently turned me on to last year’s blockbuster “I Am Legend” with Will Smith. I’ve watched it four times in two weeks. I’m

*(mostly women) become the means and babies become the obstacle. So we take our pleasure and we kill our offspring. This is not some dire prediction of the future. This is the world we live in now.*

mesmerized by it.

In this apocalyptic tale, based on the 1954 science fiction novel by Richard Matheson, Dr. Alice Kripin's "once hailed miracle cure for cancer" turns out to be a virus that very quickly wipes out 90 percent of humanity. Only 1 percent was immune. The other 9 percent morphed into the so-called "dark seekers" — rabid, violent, hungry human animals who emerge at night (light kills them) to hunt down and eat the remaining, healthy 1 percent.

Will Smith's character, Dr. Robert Neville, is part of that 1 percent. He's also a virologist devoted to finding a cure and saving the human race from extinction.

With all the recent talk about the 40th anniversary of Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, I can't help but draw some connections. I know I just devoted a whole series of columns to this topic, but allow me one more indulgence.

I believe that sometime in the not too distant future, the evening news will be speaking openly about the "once hailed miracle pill" that promised liberation and happiness but has led unwittingly (but not un-forewarned) to today's "culture of death."

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

*"The family is the fundamental social unit. As "a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2205), the family is a sacred source in which human life is conceived and through which it is fully developed mentally, physically and spiritually."*

## **Creation of the Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family by the Archdiocese of Montreal**

MONTREAL, Jan. 10, 2018 /CNW Telbec/ - The Archdiocese of Montreal announced the creation of an organization of evangelization: the Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family. Two organizations were merged in the creation of this new centre, which carries on the efforts of the Office de la famille and of its recently retired directors, Serge and Sylvie Vallée, as well as of its English counterpart, the Family Life Office.

The Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family addresses the needs that communities of Montreal's cultural fabric have been expressing for two years. The centre is under the direction of Katerine Perrault and Ellen Roderick, PhD, who both graduates of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

The centre's mission is to revitalize diocesan evangelization efforts dedicated to marriage, life and family through formation, accompaniment and cultural engagement. This institution is based on the pastoral approach of Saint John Paul II and on his teaching on the "theology of the body." It also seeks to put into concrete action the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on the family, *The Joy of Love*. The Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and Family thus fulfills the desire of the Catholic Church of Montreal to share with people of good will the wealth and promises of happiness that God's plan includes for human love.



[Click here](#) to read more.

## Theology of the Body for Children

Dr. Joan Kingsland, curriculum advisor and educator training specialist gives us tips on how to teach Theology of the Body concepts to children.

Steve and Becky Greene, the Cradle and the Convert, help Catholics faithfully live their vocation by providing Church teaching, navigating moral challenges and exploring current issues facing the faith in our culture.

To listen to the talk [click here](#)

## The Priest Who Started #CelibacyMatters

Father Harrison Ayre is utilizing social media, to spread the good news about what priestly celibacy really communicates.

Perry West/CNA

VICTORIA, Canada — The culture assumes celibacy is unhealthy, repressive, and gamophobic, but is it?

Canadian priest Father Harrison Ayre says no, which is why he started the trending Twitter hashtag #celibacymatters.

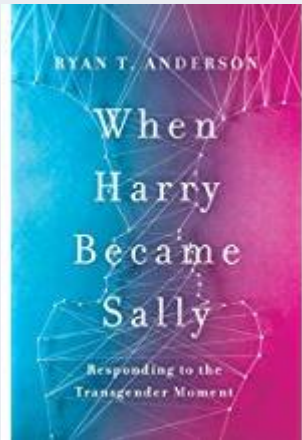
“The common misconceptions people have about celibacy: sexual repression, the confusion between celibacy and chastity, and that [priests] didn’t want or couldn’t handle marriage,” Father Ayre told CNA.

“No, this is a healthy lifestyle. It’s the way Jesus lived. If Jesus can live it then with his grace we can live it too.”

The hashtag began after the priest read a tweet from comedian Joe Rogan, a frequent critic of the Catholic Church. Rogan tweeted on March 6 the question: “At what point are we going to realize that forced celibacy is unnatural and unhealthy?”

To read the article [click here](#)

*Society, he said, considers celibacy an impossibility, and views celibates as people sexually repressed or afraid of marriage. Rather than repressing their sexuality, he said priests “are actually sexually free in a good way... living our sexuality in a beautiful healthy way.”*



**This is an excellent book for discussion on the Transgender movement.**

## **When Harry Became Sally**

### **Responding to the transgender Moment**

By Ryan T. Anderson

The transgender movement has hit breakneck speed. In the space of a year, it's gone from something that most Americans had never heard of to a cause claiming the mantle of civil rights.

But can a boy truly be "trapped" in a girl's body? Can modern medicine really "reassign" sex? Is sex something "assigned" in the first place? What's the loving response to a friend or child experiencing a gender-identity conflict? What should our law say on these issues?

When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment provides thoughtful answers to all of these questions. Drawing on the best insights from biology, psychology, and philosophy, Ryan T. Anderson offers a balanced approach to the policy issues, a nuanced vision of human embodiment, and a sober and honest survey of the human costs of getting human nature wrong.

He reveals a grim contrast between the media's sunny depiction and the often sad realities of gender-identity struggles. He introduces readers to people who tried to "transition" but found themselves no better off. Especially troubling is the suffering felt by adults who were encouraged to transition as children but later came to regret it.

And much more.....

## **Theology of the Tiny Bodies Podcast with Marcus and Dianne Guevara – Episode 1**

"I'm excited to announce a brand new podcast I have been meaning to do with my wife for a very long time! It's called Theology of the Tiny Bodies and it's all about parenting and discipline. If you're looking for advice or just interested in our take, check it out, subscribe and share to get updated when new shows are posted."

To listen to the talk [click here](#)

## **Reclaim Sexual Health**

The RECLAIM Sexual Health Online Recovery Program provides a unique integration of Theology of the Body, The Brain Science of Change, proven cognitive tools, accountability, group support, faith practices and prayer all in one, online community. Working at your own pace in an anonymous and safe environment, you can begin to change your unhealthy sexual behaviors and reclaim God's original plan for your life and your sexuality. Learn more about our

[Click here](#) to see more.

## Theology of the Body--Sr. Helena Burns, fsp

- [RADICAL FEMINISM TO FEMININE GENIUS--FULL TALK--Sr. Helena Burns, FSP](#)
- [Theology of the Body--Sr. Helena Burns, fsp GENDER & LGBTQ--Part 1--Sr. Helena Burns, FSP](#)
- [Theology of the Body--Sr. Helena Burns, fsp GENDER & LGBTQ--Part 2--Sr. Helena Burns, FSP](#)

To listen to the talks [click here](#)

## Vatican: Against the New Gnostics, Embrace the Theology of the Body

Placuit Deo is a brilliant text. The Congregation of the Faith's newest document, released just days ago, fruitfully aligns key themes from Pope Francis' pontificate with St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Francis wants an outward-looking Church. But for the Gospel to flourish, Christians need to counter those cultural messages which make it difficult for God's word to take root.

The purpose of this teaching Letter is clear enough. Placuit Deo (On Certain Aspects of Christian Salvation) aims to clarify aspects of salvation that, given "recent cultural changes," can be "difficult" to understand. What changes are these? The document employs a helpful rhetorical strategy. Instead of descending into aggressive polemics, the text, rather, invites us to consider key trends within today's secular culture in the light of two ancient heresies:

*Educators will draw inspiration from the CDF's treatment of Gnosticism, since battles over education have been waged over definitions of the body.*

Pelagianism and Gnosticism.

To read more [click here](#)

## **A Case for Priestly Celibacy**

**BISHOP ROBERT BARRON**

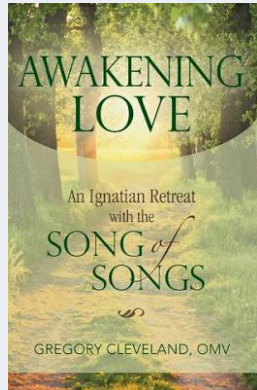
There is a very bad argument for celibacy which has reared its head throughout the tradition and which is, even today, defended by some. It runs something like this: married life is morally and spiritually suspect; priests, as religious leaders, should be spiritual athletes above reproach; therefore, priests shouldn't be married. I love Augustine, but it is hard to deny that this kind of argumentation finds support in some of Augustine's more unfortunate reflections on sexuality (original sin as a sexually transmitted disease; sex even within marriage is venially sinful; the birth of a baby associated with excretion, etc.). I once ran across a book in which the author presented a version of this justification, appealing to the purity codes in the book of Leviticus. His implication was that any sort of sexual contact, even within marriage, would render a minister at the altar impure. This approach to the question is, in my judgment, not just silly but dangerous, for it rests on assumptions that are repugnant to good Christian metaphysics.

To read more [click here](#)

## **Chaput laments “unhinged” sexual culture, calls for “new men”**

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput speaks during the July 27 opening of the seventh annual Napa Institute Conference in California. The conference this year was organized around the themes discussed by Chaput in his 2017 book, "Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World." (Credit: CNS photo/courtesy Kate Capato, Visual Grace.)

To read the whole article [click here](#)

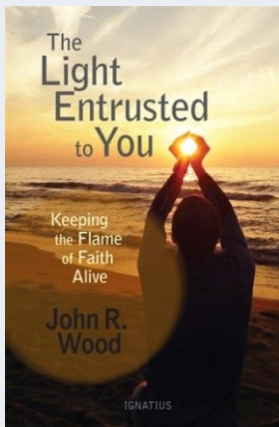


## Recommended Reading

### **Awakening Love: An Ignatian Retreat with the Song of Songs**

Discover God's personal love for you through this Ignatian retreat with the Song of Songs! Ignatian spiritual director and priest Greg Cleveland, OMV draws the reader into a personal experience of Ignatian spirituality through embracing this often-ignored book of the Bible. The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius have had a tremendous impact in the history of the Church, while the Song of Songs is the most sublime book of Scripture describing mystical union with God in prayer.

**What a good idea!**



## **Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries**

### ***The Light Entrusted To You: Keeping The Flame Of Faith Alive. Are You Teaching Your Child How to be a Saint?***

**New book gives practical advice on how to pass along the Catholic faith to children**

THE LIGHT ENTRUSTED TO YOU is broken down into six sections based on the acronym SAINTS – Saving Grace, Athletics, Instructor's Manual, Need to Know Him, Theology of the Body, and Sacrifice and Service, which makes for an easy reference manual for parents looking for specific advice or ideas on passing on their Catholic faith.

"Offers a fresh, accessible, direct approach to living the Catholic faith, especially for parents and all who take to heart their role in witnessing to and handing on the faith," the Most Rev. Daniel Thomas, Bishop of Toledo, Ohio, says of THE LIGHT ENTRUSTED TO YOU. "John R. Wood extends an invitation to personal holiness, convinced that holy disciples lead to holy families, who foster holy vocations in Jesus Christ the Light.

**St. Clare Church, 1118 St. Clair Av. West, Toronto. (one block E. of Dufferin). Initial Presentation 2nd Tuesday of each Month starting at 8pm in Padre Pio's Room, basement room in the Church.**

**St. Patrick Church 921 Flagship Dr., Mississauga - Initial presentation: 2nd**

## **Managing Fertility Naturally During Breastfeeding**

### ***Breastfeeding***

Breastfeeding is the natural next step after nurturing a baby within the womb and giving birth. It offers benefits to both the mother and her child.

The Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning is truly compatible with breastfeeding.

It provides an extremely effective way of birth regulation. Scientific studies

Thursday, each month at 8 p.m.

**St. 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.*

indicate that with proper instruction and motivation, this method in actual practice is 99% effective, without the negatives of contraceptive methods. Contraceptive medication passes to the baby through breast milk.

The Billings Ovulation Method does not interfere with breastfeeding, is free from drugs and devices and alerts a couple to their returning fertility after childbirth.

To read the whole article [click here](#)

For more information contact Natural Family Planning Association at [toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca](http://toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca)



*Natural Family Planning Association*

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

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 Saint 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 subject line of your email.