



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

MAY 2019

VOLUME 67

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

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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

We have held over

We are now booking into Fall of 2019.

Toronto's Cardinal, Thomas Collins stated: "One crucial area is the Catechesis of Human Love, or Theology of the Body, developed by Blessed Pope John Paul II which, when widely offered, can greatly strengthen Christian family life, and the life of discipleship." – Archdiocese of Toronto: Pastoral Plan, 2013

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

GSML News

If you would like to have your Theology of the Body event published in this Newsletter, please remember the publishing dates of January, March, May, July, September and November. Please send us the information prior to these months.

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 love.*

We can do this together.

Contact Rose Heron at 905-683-9055 or roseheron@gmail.com to find

23 Theology of the Body for Teens Workshops and Classroom Sessions

out the details. It is presented at a very minimal cost.

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

Bible Study

St. Bernadette Church Hall, 21 Bayly St. E., Ajax

Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy – Starting September 2019
by Thomas Smith & Sarah Christmyer

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

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

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.

Theology of the Body ...

"I thought I had my faith figured out but now I see there's so much more..."

"...Literally has changed the course of my Life."

"Has impacted my marriage in such incredible ways."

- Are you the person you want to be? Are you happy and fulfilled?
- If you're wondering if there is more to life than just "getting by" and are ready to focus on what really matters then discover this extraordinary Catholic teaching called Theology of the Body.
- Given to us by St John Paul II, author and presenter Christopher West unpacks this teaching in his DVD series "Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life".
- Will be presented for adults in a DVD format and open discussion.
- 5 consecutive Thursdays at Merciful Redeemer Parish hall. 2775 Erin Centre Boulevard, Mississauga
- Starting June 7th from 7:45 pm – 9:45pm.

For information and pre-registration contact Anthony 416-302-4253 or Tod TOB@bell.net.

A fee of \$25.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple, which includes workbook will be collected at the first session.

Hosted by St. Joseph
The Worker Parish

Human Love & Sexuality based on JP II's Theology of the Body with Sr. Helen Burns

This course on Human Love & Sexuality is based on Pope John Paul II's teaching on Theology of the Body and will be led by Sr. Helena Burns. Sr. Helena is a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation of Roman Catholic sisters, founded to communicate God's Word through the media. Sister Helena is also studying at the Theology of the Body Institute in Pennsylvania and is a movie reviewer for Life Teen and the Catholic Channel - Sirius XM. She also gives workshops on Media Literacy and Theology of the Body to youth and adults all over Canada and the United States.

Human Love & Sexuality will be presented over six sessions beginning Wednesday May 17 at 7:00 pm and occur on consecutive Wednesdays, excluding May 29, until June 26.

Each class will conclude at 9:00 pm, followed by Adoration with praise and worship music ending at 9:30 pm.

The fee for this course is \$40.00 per person.

Appropriate for ages 14+

Child care available upon request.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish
1100 Mary Street North
Oshawa, ON L1G 5G8

To purchase a ticket [click here](#)

Come out to join us for a one-day conference on Theology of the Body with special guest Sr. Helena Burns from the Daughters of St. Paul

The Theology of Body For Teens One-day Conference

Ages: 13-18
\$10, Lunch Included
Sat. May 25, 2019
9:30 - 4:30
Our Lady of the Wayside School
575 Centre Line, Peterborough, ON

Speakers:

- Fr. James Mallon
- Gérald Cardinal Lacroix
- Michael Dopp
- Fr. Jon Bielawski
- Michele Thompson
- Michelle Moran

The New Evangelization Summit

Streamed from Ottawa to St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 1100 Mary Street North Oshawa

May 4, 2019
8:00 am – 4:30 pm – FREE - includes lunch

Contact the Parish office to register 905-432-2300 or stjwparish@outlook.com

This conference will bring together speakers who are leaders in the New Evangelization to provide inspiration, encouragement, training, practical wisdom and resources on how Catholics can effectively evangelize. All Catholics – pastors, missionaries, lay ministers, and the lay faithful – will benefit immensely from this powerful opportunity to be further equipped in the fundamental mission of the Church.

The annual NES will be held in Ottawa and streamed to 56 host-sites. The broadcasting of the event will provide a way for Catholics from around North America to participate in the Summit. Thus approximately 5000 like-minded Catholics from across the continent will be united in one goal – to be formed as evangelists

and be part of a network of Catholic evangelists.

- *Kevin Muico*
- *Christopher West*
- *Vicki Thorn*
- *Fr. Thomas Loya*
- *Sr. Helena Burns*

Theology Of The Body Conference!

Listen to **THEOLOGY OF THE BODY** CONFERENCE! - S3E10 and 88 other episodes by The Coaster - Catholic Podcast. No signup or install required.

<https://www.facebook.com/calgarydiocese/videos/>

For more information on Our Lady of Guadalupe go to <http://www.sancta.org/>

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Protectress of the Unborn

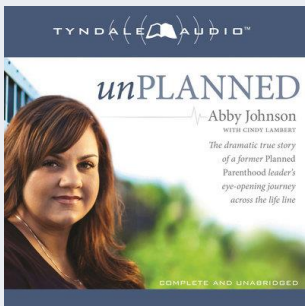
On Dec 12th, 1999, Saint Pope John Paul II in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Land of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent of North America. It was during this same visit that he entrusted the cause of life to the loving protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe and placed under her motherly care the innocent children, especially those who are in danger of not being born.

Prayer of John Paul II for Life

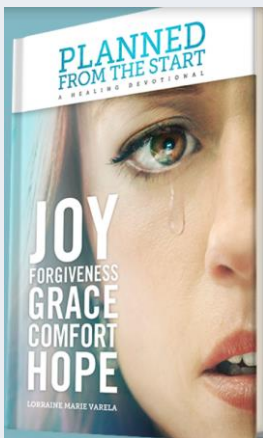
O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.
Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives

**and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.**

***Pope John Paul II
Encyclical Letter "[The Gospel of Life](#)"
Given in Rome, on March 25, the Solemnity of the
Annunciation of the Lord, in the year 1995.***



***Planned from the
Start: A Healing
Devotional***



Unplanned – the movie

Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation.

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in.

Until the day she saw something that changed everything, leading Abby Johnson to join her former enemies at 40 Days For Life, and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

THE FILM

From Cary Solomon and Chuck Konzelman, the writers/co-producers of God's Not Dead, comes a film that speaks to one of the most polarizing topics of our day. Unplanned brings us an eye-opening look inside the abortion industry from a woman who was once its most passionate advocate. After reading Abby Johnson's best-selling book of the same title, Cary and Chuck were moved to bring this inspiring true story to the big screen, giving voice to a woman who has been on both sides of the abortion conversation.

Unplanned is the most important movie you'll ever see on the most controversial issue of our time. No matter which side of the fence you're on, no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby's journey.

Unplanned ... in theaters nationwide Spring 2019.

Sister Helena's review – movie minute [click here](#)

	<p>As a companion devotional to the movie, <i>Planned from the Start</i> reveals five core areas of emotional turmoil often faced following abortion—emotions that trap women and men in the prison of pain that abortion has brought into their lives and into the lives of those who love them.</p> <p>These core areas of emotional turmoil are grief, guilt, shame, regret, and depression. But where trauma inflicts devastating pain, God extends abundant grace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is grief, He anoints your head with joy. • Where there is guilt, He offers you forgiveness. • Where there is shame, He covers you in grace. • Where there is regret, He wraps you in comfort. • Where there is depression, He lifts your heart with hope. <p>Filled with moments for reflection and personal stories from those who have experienced their own journeys of trauma and redemption, this interactive devotional invites readers to begin healing from the pain of post-abortion trauma to freedom and wholeness.</p>
<p><u>Podcast</u></p>	<p>Theology of the Body 101</p> <p>Three talks by Prof. Mary Stanford completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Dallas and earned an M.T.S. from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. Since 2003, she has been teaching theology at Christendom College where she has given lectures and taught several acclaimed courses on the Theology of the Body.</p> <p>To hear these talks click here</p>
<p>Podcast</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ask Christopher West</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christopher and Wendy West answer questions about faith, life, love, and sexuality, in light of John Paul II's Theology of the Body</p> <p>To listen to the Q & A click here</p>
<p>Podcast</p>	<p>Theology of the Body, the Saints and Our Masks</p> <p>Madeleine Carrington explores the Theology of the Body and also the examples given to us by the saints in how they lived it in their life and vocation. The post Theology of the Body, the Saints and Our Masks appeared first on Cradio.</p> <p>To listen to this talk and more click here</p>
<p>Collins called sexuality a</p>	<p>Cardinal: Sexually addicted? The Church can</p>

"gift of God" that like a fire "should bring light and warmth," but sometimes it can "burn the house down."

help

TORONTO, May 9, 2017 (LifeSiteNews) -- Addiction to pornography, masturbation, lust, and other sexual sins can be so deeply rooted that they seem impossible to overcome. But one cardinal says that the Catholic Church offers a "vision of hope and freedom" to anyone struggling with sexual addiction.

"This is a struggle of our fallen human nature, and it is right from the very beginning of time – people have struggled with the issue of sexuality," said Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, in an interview published May 2 on the Archdiocese's Youtube channel.

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

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Episcopal Commission for Doctrine**

Discovering the Unity of Life and Love A reflection on the foundations for a Theology of Human Love

1. In our modern Canadian society, we are daily bombarded with images and conflicting messages about the meaning of life and of love, about what it means to be human. Stable realities that we once took for granted, such as marriage, family and a sense of home and belonging – these simple realities that sheltered us and welcomed us especially when we were most vulnerable – appear to be very fragile. The mystery of death at the end of life is now something we have the right to control, with the recent amendments to the Criminal Code that allow us to ask a physician to end our lives if we think we will suffer too much. These new ideas destabilize us and generate confusion about the fundamental truths about life and love, truths that we hold dear. Pope Benedict XVI reflected that these ideas cast "shadows that hide God's plan" for humanity. We can no longer easily discern the truth about ourselves and why we exist. It is as if reality itself no longer existed. In his homily at the 2016 March for Life, Cardinal Thomas Collins spoke of a forgetfulness of reality. One of the dominant lies in our culture, he said, is "the false idea that reality is mainly found between my ears. No, there is an objective world of reality, not created or shaped by our subjective desires. Wisdom involves discovering it and seeing how we are called to adapt to it."² When confronted with these challenges to our faith in the Church's vision of human life, marriage and the family, we are not always ready to give reasons for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Looking at reality with the eyes of faith, can we discover something stable upon which to build our lives in love and freedom in these unstable times?

To read more [click here](#)

"... the virtue of chastity is emphatically not a "no,"

St. John Paul II's Love & Responsibility: A

but a great "yes" to the person and to true love" - JPII

Bird's Eye View

June 16, 2016
By Dr. Andrew Swafford

In 1960, then-Karol Wojtyla (later Pope St. John Paul II) wrote a book about love and relationships that still reverberates in the present.

In his words, the two main sources of this work are (1) the Gospel's call to love (see Jn 15:12-13) and (2) human experience. As for the latter, one might wonder how a celibate man can claim "experiential" knowledge of love and sexuality; but he addresses this objection well: while the priest does not have *direct* sexual and marital experiences, he has *indirect* experience—by way of pastoral counsel of many different couples—that is much more extensive than the direct experience of a typical layperson ((trans. Grzegorz Ignatik, *Love and Responsibility* [Boston, Pauline Books & Media, 2013], xxi).

To read more [click here](#)

"For so long I defined myself by my abortions. It affected all my thinking. After the Day of Prayer and Healing everything changed. I learned that I am defined by God's infinite love for me."
- Eileen

Healing after Abortion – Day of Prayer and Healing for Women

Saturday, June 1, 2019 - 9:00 am
In Toronto, Canada

(Call 416-463-2722 for more information or to register)

The Sisters of Life are hosting a Day of Prayer and Healing for women seeking healing after abortion. The day is an opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God and the joy of healing in Christ, in a confidential and sacred space. It will include: a witness of mercy; a Scripture reflection; personal prayer; opportunity for sacramental confession; and the holy sacrifice of the Mass. There is no fee for the day, lunch will be provided.

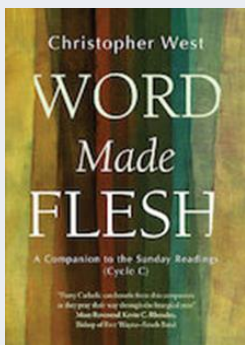
CONTACT: The Sisters of Life

PHONE: 416-463-2722

EMAIL: toronto@sistersoflife.org

WEB: <https://www.sistersoflife.org/hope-and-healing-after-abortion>

POSTER: <http://bit.ly/HealingAfterAbortion>



Recommended Reading

Word Made Flesh: A Companion to the Sunday Readings (Cycle C)

One of the most influential movements in the Church today is centered on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body (TOB), of whose teachings Christopher West is the preminent translator for a popular audience. In *Word Made Flesh: A Companion to the Sunday Readings (Cycle C)*, West offers reflections on an entire cycle of Sunday Mass readings through the lens of TOB, providing a fresh way to process and act on the Good News by

Ave Maria Press: Why is Theology of the Body so important in today's society?

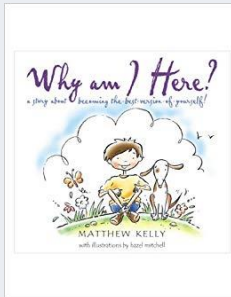
Christopher West: "I don't think I need to convince anyone that we are living in a time of profound crisis in the Church. That crisis is of a sexual nature. We don't understand in the modern world anymore what it means that God made us male and female. We live in a world that is compelling us by law to say that the body and the difference between man and woman are essentially meaningless.

orienting our desires for union with God with our understanding of ourselves and our relationships with others.

In Word Made Flesh, West offers distinctive reflections on all fifty-two Sunday readings from the first Sunday of Advent through Christ the King Sunday. Some weeks he focuses primarily on the Gospel, while in others he emphasizes a specific passage or verse from one of the other readings. The reflections naturally and deeply connect with the human experience of living with body and soul in the world while also contemplating the nature of the glorified body in the eternal kingdom to come.

The material in Word Made Flesh can be used as a weekly devotional or as a preparation for Sunday Mass. Subsequent editions of Word Made Flesh will be released prior to the start of liturgical cycles A (Advent 2019) and B (Advent 2020).

What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Why Am I Here?

by Matthew Kelly

Max was a curious boy. He was curious about other countries, he was curious about animals and nature, and he was curious about life. One day while he is fishing with his Grandpa, Max stumbles upon the ultimate question, Why am I here? His Grandfather suggests that Max is here to become the-best-version-of-himself! In the days and weeks that follow, Max begins to notice when he is and when he is not celebrating the-best-version-of-himself. This single idea becomes the touchstone for his decision-making, begins to guide his words and actions, and fosters a remarkable self-awareness. Why am I Here? Is a remarkable lesson for children of all ages about living with passion and purpose.

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. Mary of the People Church 570 Marion Ave., Oshawa - Initial



Natural Family Planning Association

When artificial hormones take over your body

Most women who have been on the pill can tell: hormonal contraceptives are not changing only what's going on with their ovaries. Their brain is affected, their gut is affected, their energy and mood are affected. And that's only what they can perceive. But how can we know what artificial hormones really do to the women who absorb them?

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.

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

For more information contact Natural Family Planning Association at 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

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 with unsubscribe in the subject line of your email.