



God, Sex and the Meaning of Life

SEPT 2016

VOLUME 51

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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We are now booking into 2016 and 2017.

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

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](#)

GSML News

Theology of the Body Study Group

Our group will be studying, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love* by Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus and Eduardo Chavez. The authors trace the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the sixteenth century to the present, and discuss how her message was and continues to be an important catalyst for religious and cultural transformation.

Monday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30

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

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

Bible Study

The adventure continues: This fall we will look at ***Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom***, which explores the story of the Early Church in light of the Holy Spirit and demonstrates how this story is important for all Disciples of Christ.

Enrich and deepen your faith. Learn how the Church accomplishes the monumental task of teaching, preaching, healing and restoring outcasts with the Holy Spirit working with and through Her, and how you are also called to participate in the Kingdom of God.

It is a 20 week course which starts Sept. 14 (Wed mornings from 9:30 - 11:30) or Sept 16 (Friday evenings from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm)

Purchase of the Study Guide is Optional at a cost is \$40.

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

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

Contact: gsmlministry@gmail.com

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

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 4th 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.

Sept 24 How is Prayer a Covenant with God?

Join us to examine prayer as a Covenant with God, what prayer is, how, when and why we should pray, different types of prayer, but more importantly perhaps learn other or better ways to pray.

Oct 22 "God Talking"

God "speaks" to us in at least 8 ways. Do you know what they are? Have you heard him in 1 or more ways? Have you never (or rarely) "heard" Him? What does His silence mean? Join us to learn the different ways, and to share your experiences of when God "spoke" to you.

Let's Get Going
Teachers

Wondering what the Theology of the Body is all about and how it can help your school and students' lives? NOW is the opportunity to plug in and find out. Embrace the New Evangelization and make a difference in your class and school.

Take the time to invite our group, GSML Ministry (Archdiocese of Toronto approved) into your classroom for 12 weekly sessions using the Theology of the Body for Teens program. You, will experience it along with your students and therefore be prepared to teach and use the material next semester.

Just think 12 classes, once a week where you sit, observe and participate as you like and learn new material. See the [article](#) below from the Diocese of Pembroke to see how one group put this into effect in their school.

We have been in several schools in the Toronto Archdiocese and have effectively brought the Theology of the Body to their students. Because their teachers took on the responsibility of this message, one school went from Pro-choice to **Pro-life**. The whole fabric of the student body change.

You can make the difference in your school.

For more information contact Tom at 905-427-6137 or gsmlministry@gmail.com

Parents

We can no longer sit back and leave sex-ed up to the schools; the government program is focused on society's views of sex. Chastity, abstinence, and other Catholic teachings are not taught.

You must join the Fight for Your Child's Soul. Encourage your schools to have the Theology of the Body programs taught in them, both Secondary and Elementary School. Encourage your parish to run these programs.

We have the tools to you need to equip yourself and your child to resist the pull of the world.

Contact Tom (905-427-6137) regarding programs and workshops we can run in your schools for parishes. Or email gsmlministry@gamil.com

You can make a difference.

Pastors

The hardest thing is to talk about sex and while we don't in our Theology of the Body programs and workshops, we do talk about the Church's teaching on morality. We give parents tools that can help safeguard their children and themselves against the influences of society.

Make a difference in your parish life.

One program you might consider is:

- ***Girl Talk***

This workshop is for mothers and daughters and provides information on the fundamentals of young girls' cycles in the presence of their mothers. It facilitates mother-daughter communication in this delicate area and supports parents in their task of educating their daughters in Christian sexuality.

**Theology of the Body for teens at
Bishop Smith Catholic High School**

By Yvette Bourque, Family Life & Youth Ministry Office, Diocese of Pembroke

From the Newsletter of the Catholic [Diocese of Pembroke](#)

Whitney Charbonneau's grade 9 Religion class was selected for a first-time trial run with the Theology of the Body for Teens, which is a dynamic faith

formation program for teens and pre-teens in Catholic schools, parish youth ministries, Religious Education, Confirmation, and home school settings. Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, activities, prayers, and relevant references to the culture, it goes beyond traditional chastity programs by connecting the two hottest topics on the planet—God and sex.

With Saint John Paul II's compelling vision for love and life, and in a language youth understand, Theology of the Body for Teens answers the questions teens and pre-teens have about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they are uniquely created for greatness.

The program is a 12-session course that is run once a week by teacher Angela Watson, Fr. Scott Murray and myself. It began just after the start of semester II and will continue until May 30. Students enjoy the ice breaker activities, which relate to the topic being discussed that day, and are provided plenty of opportunity to ask questions anonymously as some of the topics are sensitive.

The hope is that other religious education teachers could be trained to deliver this course in the future. Through class discussions and hearing where the students are at, it is quite clear to me how the current culture is shaping their opinions and ideas on God, sex and many other issues. It is an important message of truth to get out to the students at the appropriate age. Just how we will do this is the challenge and will require further discussion and planning. We are thankful to Principal Clint Young for granting permission for this trial run at the school.

Hungry Heart?

The COR Seminar Live!

God, Sex & the Meaning of Life

Join **Christopher West** on an exhilarating journey into the Mystery at the "cor" of well, everything...You will never see your life, your relationships, your faith, or the world the same way again! "Cor" is Latin for heart.

Organized by Gethsemane Ministries <http://gethsemaneministries.com/>

Venue 1: Saturday September 17, 2016 at St John's Hall, Mississauga
2185 Stavebank Rd
9 AM – 4 PM – Tickets \$45 (includes Lunch)

Venue 2: Sunday September 18, 2016 at Gethsemane Centre, Wellandport
84008 Wellandport Road
10 AM – 2 PM – Tickets \$35 (includes Lunch)

***"The Body is for the Lord
and the Lord is for the
Body." 1Cor 6:18***

Theology of the Body is the Answer

Presenter Sr. Helena Burns, fsp

Sr. Helena is a gifted and knowledgeable speaker.

- Why is John Paul II's life-changing teaching "The Theology of the Body" the answer to today's hottest issues?
- Theology of the Body *IS* the New Evangelization and...the New Catechesis!
- Today's culture is all about the body, beauty, sex, love & relationships. Did you know that God and the Church are, too?
- When the Church doesn't evangelize the culture, the culture evangelizes the Church. Know your stuff.

2 Weekends in September 2016: 9-11, 16-18

Doors open Fri - 5:15 pm – 9 pm / Sat & Sun 9:30 am – 4 pm

Holy Family Church 91 Ribblesdale Dr., Whitby, ON L1N 6Z3.

Coffee & snacks provided, bring your own lunch
Material appropriate for mature 13+. (Non-explicit presentations.) Free babysitting available.

\$40 for 2 weekends (\$60 couples/families) for 2-weekend course (not same talks each weekend). Kids & teens under 18- free.

Call: 905-665-6470 or email: [email: youthministry@hollyfamilywhitby.ca](mailto:youthministry@hollyfamilywhitby.ca)

Daughters of St. Paul vocation film: www.tinyurl.com/VocationStory

film on Blessed James Alberione: www.MediaApostle.com

my blog: www.HellBurns.blogspot.com

twitter instagram, vine: @SrHelenaBurns

facebook: Sister Helena Burns

Daughters, bookcenters & Spanish: www.DaughtersofStPaul.org

Find your vocation in the www.PaulineFamily.com

Vatican issues its own sex ed guidelines.

The Meeting Point

Project for affective and sexual formation

"It is not easy to approach the issue of sex education in an age when sexuality tends to be trivialized and impoverished. It can only be seen within the broader framework of an education for love, for mutual self-giving." Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* no. 280."

To see the document [click here](#)

- Intro to ToB
- For Teens
- Resources By / For Women
- Resources For Men
- Evolution Dvds
- Natural Family Planning
- Infertility
- Homosexuality

Best Theology Of The Body Resources!

(updated June 2016)

The THEOLOGY OF THE BODY & MEDIA LITERACY blog of Sr. Helena Burns, fsp, media nun

Archdiocese of Toronto will certify those who go through a 40-hour TOB Training course (for "Level 1" TOB catechesis). For more information:

- Transgender
- Pornography
- Pro-Life
- Sex Ed

rhelenaburns@gmail.com (with possibility of online distance training, also)

To view the many resources [click here](#)

[Word on Fire](#)

Proclaiming Christ in the culture

Bishop Barron on Porn and the Curse of Total Sexual Freedom

The most recent issue of "Time Magazine" features a fascinating and deeply troubling article on the prevalence of pornography in our culture. Yet neither the author nor anyone that he interviewed or referenced ever spoke of pornography use as something morally objectionable. Until we see that the laws governing sexual behavior, which are often read as "taboos" and invitations to repression, are in fact the manner in which the relation between sex and love is maintained, we'll never find true love.

To watch the video [click here](#)

Theology of the Body in the Bible

By Father Tom DeSimone

"No matter how many times I read/pray a passage from Sacred Scripture, I am always amazed by the new and beautiful insights that can be received by those who avail themselves to the grace of the Holy Spirit. We can never exhaust the wealth and depth of Sacred Scripture, in this life. By praying this 1st Reading from Genesis 18, we can see just how rooted this is in Theology of the Body or, rather, just how much Theology of the Body is rooted in it.

Just look at the intimacy God has with Abraham, that the Lord would "appear" to him. Three persons appeared to him...Could this be a foreshadowing—a tiny glimpse—of the present reality of the Blessed Trinity? The scripture clearly states the Lord appeared to Abraham. Yet, later in Genesis 19:1, two angels go to Sodom and Gomorrah. Were these the other two who appeared with the Lord to Abraham? This is possible, but it is not clearly stated. Be that as it may, is this not the same intimacy Adam and Eve had with God and each other in the Garden of Eden? Intimacy truly means "into me see." In his catechesis "*Men and Women He Created Them- A Theology of the Body,*" St. John Paul II teaches that God gave Adam and Eve original innocence, original unity, original solitude and nakedness without shame, but they trusted not in their Creator: they were be-guiled by the Devil, just like many in our culture today. We are all created good by the good God and called to holiness."

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

"The Corporal (outward directed) works of mercy MUST flow from a deep, intimate, personal relationship with Christ and the Trinity; otherwise, our service is in danger of becoming self-centered and competitive." - Father Tom DeSimone



The Devil, You Say?

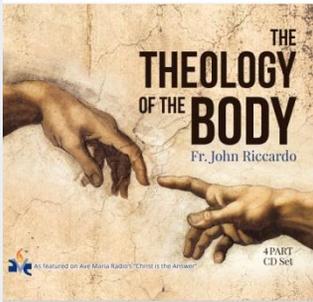
FATHER PAUL SCALIA

Three times in his speech at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, Cardinal Sarah described gender ideology as "demonic."

More recently, Oklahoma City's Archbishop Coakley used the same word addressing the issue. So did Bishop Paprocki of Springfield regarding gay marriage. A strong word, to be sure. But most people misunderstand why. Some take "demonic" for mere hyperbole. Something is not just bad, but *really, really* bad. Others see it as rash judgment of opponents — literally demonizing them. Still others take it as just an overstatement by religious fanatics, who are unhinged anyway.

But "demonic" is a sober and sobering assessment of the thought behind gender ideology. It's not a judgment of people's intentions. It doesn't mean that those who endorse gender ideology are demonic or possessed. It means, rather, that the reasoning and results of that philosophy — no matter how innocently held — line up with the desires, tactics, and resentments of "Old Scratch" himself."

To read more [click here](#)



Theology of the Body – Fr. John Riccardo on Pope St. John Paul II's Teaching

Fr. John Riccardo

\$19.99–\$29.99

Four CD Set or Digital Download?

The Theology of the Body helps answer three extremely crucial questions that everyone should be asking:

- Why am I here?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

To purchase this item [click here](#)



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY
CONGRESS

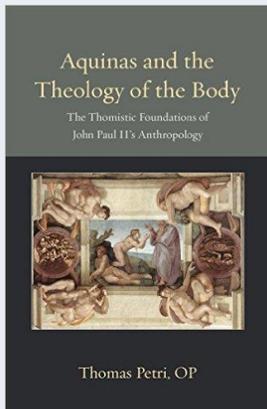
Theology of the Body Congress

Southern California, September 23-25, 2016

Speakers:

- Archbishop Gomez
- Jason Evert
- Rose Sweet
- Matt Fradd
- Damon Oens
- Bill Donaghy
- Sr. Helena Burns, FSP
- Christopher West
- Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, OCD
- Fr. Sean Kilcawley
- Jake Samour
- Anastasia Northrop

For more information [click here](#)



Recommended Reading

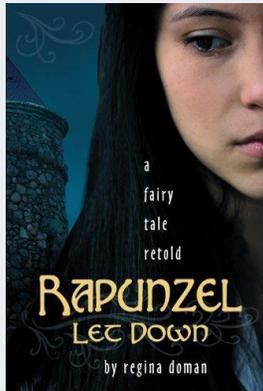
Aquinas and the Theology of the Body: The Thomistic Foundations of John Paul II's Anthropology

By Thomas Petri, O. P.

"Pope John Paul's Theology of the Body catecheses has garnered tremendous popularity in theological and catechetical circles. Students of the Theology of the Body have generally interpreted it as innovative not only in its presentation of the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality, but also as radically advancing that teaching.

Aquinas and the Theology of the Body offers a somewhat different interpretation. Fr. Thomas Petri argues that the philosophy and theology of Thomas Aquinas substantially contributed to John Paul's intellectual formation, which he never abandoned. A correct interpretation of the Theology of the Body requires, therefore, a thorough understanding of Thomistic anthropology and theology, which has been mostly lacking in commentaries on the pope's important contributions on the subject of marriage and sexuality."

What a good idea!



Donate Catholic Books to Catholic School Libraries

Rapunzel Let Down: A Fairy Tale Retold

by [Regina Doman](#)

Hermes McCaffrey is sick and tired of sharing his life with his father's political career and his overbearing older brothers. So during his family's vacation in New England, when he meets Raphaella, a lovely and brilliant girl dreaming in a hidden tower, is it surprising that he wants her all to himself? But visiting Raphaella is dangerous, and not just because of her mother's paranoia about strangers or her estate's sinister caretaker. When Hermes decides to go too far, the results are devastating for Raphaella ... and for Hermes as well.

What happens when falling in love means falling into deep sin? Can sex destroy love? And when you do fall from grace, is there any way back.

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.

Top 10 Reasons to Use NFP

10. It's free.
9. It doesn't cause cancer.
8. Couples using NFP report having more sex than couples that use contraception.
7. It doesn't kill your sex drive.
6. It is complete healthcare.
5. No abortifacient properties.
4. It's green. Natural Family Planning is the greenest form of family planning available today.
3. Understanding your body.
2. No side effects.
1. It works.

To read this fascinating article [click here](#)

Or contact Natural Family Planning Association at toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca



Natural Family Planning Association

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.godsexandthethemeaningoflife.com/

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

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