



God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

August 2009 Edition, Volume 8

Website: www.godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com

Contact us at: gsmlministry@gmail.com



What's New?

We have added a new page to our website called 'Further Study'. You'll find links to articles about the Theology of the Body by various people, such as Fr. Richard Hogan, Katrina Zeno, Michael Novak and many others. Go to our Website at:

www.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/FurtherStudy.html

Conference "Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life"

Registration Extension!

The early registration price has been extended to Aug. 15, 2009. Anyone who registers and pays by Aug. 15th will only have to pay \$30.00. (a \$10.00 saving.) To register please visit our website, or e-mail stbreg@gmail.com or phone 416-481-5465 (the Natural Family Planning Office)

Please make cheques payable to:

Natural Family Planning Association
and mail to:

Natural Family Planning Association
3050 Yonge Street, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario. M4N 2K4
ATTENTION: Conference Registration

Prayer Request

Christopher West has asked us to recruit a "Prayer Chain". He asked that we offer prayers and sacrifices for the success of the conference, and the spread of this important teaching. Some potential offerings could be Masses, Rosaries, Novenas, Angelus, Fasting, or any other Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Our world suffers from broken families, abortion, AIDS, pornography, and sexual abuse of all kinds. Won't you please help by joining us to spiritually work towards the success of this conference?"

Don't Miss Out!!

Don't miss out on what many have called a "life changing experience". The *Theology of the Body* is a Biblical message that is intended for all Christians.

This teaching, originally presented by the late Pope John Paul II, draws on over 1000 scripture verses concerning God's original plan for marriage and sexuality, and leads to an understanding of how this plan gives meaning to our lives.

The "*Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life*" Conference will be a great opportunity to learn more about the late Pope John Paul II's wonderful teaching.

If you love Mary, this teaching is for you, as without Mary there would be no *Theology of the Body* as within her womb the Word become flesh.

If you are interested in Humanae Vitae, you will find the *Theology of the Body* to be an introduction to Pope Paul VI's work as it presents God's plan for man and woman in a positive light.

Don't miss out – when you hear about it afterwards you will wish you had attended!!! Register now to avoid the disappointment of not being able to get in. At the Humanae Vitae conference, in November 2008, people had to be turned away at the door!

When: Friday, October 16, 2009, 7:00 - 9:30 pm
(doors open at 6:00 PM) and
Saturday, October 17, 2009, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(doors open at 7:00 am)

Where: Canada Christian College at 50 Gervais Drive Toronto, Ontario (Don Mills Road & Eglinton Avenue)

Support Our Clergy: The Year of the Priest

His Holiness Pope Benedict VI has proclaimed this year to be the "Year of the Priest", June 2009 – June 2010. Please consider sponsoring a priest for our upcoming "*Proclaiming the Theology of the Body for Priests*" Luncheon. This event will help our clergy better explain, and proclaim, Pope John Paul II's vision for the human body. See our website:

<http://www.godsexandthmeaningoflife.com/Sponsor.html>

A BIG thank-you to everyone who has already sponsored a priest/seminarian (or more than one)!

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Have You Heard what others think?

Are you thinking about the conference, but still unsure if this is something for you? Have you heard what others have said about Christopher West presentations and books?

"The vibrancy of Christopher West, his infectious enthusiasm and penetrating understanding of the thought of Pope John Paul II is well-known to those who have heard his lectures and tapes. The public needs to hear what the Holy Father thinks on issues of sexuality, marriage, and celibacy and West has generously committed his considerable talents to making this a possibility." **Dr. Janet Smith**

Professor of Life Issues, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit

"With intellectual care, with the experience bred of long years of teaching this material in the classroom and the parish, and taking account of his own experiences as a husband and father, Christopher West has put us in his debt by making the 'theology of the body' available to a wide – and, I hope, appreciative – readership."

George Weigel

**Senior Fellow, Ethics & Public Policy Center
Biographer of John Paul II, *Witness of Hope***

Marriage and the Eucharist

Have you ever considered the striking similarities between the sacraments of the Eucharist and Marriage? In both of these sacraments, we see the total life-giving of one's body for one's spouse.

To learn more about this topic, please visit <http://www.catholicity.com/cds/west.html> to order your **FREE** CD on the topic as presented by Christopher West.

The website also has a number of other CDs presented through the Mary Foundation.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to make our "Massive Everything Sale Fundraiser" a great success. A special thanks goes out to Rosemarie Davis who organized the event, and Fr. Jim, pastor at St. Bernadette's parish, for putting up with us!

Thank-you to the following Ajax businesses who donated prizes:

Galbraith Jewelers - Sapphire Earrings
Home Hardware - 4 Tall Garden Candle Spikes
The Gift Gallery - Decorative Wall Plaque
Boston Pizza - \$25 Gift Certificate
Discount Books - 2 \$15 Gift Certificates
Ollie Golf - 2 Custom Golf Clubs

Help Us Evangelize!

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19)

It's clear that Christ wanted his disciples (and us) to evangelize the Good News, and you can help us by spreading the word about *Theology of the Body*.

How can You help to promote the Theology of the Body Conference, October 16, 17?

Priests – Please put the announcement in your bulletin; put up the poster on your bulletin board; and make announcements about it and encourage people to attend. Encourage the Leaders of all your programs to attend.

Chaplains – Please put up the poster whenever you work at schools, hospitals, etc.; put the announcement in any newsletter(s) you can.

Teachers – Tell your colleagues about the Conference and encourage them to attend; put the announcement put in the newsletter to your colleagues and one to parents, if applicable; those of you who work with adults, encourage them to attend; those who work University/College students encourage them to attend; those who work with grade 12 students encourage them to attend.

Marriage Preparation/Discernment Leaders – Encourage the other Marriage Prep. Leader couples and speakers to also attend the Conference. This will help in all their talks because it shares the similarities between marriage and heaven. *May I be so bold as to suggest* – have the engaged couples from your Marriage Prep./ Discernment program attend the Conference.

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Bible Study Leaders – Encourage fellow Bible study participants to attend the Conference; send around the announcement. The Theology of the Body draws heavily from Scripture to explain God's plan for our life.

RCIA Leaders – Encourage the whole RCIA team to attend by talking to them about the Conference and sharing them the announcement and website information, it will of benefit to all the members of the RCIA team so they can better understand and explain Church teachings

Sacrament Preparation Leaders – Encourage all of the leaders to attend the Conference, as it touches upon all the Sacraments; share the announcement with your own Leaders and the ones at other parishes.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion – Encourage fellow extraordinary ministers to attend the Conference, as it talks about the Eucharist; share the announcement with them.

Youth Ministry Leaders – Encourage the whole youth leaders team to attend the Conference, as the Conference help you help young people to discern their vocation and the meaning of their life; share the announcement with them.

Marian Group Leaders – Encourage your entire group to attend the Conference, as it talks about Mary's important role in salvation and how important her "Yes" was to humanity; share the announcement with them.

Choir Leaders – Encourage your choir members to attend the Conference, as it will help deepen their understanding of the many songs they lead the congregation to sing; share the announcement with them.

Medical Professionals – Encourage fellow medical professionals to attend; those who work in a Catholic setting - Please put up the poster whenever you work at hospitals, medical clinic, etc.; put the announcement in any newsletter(s) you can.

Social workers – Encourage your fellow social workers to attend, as it delves into the meaning of life and the choices we make; send the announcement and poster with them.

Our Sponsors and Friends:

- **Natural Family Planning Association:** <http://www.naturalfamilyplanning.ca/toronto/>
- **Paul O'Connor Funeral Home:** <http://www.pauloconnor.yr.ca>
- **Interpretation Joseph Blain Inc.** www.josephblain.com
- **Serena Ontario -** <http://serena.ca/>
- **Federation of North American Explorers:** <http://fourarrows.ca/index.php?page=96>
- **Familia:** www.familiacanada.net
- **Catholic Insight:** <http://www.catholicinsight.com/online/>
- **Metro:** <http://www.metro.ca/en/on/accueil.html>

Advertise Your Group

If you are interested in sponsoring the Conference or would like to place an ad in the program or in the participant's handouts please contact Tom Kennedy at tom.kennedy@rogers.com

There are also several tables available.

Recommended Reading

The Authentic Catholic Woman, by Genevieve Kineke, is a profound yet practical guide, inviting women to consider the Church, the Bride of Christ, as the model for authentic Catholic womanhood. What does it mean to be a woman today? Is there a one-size-fits-all answer? How can a woman be truly Catholic and truly feminine, hardworking and creative, and yet be at peace within? How does she nurture life at home, at school, on the job or in the culture?

The author explores facets of this mystery – the Church as mother, bride, spouse and teacher, as sacramental, as font of wisdom, source of culture and life-giving sanctuary – and reveals how women mirror the Church in their core identity. As Pope John Paul II said, "The mission of women is inscribed in the mystery of the Church". – *from the book.*

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Points to Ponder

The late Pope John Paul II described North American culture as a "Culture of Death"; a culture that looks to death as the answer to life's problems. That may sound like a grim reflection, but stop and think for just a moment and you will realize the profound truth.

We live in a society where people will literally kill to satisfy their own sexual desires! According to Statistics Canada there were over one hundred thousand therapeutic abortions performed every year on Canadian women between 1992 and 2002. Over one hundred thousand innocent lives lost each and every year because men and women choose not to control their sexual urges!

We live in a country where those who seek to promote the "Culture of Death" are awarded by what used to be one of this country's highest honours, the "Order of Canada".

Our Apologies

Please accept our apologies for the various spelling errors in our last newsletter. We have been very busy working on the conference.

SONfest '09

The Diocese of Peterborough Youth Festival SONfest '09 runs from August 14-16th, 2009 in Courtice, Ontario.

The cost to register for the 3-day event is \$40 by July 31st and \$50 as of August 1st.

For more information on this year's event visit the <http://www.veyopeterboro.org/veyo/> or call the Youth Office at (705) 749-0330.

Please Pray for us and for a large turnout at the conference so many people can hear this important message!

Thanks for any help you can give.