



# God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life Newsletter

June 2009 Edition, Volume 7

Website: [www.godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com](http://www.godsexmeaningoflife.homestead.com)

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



## What's New?

Check out the new and improved look and feel of our website, any comments are welcome!

## “Theology of the Body: Discovering the Master Plan for Your Life”

### Important Correction

We recently sent out an e-mail with an attached conference poster that included an incorrect e-mail address, the e-mail address should have been [stbreg@gmail.com](mailto:stbreg@gmail.com) instead of .ca as published. If you have passed the poster along to anyone else, or gave them our e-mail address please help us in correcting this unfortunate error.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused our readers. As Henry James (1843-1916) once said “She had an unequalled gift ... of squeezing big mistakes into small opportunities”.

### Sponsorship Opportunities!

We continue to accept conference sponsors. This will provide both an excellent chance for your organization to demonstrate support for the Church's teachings, as well as a great marketing opportunity. Conference sponsors will be listed in the program and on the website. For more information, please contact [tom.kennedy@rogers.com](mailto:tom.kennedy@rogers.com).

## Thank You!!

Organizing a conference of such a large magnitude requires a lot of work. We would like to acknowledge the Sisters of Life, the [Natural Family Planning Association](#) and [Critical Mass](#) for agreeing to share there many talents at the conference!

We would like to acknowledge our conference sponsors, and hope you will support them.

[Interpretation Joseph Blain Inc.](#)  
[Serena Ontario](#)  
[Federation of North-American Explorers](#)  
[Catholic Insight](#)

Please let them know you saw them here!

## MASSIVE Everything Fundraiser!

Our ministry has organized a “MASSIVE Everything fundraiser” event on Saturday June 27 from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Bernadette's Parish, 21 Bayly Street East in Ajax. All proceeds support the conference.

There will be a huge quantity of garage sale items, homemade baked goods, crafts, BBQ, 50/50 draw, silent auction, and a fish-pond for the kids! This promises to be a fun event for the whole family!

Are you looking to get rid of some good quality items that have been lying around the house? We are graciously accepting donations to the yard sale, as well as baked goods. All donations can be dropped off at the Parish Hall on Friday, June 26 from 12:00 – 8:00 PM.

For more information please contact Rosemarie Davies at 905-428-8842, please leave a message with your return phone number and the best time to reach you.



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## **Public Conference**

As a reminder, Christopher West will deliver a public presentation on Pope John Paul II's "Theology of Body" on Friday, October 16 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM (doors open 6:00 PM), and continuing on October 17 from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM (doors open 7:00 AM).

The conference will take place at the Canada Christian College, 50 Gervais Drive, Toronto (Don Mills Road & Eglinton Avenue).

Early bird registration is **\$30.00 (before July 1<sup>st</sup>) and \$40.00 afterwards**, and includes all course material.

To register please visit our website, e-mail [stbreg@gmail.com](mailto:stbreg@gmail.com) or by phoning the Natural Family Planning Office (416-481-5465).

Please make cheques payable to:

### **Natural Family Planning Association**

3050 Yonge Street, Suite 205  
Toronto, Ontario. M4N 2K4  
ATTENTION: Conference Tickets

## **Priest Event**

On Friday October 16, Christopher West will be presenting "Proclaiming the Theology of the Body for Priests". This private event for priests, seminarians and deacons will be held at Blessed Trinity Parish (3220 Bayview Avenue, Toronto) from 12:00 PM – 4:00 pm (doors open at 11:00 AM).

Lunch and all course material will be provided at no charge to all priests and interested seminarians.

To register please visit our website, e-mail [stbreg@gmail.com](mailto:stbreg@gmail.com) or by phoning the Natural Family Planning Office (416-481-5465). Please specify that you are registering for the priest event.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the winners of our draws at the "Humanae Vitae Conference" held in Kingston as well as the Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto. Both winners received a revised edition of the Christopher West's book *Theology of The Body Explained A Commentary on John Paul II's Man and Woman He Created Them*.

## **Sponsor A Priest**

To truly evangelize the "Theology of the Body" we need the support of our parish priests. In order to keep costs low, and encourage as many priests as possible to attend the conference, we are asking for your generosity to "Sponsor a Priest". A tax receipt will be issued for donations. For more information please contact Susan or Tom Kennedy (905-427-6137) or [stbreg@gmail.com](mailto:stbreg@gmail.com).

## **Respect for Life Week**

Our ministry was recently invited to participate in "Respect For Life Week" by The Toronto Catholic District School Board.

On Monday May 11, three of our facilitators presented an introduction to The Theology of The Body for Teens to two classes (grades 9 and 10). Both sessions were well received with many excellent questions and probing insights from the students. The main areas of student concern were the potential for a lasting marriage, the purpose of marriage and how it's different from living together out of marriage, and proving the existence of God.

The questions raised by the students in each of these sessions highlight the desperate need for the Theology of The Body to be made part of the Religious Education Curriculum at all levels in the Catholic school boards in Ontario.

If you teach high school and are interested in holding a session in your class, please contact us at [gsmlministry@gmail.com](mailto:gsmlministry@gmail.com). These sessions were a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

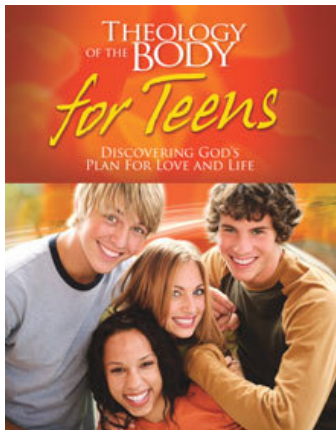
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## God, Sex and the Meaning of Life for Teens!

We recently completed our most recent offering of **Theology of the Body for Teens** at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Toronto. The sessions were well attended, and the teens participated openly in the discussion groups by providing interesting comments, and asking insightful questions. We were pleased at the interest of the youth leaders in using parts of the material for future weekly youth meetings in the parish. We would like to thank the teens who participated, and their youth leaders.

None of this would have been possible without the personal support of Father Francisco. Thank you for your interesting and informative input on the priesthood and celibacy, and most importantly for inviting us into the parish.



## TRENDS

"Teens Reacting Effectively and Discovering Style" (TRENDS) is a national fashion and image project by teens, for teens.

TRENDS seeks to achieve fashion freedom, a fashion that reflects personal style and counteracts the objectification of women. Fashion should communicate who we are. Teens need a voice in the world of fashion, so they can be empowered to choose clothing that shows their self-worth. TRENDS aims to revolutionize the fashion culture for teens by providing a platform from which teenaged girls can share their ideas with the fashion world. For information about TRENDS, please see [www.trendsfashion.ca](http://www.trendsfashion.ca).

## Points to Ponder

Mary Magdalene was at first unable to recognize the Risen Lord on Easter Morning. It wasn't until he spoke and called her "Mary!" that she recognized Him. *John 20: 14-15* Jesus' body is now somehow very different, yet also very much the same. His Body still bares the marks of his Crucifixion, but he can now appear to the disciples even though the doors are locked. *John 20: 26-27*

We also learn a lot about our final destiny at Easter. As humans, we are an embodied spirit, and any separation of the two is somehow less then fulfilling. It is for this reason that we remain hopeful for the day where we will be resurrected as Body and Spirit like Christ. Like Christ, our bodies will be the same, yet somehow very different.

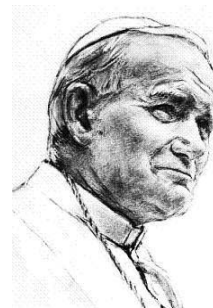
## Job Opportunity!

The Natural Family Planning Association is pleased to announce, it is hiring a FULL TIME Executive Director, to work at our office at 3050 Yonge Street in Toronto.

If you are a team builder who possesses solid administrative, and communication skills, please submit your resume outlining your qualifications to:

Natural Family Planning Association  
Attention: Hiring Committee  
3050 Yonge Street, Suite 205  
Toronto, Ontario , M4N 2K4

Please e-mail: [executivedirector@naturalfamilyplanning.ca](mailto:executivedirector@naturalfamilyplanning.ca) for the complete job requirements.



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## Toronto Adore 2009 Eucharistic Youth Congress

In the past six years, the young people of the world have experienced a new evangelization. The ADORE Eucharistic Youth Congress has provided youth a re-awakening of the belief in, and devotion to, the Real Presence of Jesus Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament!

The Toronto Adore Eucharistic Conference will take place June 5-7, 2009 at Fr. Michael McGivney Catholic Academy, 5300 Fourteenth Ave. Markham. For more information please visit [www.mhccadore.com](http://www.mhccadore.com) or e-mail [adoretoronto2009@gmail.com](mailto:adoretoronto2009@gmail.com).

## How To Win The Culture War

On Saturday June 6 at 2:30 PM, world-renowned philosopher Dr. Peter Kreeft will present "How to Win The Culture War" at the Royal Theatre (608 College Street between Clinton & Grace Street in Toronto).

Dr. Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College, Massachusetts, and at King's College in New York. For further information please visit [www.peterkreeft.com](http://www.peterkreeft.com).

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for students. For ticket reservations please call 416-364-3131 or buy from the Royal Theatre box office.

## 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'.

## Did You Know?

That Christopher West was involved in the second translation in English of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of The Body*? In the forward to Christopher West's book *Theology of the Body Explained*, which carries the Imprimatur of Sean Cardinal O'Malley, O.F. M. Cap Archbishop of Boston 2007 Michael Waldstein, theologian and author wrote:

"IN JUNE 2005 WHEN I HAD completed the first draft of the new translation of John Paul II's theology of the body, I contacted Christopher West because I had learned about his many years of intensive experience in teaching the theology of the body to various audiences at universities, seminaries, parishes, etc. An intensive exchange of e-mails followed (more than a hundred) in which he helped me to hammer out formulations, to make them clearer and more communicable. In many instances he persuaded me to go back to the phrasing of the original English translation published in *L'Osservatore Romano*, substantial passages of which he had memorized and held dear; in other instances I persuaded him of new proposed formulations; in yet others we reached a third formulation that neither of us had originally thought of. It is a joy for me to express my gratitude for this fruitful collaboration.

An initially unexpected fruit of our collaboration was West's decision to revise his *Theology of the Body Explained* on the basis of the new English text. A further reason for the new edition is the discovery of the original chapter and section headings in Karol Wojtyla's manuscript, which would later (after his election) be delivered by John Paul II during the Wednesday audiences as the theology of the body."