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# Annunciation



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## *You Crowned Him with Glory and Honor*

by Rolando Moreno

*When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;*

<sup>4</sup> *what is man that thou art mindful of him,  
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?*

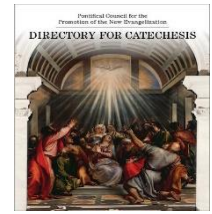
<sup>5</sup> *Yet thou hast made him little less than God,  
and dost crown him with glory and honor.*

Psalm 8:4-6 offers us a glimpse into God's love for creation, particularly his love for the human person. What is also striking about this verse is that the psalmist marvels at his own creation, his place before the Lord. With awe and wonderment, he infers his own smallness and yet his grandeur in the eyes of God. This passage speaks of our created image and likeness, man as the *imago dei* and our inestimable worth in the heart of God. The Catechism beautifully states that "*The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for*" (CCC 27). God's nearness to us is exemplified in his mindfulness for our humanity, his care for us. The only way to understand the human person in his fullness is in relation to God. *Only in the mystery of the word made flesh does the mystery of man come to light.* (Gaudium et Spes 22). We only perceive, understand, and begin to comprehend our dignity in the encounter with Jesus Christ. St. John Paul's monumental work known as the *Theology of Body* talks about an *adequate anthropology*. Theology of the Body expounds on St. Paul VI's prophetic encyclical *Humanae Vitae* where he talks the idea of a *total vision of man*. If we were to characterize this age with its confusion and misunderstanding of the human person, one could say we are living in an age rife with anthropological heresies; that is, false and erroneous interpretations of our personhood as created in God's image and likeness. What is needed today is an *adequate anthropology*, which offers an understanding of man in light of grace, man as *imago dei*. Only the Church bears the full truth of our humanity.

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## What's Coming Up

Rolando continues with the study series on the New Catechetical Directory. This workshop will take place both virtually and in-person at Queen of Peace parish in Salem. The rest of the scheduled dates are: **May 13 & 27 at 1pm**. To register either for in-person or virtually click [here](#). A copy of the new Directory is recommended but not required. To order a copy click [HERE](#).



For the **Year of St. Joseph**, the Archdiocese is offering a once-a-month virtual speaker series on St. Joseph. Each talk will highlight a theme, virtue or title of St. Joseph. The Speaker series begins on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm-7:30pm with Deacon Harold Burk-Sivers on the topic of St. Joseph the Ideal Father. Each presentation will be live on the Archdiocese Facebook page. For more information go to the [website](#). All our encouraged to tune in!



**Workshop on Family Catechesis:** On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Ryan Mainard offered a workshop on Family Catechesis. [We highly encourage all catechetical leaders to view this workshop](#). To view the recording click [here](#)—The password is **Catechesis**. If you are interested in learning more about family catechesis, please contact [rmoreno@archdpx.org](mailto:rmoreno@archdpx.org)

## Online Resources

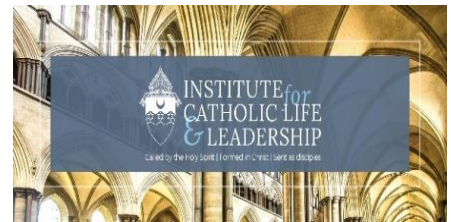
Christopher West's Institute on the Theology of the Body has an online intensive course coming up May 10-2. This class will study the Marian aspect of St. John Paul's writings. The link to register is [here](#)  
Coming up soon at the end of April is an online FREE [virtual conference](#) for three days, feature dozens of prominent speakers. The conference is also offered in [Spanish](#).

For those wanting to take a dive deep into St. Pope John Paul II's writings, it is important to get the right translation. The best one is called [Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body](#), translated by Michael Waldstein. It is well worth the time and money, if just for the first 120 pages of introduction.

[Ruah Woods](#) has a K- 12 curriculum available for purchase, it is easy to use and can supplement a Catholic school or a homeschool program.

## The Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership

We are happy to announce that the Institute will offer a new cohort of students this fall in our **Foundational Certificate in Theology and Pastoral Ministry!!** The new cohort will take place in the Portland or Mid-Valley area (location TBA). Registration will begin in May other details are forth coming. If you are interested in learning your faith more in-depth or have catechists who would like formation, please refer them to the Institute. To learn more, go to [Institute](#)



## Catechetical Institute

If you are interested in learning more about the theology of the body and wanting to have a short introduction, the [Catechetical Institute](#) can help you in the comfort of your own home. There is a workshop called [Foundational Vision: Theology of the Body](#) Franciscan University offers every year an amazing opportunity for growth at the [St. John Bosco Conference](#) which is happening this year on July 12 -15. There are well over 50 different speakers and many different tracks to individualize your learning. For more information and ways to enroll with the support of your archdiocese contact [rmoreno@archdpx.org](mailto:rmoreno@archdpx.org)



## Articles on the Theology of the Body

The [Catechetical Review](#) is a great resource for all who teach the faith in parish catechetical ministry. The article [Theology of the Body and the New Evangelization Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) are great introductions. To subscribe to the *Catechetical Review*, click [HERE](#)



## Spanish Resources - Teología del Cuerpo

In addition to those listed about there is an institute that provides online training as well as many resources in Spanish. Click [here](#) to access.

## Speaker Spotlight: Lynda Olson and Lindsay Caron On Theology of the Body Parent School



**You two met at a women's conference where you both were speaking on aspects of the theology of the body and began to talk about some shared perspectives on how to expand the theology of the body to Catholic youth in our area. Tell me more about that -**

We were just finding that many teachings found in the mainstream education programs that deal with sexuality or personhood were either opposite of, or apathetic to our Catholic values. The teaching of gender fluidity as a personal choice, taught in many k-12 environments by people unaffiliated with a child's family group is concerning. We wanted something not just for our own children but for the modern Catholic family who were in our midst, in our parish, in our neighborhoods.

**Lindsay, tell me what are you working on?**

After looking at several curriculums that taught theology of the body and encountering the everyday difficulties of families trying to incorporate one more thing into their already swamped schedules, I and the team came up with the idea of creating a Scholastic type of mini magazine full of bright, engaging photos and graphics that's easy to use and to have out on the counter, or at the dinner table.

**So, this would be a publication?**

Yes, it will be designed to encourage parents to be interactive and we hope it will foster communication. It is completely reasonable in expectation - only six to eight pages every month or two. In a single year, families will be able to teach 8 beautiful themes of TOB with a nearly zero-effort formula. We are ecstatic about this because we believe it is finally the answer to many parents' dreams.

**How will that work? How will parents access that?**

Well, it is designed as an alternative or a supplement, Catholic schools and parishes will be able to purchase TOB Monthly in bulk to send home with children. Children can complete the packet with their parent as homework and return it to school for further classroom activities and discussions that can enhance lessons. Parents and teachers/catechists are best when they collaborate, and TOB Monthly is the perfect model to facilitate this collaboration for the ultimate development of the personhood of each child.

**When do you think parents will be able to start accessing this?**

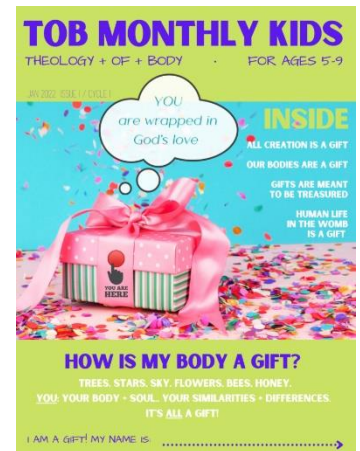
We are shooting for TOB Monthly to be ready for order by 2022 and will be available in 4 age groups: Littles (age 1-4), Kids (age 5-9), Middles (age 10-13), and Teens (age 14-18). We are humbly asking for funding to help expedite this process so if you are able to help, email us at [info@tobparentschool.org](mailto:info@tobparentschool.org) You can also access loads of resources like parent-child lessons, books, articles, activities, and cultural information at [www.tobparentschool.org](http://www.tobparentschool.org)

**In the meantime, Lynda, what other resources are you offering?**

Well, I am hosting small group meetings for teens and their parents. These small gatherings are usually once/month for teens and their parents and are focused on exploring Pope St. John Paul II's teachings on human love, personhood, and sexuality.

I'm also offering a two-part retreat in Cottage Grove this May at Our Lady of Perpetual Help called *The Original You on Chastity* for teens and their parents - one part will be with parents and teens together (Friday evening) and the other part will be a 1/2-day retreat with teens only (Saturday mid-morning).

For contact information on how both women can speak at your parish and a short biography for Lynda, click [here](#)







## **Prayers**

**Heavenly Father,**

**You made us in love, for love. Help us seek our true fulfillment by living out the Theology of the Body in our sexuality, through being a sincere gift of ourselves, in all our masculinity and all our femininity. May we, through a greater awareness of the spousal meaning of our body and its redemptive significance, reflect ever so beautifully your great mystery – the eternal communion of love.**

**We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reign with you in the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**