



*News from the*  
**Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DIocese OF PALM BEACH HOSTS RENOWN SPEAKER CHRISTOPHER WEST WHO WILL UNPACK POPE JOHN PAUL II'S FAMOUS "THEOLOGY OF THE BODY" ON LIFE AND LOVE**

The Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach Marriage and Family Life Office will host the seminar *Theology of the Body* on **Friday September 18, 2009 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and Saturday September 19 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at **St. Peter's Catholic Church in Jupiter**. This exciting seminar is based on our late and great Holy Father Pope John Paul II's treasured teachings on life, love, and the gift of human sexuality. The energetic presentation is for all searching for their ultimate purpose in life, as it addresses the most basic truths and questions of human existence. Most have heard the "whats" of Catholic teaching, but very few have heard the "whys." With profound insight and humor, West demonstrates that the Catholic Church's teaching on sexuality and marriage makes sense, because it resonates with the deepest yearnings of the human heart. **Topics include:** What it means to be created male and female in God's image, how to find and live out authentic happiness, and how God's mystery is revealed through the body and spousal love.

As one of the most sought after speakers in the Catholic Church today, Christopher West appears regularly on EWTN and has been seen by millions defending the faith on Fox News, MSNBC and most recently ABC News Nightline. The Diocese is honored to have Christopher West here in Palm Beach. Registration begins June 1<sup>st</sup>. Cost is \$35 per person (includes materials and meals) Seating is limited. For more information: contact Meaghan Hildebrandt at 561-803-7692, or e-mail her at [dopbnfp@yahoo.com](mailto:dopbnfp@yahoo.com).

#### **History of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body:**

*Theology of the Body* is the topic of a series of 129 lectures given by Pope John Paul II during his Wednesday audiences in the Pope Paul VI Hall between September 1979 and November 1984. It was the first major teaching of his pontificate and the complete addresses were later compiled and published as a single work: *The Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan*. A new translation has been released under the title *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*. The themes of the Theology of the Body were repeated and expanded upon in many of John Paul's encyclicals, letters, and exhortations. The work covers such topics as the unified corporeal and spiritual qualities of the human person; the origins, history and destiny of humanity; the deepest desires of the human heart and the way to experience true happiness and freedom; the truth about man's need and desire for loving communion derived from the revealed understanding of humanity in the image of a Triune Creator; the truth about God's original design for human sexuality and thus the dignity of the human person, how it was distorted through sin, and how it has been restored and renewed through the redemption of Jesus Christ; and Catholic teachings about the sacramentality of marriage.

The central thesis of John Paul's Theology of the Body, according to author Christopher West, is that *"the body, and it alone, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It was created to transfer into the visible reality of the world, the mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus to be a sign of it."*

#### **Bishop Barbarito on Theology of the Body:**

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach says about Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, *"His teaching deserves a great deal of attention as it can be a source of tremendous assistance to couples*

*and families living their vocation. It is also a great blessing for our society which needs a renewed appreciation of marriage and family life."*

**About Christopher West:**

Christopher West is a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute. He is also one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today, having delivered more than 1000 public lectures on 4 continents, in 9 countries, and in over 150 American cities. All three of his books – *Good News About Sex & Marriage*, *Theology of the Body Explained*, and *Theology of the Body for Beginners* – have become Catholic best sellers.

Christopher has also lectured on a number of prestigious faculties, offering graduate and undergraduate courses at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver, the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne, Australia, and Creighton University's Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha. Hundreds of thousands have heard him on national radio programs and even more have seen him defending the faith on programs such as Scarborough Country, Fox and Friends, and At Large with Geraldo Rivera. Of all his titles, Christopher is most proud to call himself a devoted husband and father. He and his wife Wendy have five children and live in Lancaster County, PA.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." --Genesis 2:24

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