

**Catholic Futures Foundation,**

Thank you for awarding Pope John XXIII Central & St. Boniface Schools of Elgin a grant for us to purchase *An Introduction to Theology of the Body* for our faculty to increase awareness of the basics of Theology of the Body and God's plan for what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God. This bible study will be used during our 2023-24 school year and was chosen for our small group faith sessions. This study will help our teachers encounter Jesus and make them better equipped to be disciples of Jesus. It is our hope that these sessions will have a direct impact on the students in our school as teachers will take what they learned and become disciples for our students.

We kicked off our first session on Monday, September 1. You can see below a picture of the faculty with their student workbooks and the video in the screen in the background. On pages two and three of this document you can see the schedule for our sessions for the 23-24 school year.

Session 1 was exciting & we can't wait to learn more in sessions 2-8.

Thank you!



Lisa Schumacher  
Principal





## **G.I.F.T. - Growing In Faith Together 2023-24**

### **Introduction to Theology of the Body - Session Schedule**

**Materials:** An Intro. To the Theology of the Body student workbook.

**Schedule:**

- Mon, Sep 11 Session 1 – An Education in Being Human
- Fri, Oct 6 Session 2 – The Great Analogy of Spousal Love
- Wed, Nov 22 Session 3 – Man & Woman He Created Them (Our Origin)
- Thu, Dec 22 Session 4 – Man & Woman He Redeemed Them (Our History)
- Fri, Feb 2 Session 5 – The Resurrection of the Body (Our Destiny)
- Tue, Feb 21 Session 6 – Celibacy for the Kingdom
- Thu, Mar 28 make-up date
- Tue, Apr 23 Session 7 – Marriage as a Sacrament & The Language of Sexual Love

**Basic Format:**

Watch video (~ 30 min.), answer study questions in small groups, then large group discussion.

**NOTE:**

This study is meant to help you gain an understanding of what Theology of the Body is and what it teaches us about being human, made in the image and likeness of God. Once we really get into TOB it is easy to see that if we can successfully adopt these themes and ideas as an integral part of our school culture, we could expect to see a positive, loving, Christian morality grow in our school and hopefully decrease bullying and other negative behaviors.

This starts with US – don't just learn about TOB, live it – allow the Holy Spirit to change you as a spouse, a mother, a friend, a co-worker, and a woman/man. This world / our society, wants to shove out morality and Jesus, the Truth. It is up to US as believers in the Truth (Jesus) to be what God intended for us to be – His faithful, loving servants.

Lastly – allow the Holy Spirit's fire to course through you – become . . . **Fired Up for Christ!**

**Opening Prayer:** *Peace Within - St. Therese of Lisieux & St. Teresa of Avila*

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

Amen.

**Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating us out of love  
in Your image and likeness

and calling us to love You and one another.

Having deepened our understanding of your glorious plan  
for human love and human life through the theology of the body,  
grant us the desire to live in accord with this plan from this day forward.

We ask this through Christ your Son,  
who came to reveal through his body  
your immeasurable love for each of us.

Amen.