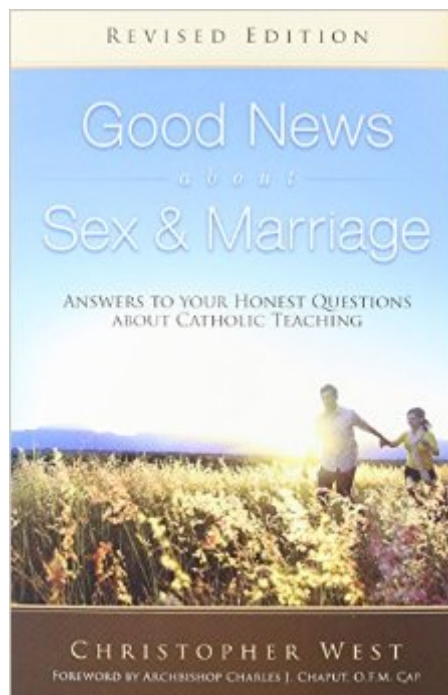


The book was found

Good News About Sex & Marriage (Revised Edition): Answers To Your Honest Questions About Catholic Teaching



Synopsis

The author, a diocesan director of marriage and family life, answers the questions about human sexuality and marriage that he always encounters in the numerous adult audiences he addresses. He provides thoughtful responses that present Catholic Church teaching in a fresh, thoroughly appealing, and convincing manner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have searched and searched for several decades for a true meaning of human sexuality. I found secular teachers disappointing in their promises of physical pleasures and Christian writers just as disappointing when addressing the soul. No one seemed to present sexuality and marriage in a more cosmic sense of what is really taking place. Christopher West does an outstanding job of introducing us to the Pope's explosive thinking on the total human person - body, soul and spirit. How awesome we really are! And how critically wonderful our sexuality is. West does a fine job of showing how we can understand our nuptial life in marriage in the context of Baptism and the Eucharist. Of considering the nuptial embrace to be meant to occur in the light with eyes wide open, both spouses celebrating and reaffirming their vows over and over. After absorbing West's work, I encourage you to delve into John Paul's "The Theology of the Body" and "Love and Responsibility". I do like West stepping forward and away from the euphemisms that plague most Catholic texts on human sexuality. The Catechism refers to "acts proper and exclusive to marriage". West actually goes further and addresses parts of the genitalia and to oral and anal sex. He meets us where we are, i.e., in the midst of a culture that shows no reserve about sex and relationships. And helps one

to sort it all out. I do have one reservation about his book though. I sense that he is presenting the Pope's teaching and his own views at the same time. But where does the Pope leave off and West continue? This is why I am also reading the Pope's on words as well. My wife and I have recently been reunited in our marriage of 32 years after an eight year separation.

Having been a student of John Paul II's writings and teachings on the Theology of the Body and having studied his personalistic approach to the human person in graduate school (yes, I am tooting my horn...but more on that in a minute) I can speak to this book with an informed conscience. First off this book is a useful tool for all who want to understand the Pope's Theology of the Body better. West uses mostly a Q&A format that is user-friendly and easy to read yet he answers most questions very adequately. I recommend that you read the book front to back rather than skipping ahead to the questions that interest you most because your familiarity with the foundational material will help you understand the questions that follow. West approaches topics timely to all people. It would be a favor to yourself if you read it. Now as a response to those that think he is "one-sided" in his approach to Catholic moral teaching I would like to give an answer to this. The critics on this site seems to reduce their arguments against West's text to the argument that he has simplified something much more complex. I beg to differ. I will address a few statements by one reviewer that adequately sum up their disagreements. They say "We shouldn't just willy-nilly disagree with a Church teaching without first researching what the Church says about it."--In other words, this person seems to say that all we have to do to disagree with a teaching of the Church is to research it enough and THEN disagree. But, they go on: "However, if we do research it and pray about it, and still honestly do not agree with the Church, then our conscience should be our guide."--My response is Yes and No.

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