



Ruah Woods

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Ruah Woods  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

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## Ruah Woods Banquet 2018

# A Call to Arms...and A Call to Love

**Date:** September 20, 2018

**Time:** 6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner & Program

**Place:** Xavier University's Schiff Conference &  
Banquet Center at The Cintas Center  
1624 Herald Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45207

**Keynote:** Helen M. Alvarez



**H**elen M. Alvaré is a professor of law at the George Mason University's Antonin Scalia School of Law, George Mason University where she teaches Family Law, Law & Religion and Property Law. She publishes on matters concerning marriage, parenting, non-marital households and First Amendment religion clauses. She is currently an advisor to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, founder of WomenSpeakforThemselves.com and an ABC news consultant. Her most recent book is *Putting Children's Interests First in the U.S. Family Law and Policy: With Power Comes Responsibility* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2017)

**"L**ord, I'm feeling restless and my zeal for how I've been serving you for the last 9 years is waning, which is usually the signal that you have something else for me to do. But what is it? Just tell me and I'll do it!" Silence...



*Leslie Kuhlman,  
Executive Director  
remembers in the  
beginning...*

Silence... Week after week this was my dialogue with God during my Saturday morning holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Exasperated, I finally prayed, "Lord, there's this teaching called Theology of the Body and it's the "cure for cancer." But there's no central place where it's being taught around here but, if there was, that is something I would love to do."

Not ten days later I received a call from Joe Brinck asking for a meeting with me. "We have something we want to start and we think you might be interested in it, could we meet?" That meeting with Joe and Tony Maas started a Holy Spirit-fueled chain of events that is still firing on all pistons today.

Fast forward eleven years...what a ride this has been! Intended merely as a place where TOB classes would be provided for adults, Ruah Woods has blossomed into a multi-disciplinary

## What a Gift!

Theology of the Body education and counseling center. We now have...

- **ONSITE EDUCATION.** Our one-of-a-kind resource serves middle schoolers through life-long learners with the mission to help men and women learn their vocation to love, according to God's plan, as informed by Theology of the Body. Our growing, energized alumni includes adults, teens, engaged couples, educators, catechists and clergy.



Ruah Woods

- **PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES.** Ruah Woods Psychological Services provides a unique blend of therapy that integrates the science of psychology with the truths of the Catholic faith. Here, wholesome healing authentically aligns with all that it means to be a human being, made in the image and likeness of God.



Ruah Woods  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- **RUAH WOODS PRESS.** We are filling the gaping void of teaching Christian anthropology in schools by



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publishing a revolutionary new program of study: *ROOTED: K-12 Theology of the Body Curriculum*. Now students have the opportunity to ponder, wonder and discover the answers to the deep questions of life and who they are as human beings made in the image and likeness of God. Who am I? How do I live a life of true happiness? What is my vocation and mission for my life? How is God calling me to use my gifts and talents?

Today our culture rejects the transcendent and embraces the secular, where self-invention trumps the Giver of all good gifts. It is no longer easy to be a faithful Christian -- an authentic witness to the truths of the Gospel and what the Church teaches on issues such as marriage, morality, the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person.

And yet, what a gift we've been given...the balm of TOB to pour out on all those who suffer the wounds of grasping the culture's counterfeits. We are all called. We need to turn...It is time to be receptive to the gift.







## “Like the Dawning Day”

By: John David Kimes  
TOB Program Coordinator

As the saying goes, “the darkest hour is just before the dawn”.

While I am looking out the window, it is easy to notice the dreariness that is felt by the overcast sky. Dark.



John David Kimes

Gray. Dull. I wish the weather was different. I wish it was brighter, and more lively outside. With this sigh of longing, I continue to look out, and realize that something more must be waiting. How it looks right now, is obviously not the way it always has been or even the way it always has to be.

Saint Pope John Paul II’s Theology

of the Body takes us back to the beginning. Looking out at the gray and dull weather, or looking at our dark and dreary culture, it is easy to become depressed. But it is essential to realize that “in the beginning it was not so”. The culture, in which we live, does not reveal God’s original plan for life and love. Instead, it replaces God with man, and offers man the role of God. At Ruah Woods, we are furthering the mission of John Paul II. We are inspiring the Culture of Life. We are inviting others into a relationship with the Father – a relationship, that is life-giving, fulfilling, and wholesome, and through this relationship, men and women will come to know their identity and mission.

So, dear reader, consider joining us

for us a class! Starting in September, we hope to launch the following classes: *Introduction to Theology of the Body*, *Into the Heart*, *Wild Goose*, *TOB for Teens: Middle School*, *YOU: Life, Love and TOB for high school teens*. (For more information, please visit: [www.ruahwoods.org/learning](http://www.ruahwoods.org/learning).) Any of these classes will change the way you see the world around you.

Despite the conditions of what is outside my window right now, whether it’s the weather or the culture, I have hope that a new day is dawning. Not a kind of hope that is simply “wishful thinking,” but a hope that is grounded in faith – in a faith which gives me “an assurance of what is unseen” (Hebrews 11:1). And so, though it may be awfully dark out there...the dawn is quickly approaching.



## Growing Our Ministry of Healing

Ruah Woods  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Life has been hopping at Ruah Woods Psychological Services (RWPS). Our mission is to provide sound psychological services firmly rooted in our Catholic faith. The need for such an integrated healing approach continues to grow, and so we have too. In August 2017, we were overjoyed to welcome two new Catholic Psychology Residents to our practice, Dr. Joseph Molitor and Dr. Michael Murphy.

Dr. Molitor recently completed his Ph.D. from Miami University and his pre-doctoral internship with Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. Dr. Murphy recently earned his doctorate as well, from Divine Mercy University in Arlington, VA. These two men are deeply devoted to their Catholic faith and dedicated to grounding their practice of psychology in the richness of that faith. We are so grateful to God for their willingness to say “yes” to serve His people through RWPS.

Since August, RWPS director Dr. Andrew Sodergren has been training and supervising the new doctors while their caseloads have gradually been filling up with people seeking God’s healing through faith-informed psychotherapy or seeking to pursue a priestly or religious vocation and needing to fulfill the requirement for a psychological evaluation. To continue to meet the needs of our

brothers and sisters, our RWPS therapists have focused their professional development efforts on strengthening their skills in healing struggling marriages and effectively addressing pornography addiction. With three Catholic therapists in the practice, we have also ramped up our promotional efforts to get the word out to the greater Cincinnati area that we are ready to accept new and returning patients and evaluation cases. We are excited to and ready to serve.

In recent months, our psychological staff has also been called upon to go out of the office and speak to God’s people on various topics. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Molitor brought their insights to the topics of grief, guilt and shame. With the 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae occurring this year, Dr. Sodergren has several invitations to give marriage talks at area parishes coming up. He has also been repeatedly called upon to speak on the nature of the sexual difference and sexual identity confusion. In recent months, he has spoken to Catholic audiences on this topic in Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis, and here in Cincinnati. As our culture continues to slip into deeper confusion about these fundamental matters, we anticipate such opportunities to shine light in the darkness will grow as well.

In early May, RWPS was excited to

host an event entitled “By Your Side: Walking with Catholics Affected by Same-Sex Attraction and Their Loved Ones.” This event was co-sponsored with several offices of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and was attended by over 60 clergy, religious, and lay pastoral ministers. It featured videos, talks, and discussion about this sensitive topic and on authentically Catholic pastoral care for the people affected. In particular, the event raised awareness of the wonderful work the Courage and EnCourage apostolates. RWPS partners with these two apostolates of the Church to provide authentically Catholic spiritual support groups for individuals who experience same-sex attraction (Courage) and their loved ones (EnCourage). We look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership.

All of our staff at RWPS are deeply grateful for the support of our friends and benefactors in enabling us to continue this ministry of healing. Please pray for us as we pray for you. If you or anyone you know may benefit from our services, would like to learn more, or would like to make a donation, please visit us at [www.RWpsych.org](http://www.RWpsych.org) or call Donna at 513-407-8878.

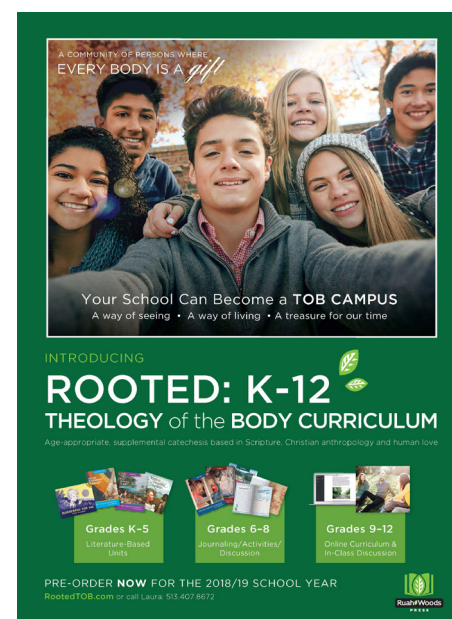
## Curriculum News: Something for Everyone!



This coming 2018-2019 school year marks an enormous milestone for Ruah Woods and Catholic religious education. After seven years of planning, writing and cultivation, Ruah Woods Press’ *Rooted: K-12 Theology of the Body Curriculum* is available to the world with something for every age Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Pope St. John Paul II’s masterwork *Man and Women He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* comes to life for students in age appropriate ways – inviting them to explore this beautiful mystery of what it is to be human. Themes of creation, wonder, self-gift, virtue, freedom and the dignity of the person are the signposts encouraging teachers and their students along this journey of self-discovery.

The lessons are engaging and wonderfully embodied –



[ruahwoodspress.com](http://ruahwoodspress.com)

employing “muscle memory” for deep-seated retention of these profound truths rooted in our faith. Being created in the image and likeness of God, male and female with a plan of love and vocation will spark a longing for the love of Christ in students who discover who they are and why they are here.

We thank Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for bringing these teachings forth in our surrounding schools and parishes. Beyond, this, dioceses from 37 states and around the world (yes, even other nations!) are inquiring, purchasing and implementing TOB in their schools and parishes – many engaged in taking steps to become a TOB Campus. God is good!