



## A Tribute to Emily Macke

Since May of 2009, Emily (Bissonnette) Macke has been a catalyst of great change and achievement at Ruah Woods! This year, the jewel in her crown and ours, was finishing the writing of



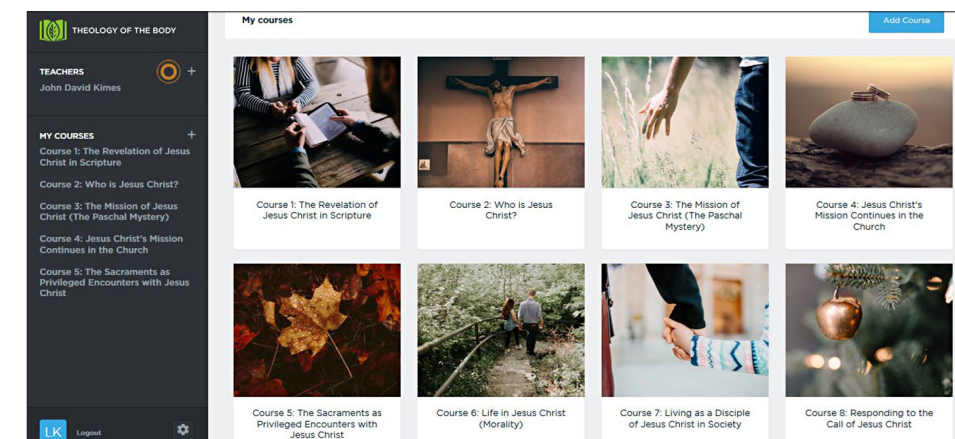
Emily Macke

the final Course 8 in *Called to Be More* — our **ROOTED: 9-12 Theology of the Body** curriculum for high school students. This school year, over

1900 students from all over the country will be studying TOB using this engaging curriculum. And more high schools and parents are discovering this beautiful curriculum every week.

Upon finishing the project Emily wrote, “I wanted to share how amazing God’s timing is with this. My plan was to finish it on Friday, but it was done a little early. What’s today? July 25, 2018 is of course the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of *Humanae Vitae*, and Theology of the Body was written in many ways to provide an anthropological foundation for the encyclical.”

“But on a personal level, 16 years ago today I made eye contact with St. John Paul II at his final



World Youth Day. My experience of seeing him and hearing him there is often what I credit for the path I have taken in studying/sharing his work. And so, here we are on the very anniversary of that event, making a big step in the conclusion of a six year project to share his teachings with high school students. Praise God!”

We are quite confident that Pope St. John Paul II would approve of Emily’s work over this past decade. Emily is now focusing on raising her family and teaching a high school co-op from her own course material among other projects. Emily is tireless, her inspiration always is Christ and the words of her beloved spiritual mentor Pope St. John Paul II:

“...It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal.”

Thank you Emily...for helping so many understand it is Jesus we seek when we dream of happiness. Thank you for your gift of self to the mission of Ruah Woods! May God go with you always.



## Ruah Woods Programs and Classes: First Semester 2019

For Full Descriptions and to Register: [www.RuahWoods.org](http://www.RuahWoods.org)

**T.O.B. at the Movies: (Free)**  
Friday, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Jan 11

*Did you know Theology of the Body and the message of the Gospel is present in many big screen blockbusters? Come for a free show (popcorn too) and a discussion after.*

**Kenosis: (Free)**  
*Teen Disciples for Love and Life*  
(Alternates with YOU)  
Every Other Tuesday, 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM, Jan 15 – May 7

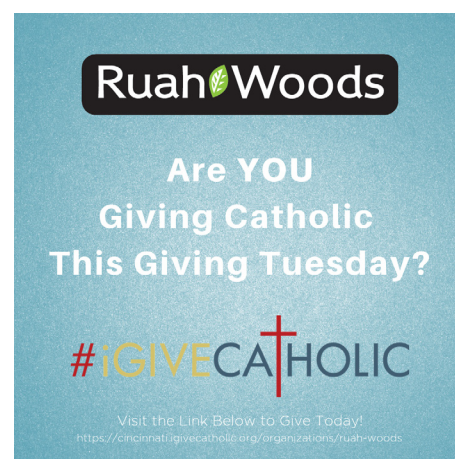
**YOU: (\$25)**  
*Life, Love, and TOB for High School Teens*  
(Alternates with Kenosis)  
Every Other Tuesday, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Feb 5 – May 14

**Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide: (\$35)**  
Mondays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Feb 4 – April 29

**Introduction to Theology of the Body: (\$25)**  
*Discovering God’s Plan for your Life*  
Tuesdays, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, March 5 – April 23  
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, March 6 – April 24

**Freedom to Love: (\$25)**  
*TOB for Young Adults* (Check Website for Location)  
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, March 6 – April 3

NFP Classes (Sympto Thermal Method/Creighton Model) and Marriage Prep/Enrichment Courses are also available!







## Ruah Woods Psychological Services Supports Healthy Vocations

Central to the Ruah Woods Psychological Services (RWPS) mission is helping people embrace and live out their vocation to love according to God's plan. As Pope St. John Paul II taught, there are two ways to live out the vocation to love most fully: marriage and celibacy / virginity for the kingdom. Like marriage, the priesthood and religious life are expressions of the spousal significance of the body. At RWPS, supporting priestly and religious vocations is very important to us. One of the ways we do this is by providing psychological evaluations for men and women seeking to live their lives for the kingdom of God in these consecrated vocations. We take great pride in this aspect of our work and believe that it makes RWPS rather unique. Let us take a few moments of your time to tell you about it.

Dioceses, seminaries, and religious communities regularly require applicants to undergo a psychological evaluation prior to being admitted to their formation programs. These evaluations have several purposes. First, there is need to screen out candidates who have manifest psychological problems that make them unfit for the vocation they are pursuing. Active addictions, severe personality disorders, untreated mental illness, inability to cope

with stress, and impaired social relations are a few examples of conditions that represent obstacles to pursuing a priestly or religious vocation. Second, these evaluations aid the mutual discernment of the candidate's vocation by uncovering his/her psychological strengths and weakness as well as motivations for pursuing this vocation. Lastly, a thorough psychological evaluation based in a Catholic view of the person can provide valuable insight to the candidate, vocations director, and formation team regarding what sorts of issues need to be addressed during formation and steps on how to go about doing so.

**Like marriage, the priesthood and religious life are expressions of the spousal significance of the body.**

Our RWPS Catholic psychologists treat these evaluations as a sacred duty. We approach them with prayerfulness and professionalism. Our evaluations are very thorough and routinely take 8 hours to complete. We conduct an

extensive interview of the candidate's history and current life functioning. We further administer a battery of tests using the best instruments available to us to assess all aspects of the person's psychology. We assess cognitive processes, emotional life, identity and self-image, interpersonal relations (including relationship with God) and sexuality. We use multiple methods to assess each of these areas so that we can have confidence in our conclusions. Furthermore, we constantly strive to improve our skillfulness at these evaluations by regularly consulting with other faithful, Catholic psychologists who do similar work in other parts of the country, by reviewing new tests to include in our battery, and by consulting the latest Church documents regarding the desired characteristics of priests and religious.

We at RWPS are honored to be able to provide these evaluations for the Church. Healthy priests and religious mean a healthier Church. Through your prayerful and financial support, you are helping us to support healthy vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We are blessed to be on the forefront of meeting this urgent need, and we are blessed for your partnership in carrying it out.



## Bringing TOB to the Teachers

Our culture is suffering from anthropological amnesia. As a result, we now have generations of people who have forgotten how to be human. Now is the time to proclaim the message of the Theology of the Body, which brings us back "to the beginning" to show us God's original plan for human life and love.

Ruah Woods has taken up the challenge of proclaiming this message to the masses via the **ROOTED: K-12 Theology of the Body curriculum**. The curriculum is a great tool for teachers, but we didn't stop there. Because Theology of the Body is relatively new in the K-12 educational field, we now bring training directly to teachers and catechists. Schools are provided with a 1-2 day in-person training from nationally acclaimed Theology of the Body speakers. Teachers from all over the US are singing their praises:



"As a 40-year educator that has survived dozens of curriculum presentation, THIS WAS THE BEST!"

—Mike DeWitt 5th grade Teacher St. Joseph Academy, Kenosha, WI

"TOB could be the answer to so many of the problems our culture is facing today, and I'm excited to bring everything I've learned today back to my parish."

—Director of Religious Education, Toledo, OH

"It has opened my eyes at how much I've missed in all my years of Catholic education."

—K-8 Teacher, Kenosha, WI

"I'm craving to learn more and share this with my students and teachers. I enjoyed it all & did not want it to end!"

—Melissa Perry, DRE St. Joes Tiffin, OH



Theology of the Body is an invaluable lens through which to view and understand the human person. To learn more about bringing training to your school, click the "Training" tab at [www.RuahWoodsPress.com](http://www.RuahWoodsPress.com)

D.J. Hueneman  
Training and Development  
Coordinator  
[RuahWoodsPress.com](http://RuahWoodsPress.com)

## Bountiful Banquet

The staff and Board of Directors wanted to take this opportunity to again thank all those generous individuals and families who attended our Annual Banquet Thursday, September 21 at the Cintas Center on the campus of Xavier University.

The event was a tremendous financial success – we are still collecting pledges and table sponsorships, but we can say with confidence that we will top last year's banquet total and that reoccurring monthly pledges will provide a financial base that will give vital support for Ruah's 2019 operations.

As Board President Tony Maas pointed out in his opening remarks, Ruah Woods' **ROOTED: K-12 Theology of the Body curriculum** continues to be implemented within the Cincinnati Archdiocesan schools

this year and in 2019, and Ruah staff are travelling throughout the United States answering school inquiries and taking orders for the curriculum in a number of dioceses.

Our featured speaker, Helen Alvare, professor at George Mason University School of Law, and nationally recognized author and presenter, gave a powerful testimony on the need for Theology of the Body and the work of Ruah Woods in the world today. Prof. Alvare's talk can be seen and heard by going to the Ruah Woods' website.

We want to emphasize how critically important your donations from this event are to our organization! The banquet room was again full, nearly 600 attendees, and your enthusiasm and energy to spread the great teaching of TOB is life-giving.



**Theology of the Body is utterly the teaching we need for our times.**

—Helen Alvare

Please put a big SAVE THE DATE on September 19th of 2019 to again join us for this joyous celebration.