

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of the Archbishop 222 North 17th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

July 24, 2017

Damon Owens Executive Director, joy**tob** 106 Pennfield Drive Kennett Square, PA 19348

Dear Damon,

I remain grateful for your years of leadership at the *Theology of the Body Institute* and wish you the very best in your new endeavor joytob. I'm happy that you are continuing your work of teaching and preaching. That has been, and will be, a great blessing for the Church.

I am happy to offer you my recommendation and endorsement if it may assist you in any way. May the Lord give success to your life and to the work of your hands.

Damon Owens is a gifted teacher and witness to the joy to be a disciple of Christ. I have seen him engage diverse audiences – lay, clergy, and religious – blending deep knowledge and personal testimony to faithfully share the "good news" of theology of the body, marriage, and family. Now more than ever, families need help to "become what they are." God has clearly raised Damon to be an apostle of joy for the new evangelization of families in this post-Christian world. Damon is a joy and I am proud to recommend him.

Damon and Melanie Owens are a gift to our Church, and indeed, the world. Their joyful witness to marriage and family life is clearly the fruit of many years of attentive love matured by their faith in Christ. I have witnessed how powerfully their testimony engages modern hearts and minds to see the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage, sexuality, and family life with new eyes. Whether teaching Theology of the Body or witnessing to the Theology of Love, Damon and Melanie Owens are true evangelists for God's plan for marriage and family. I am so proud of them, and recommend them joyfully.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. 👣

Archbishop of Philadelphia