

Epiphany

October 2015

epiphanygroup.org

A Catholic interfaith Community of those seeking to explore current issues affecting our Church and personal lives, prayerfully responding to our baptismal call with "fresh eyes, open minds, and changed hearts," by promoting social justice, education and advocacy.

"The Epiphany Group can be pictured as an oasis for those on the spiritual journey; to gather together for a while, to pause, refresh, to think about our direction. The Holy Spirit is our guide and in that embrace we listen, renew, and seek the grace and courage to go where we are led. We wish to welcome all fellow travelers with gratitude for the humble strength we gain from each other."

Maureen Watson, past-president, 2001

Rev. William Skeehan Memorial Lecture Series

A reschedule of the March lecture cancelled due to weather

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m.

The Parish Church of St. Jerome, 205 W King St., Tulsa, OK

St. Jerome is an Inclusive, Anglican-Rite parish following in the Old Catholic tradition and a member of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

2015 Family Synod

What kind of Church will we make?

Francis, synod politics and what comes next

Deborah Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch



Pope Francis at the first day of the Synod

Pope Francis is creating a new atmosphere of openness and dialogue in the synod processes, a significant change that has stoked hope in those who want to see power decentralized and fear in those who want to maintain centralized authority along with the "smaller, purer" brand of Catholicism heralded by Pope Benedict XVI.

Similarly, Francis has made it clear he seeks to reform pastoral practices in the Church in order to create a more open, loving and Christ-like atmosphere in our communities and in the Church at large. Will he succeed?

In this presentation, Deborah Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch, will discuss Francis' efforts at reform, the significant documents, his allies and critics and their influence in the process, the struggle between cultures and Cardinals on the issues and what Catholics can do to make a difference. Deb will be discussing the results of the October 2015 Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family. Her blog, Synodwatch, captures aspects of the synod not reported by other media. !

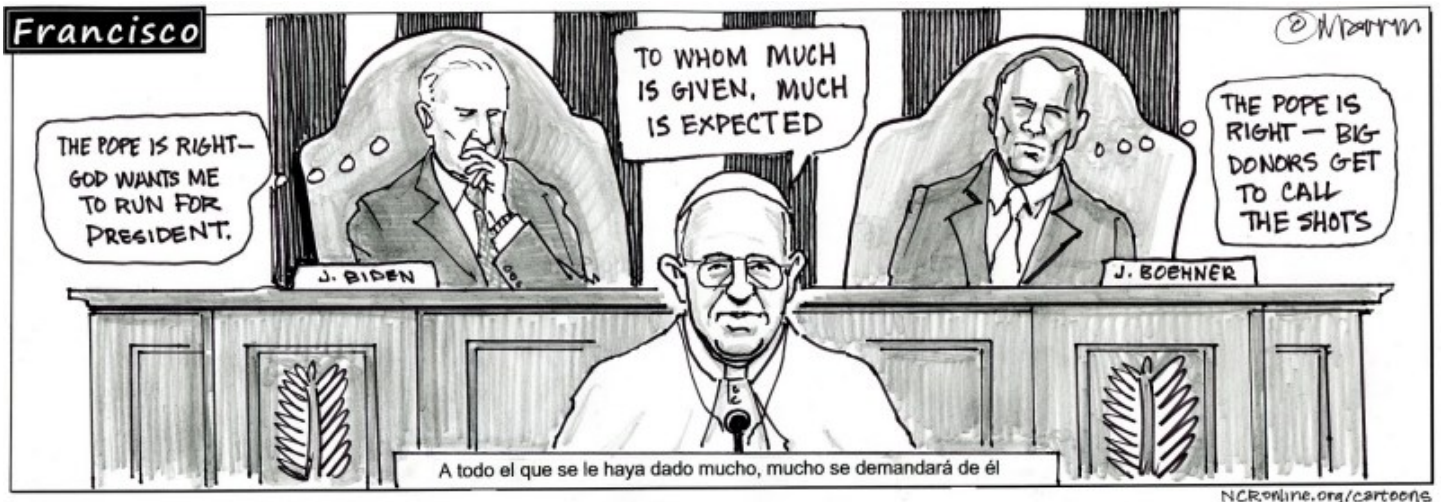
Patricia O'Rourke Ashe (1925 - 2015)



On February 24, 2015 the Epiphany Group lost beloved, long time member Pat Ashe to cancer. Pat was born in Arkansas City, Kansas, attended boarding school at Notre Dame Academy in Omaha and graduated from Creighton University with a chemistry degree, which landed her a job at Phillips Petroleum. There she met a fellow Phillips research chemist and her future husband, Benedict de Hart Ashe, Jr., with whom she had 4 children. Married 29 years, highlights of their time together included travels to Russia in 1973 and 1976. Pat was her husband's caregiver in his final year with cancer. She similarly cared for her mother-in-law, Eva Williams, and her parents, both of whom lived well into their 90s, in the last years of their lives. After a decade of care giving, Pat in 1986 embarked on her second "career" as a champion of the poor and disenfranchised.

In 1986 Pat served as volunteer to Catholic Worker houses in St. Cloud, Minnesota and later in Chicago where, during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, Pat served at a home for individuals dying from the effects of the virus. In 1990 she joined Brother Dennis Murphy and two others to establish Su Casa, a house for Central American refugees on Chicago's South Side. Even after returning to the family home in Bartlesville Pat frequently went back to Chicago to serve at Catholic Worker houses. In Bartlesville, Pat continued her service by volunteering at the Green Country Free Clinic, Concern Food Pantry, and Tulsa's Neighbor for Neighbor. Pat's interest in people and cultures took her to China, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. Beneath Pat's quiet demeanor and humble attitude was a heart brimming with compassion and mercy. She will be greatly missed.

Susan Murphy



Be sure to follow Pat Marrin's comic strip, *Francis, the comic strip*, at National Catholic Reporter, nronline.org/cartoons

President's Message

Dear Friends,

As you know, the weather forced us to cancel our March lecture, but I'm thrilled that Deb Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch, has been able to reschedule and will be in Tulsa on November 15. I'm repeating some of the information on FutureChurch from the last newsletter so you can review it prior to the lecture. The Synod will have just completed, and Deb will have been in Rome during the Synod. So be sure to attend to get the inside scoop!

As I mentioned last time, we have renamed our annual lecture to be the "Rev. William Skeehan Memorial Lecture Series" as one small way to honor Fr. Bill's legacy.

I'm also very excited that the lecture will be at a new location for us, the Parish Church of St. Jerome. Brother Ray Knapp, a Deacon at St. Jerome's, has become a member of the Epiphany Group, and offered to host us. Here is a short description of St. Jerome's from their web site:

St. Jerome is an Inclusive, Anglican-Rite parish following in the Old Catholic tradition and a member of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. Our basic beliefs are summarized in: The teachings and person of Jesus Christ; The New Testament; The Nicene Creed; The Sacramental & Liturgical tradition; and The Apostolic Tradition and Succession.

We are an open and affirming community recognizing the value and dignity of every person regardless of heritage, culture, financial status, sexual orientation, sexual identity, age, gender, or marital status.

We celebrate the seven sacraments of the Church; the two major sacraments being Baptism and Holy Communion. In our Eucharistic Celebration, we recognize that Jesus is the host and therefore all are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

Note they are *inclusive*, and *all are welcome* at the Table of the Lord! Be sure to visit their web site, stjerometulsa.org, to learn more about St. Jerome's and the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

Mass at St. Jerome's is Sunday at 11:00. I plan to attend prior to the lecture, and would encourage everyone to celebrate Mass with the St. Jerome community. There will also be an opportunity to take a tour of the church before the lecture. Check our web site, epiphanygroup.org, for the exact time of the tour.

Finally I regret I need to again mention the loss of another of our longtime members, Pat Ashe. More than any of us, Pat truly lived what it meant for a Catholic to live in service of others. What I especially recall is that she was a regular at the annual Call to Action conference, and would report back to us every year on what was discussed.

John Kennington, President



Do we have your email?

If you have not been receiving my email updates on the Epiphany Group (infrequent as they are!) send your email to johnkennington@gmail.com and I'll add you to the list.



Pope Francis kisses a baby *girl*, who came to the Papal parade in Philadelphia dressed like the Pontiff.
Maybe a future female Pope!?!



FutureChurch

You will find lots of great info on the FutureChurch web site, www.futurechurch.org. Be sure to spend some time to learn more about this wonderful organization.

Also be sure to check out the mostly daily updates to their Synod Watch Blog, at bit.ly/epiphany-synod-watch which feature the latest updates, from Deb Rose-Milavec and others on the Synod directly from Rome.

FutureChurch Mission and Vision

Our Mission

FutureChurch seeks changes that will provide all Roman Catholics the opportunity to participate fully in Church life and leadership

Our Vision

FutureChurch works for

- Just, open and collaborative structures for Catholic worship, organization and governance
- A return to the Church's early tradition of both married and celibate priests
- A return to the Church's earliest tradition, modeled on the inclusive practice of Jesus, of recognizing both female and male leaders of faith communities
- Regular access to the Eucharist, the center of Catholic life and worship, for all Catholics.

Guiding Principle

Future Church's activities grow from a spirituality based on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Eucharist, the Spirit-filled beliefs of the faithful, and the teachings of Vatican II.

The Epiphany Group
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