

Epiphany

February 2015

epiphanygroup.org

Rev. William Skeehan Memorial Lecture Series

Sunday, March 1st, 2:00 p.m.

Hardesty Library, 8316 East 93rd Street, Tulsa, OK

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.

2015 Family Synod What kind of Church will we make?

Francis, synod politics and predictions

Deborah Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch

"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



Synod participants flow out of the Synod Hall in October 2014

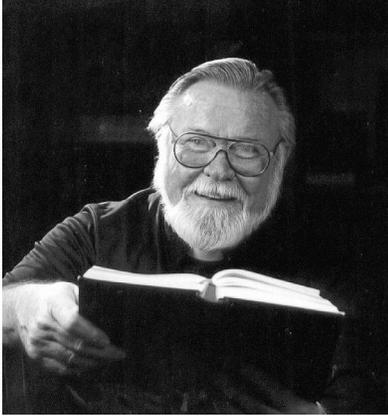
Pope Francis is creating a new atmosphere of openness and dialogue in the synod processes, a significant change that has stoked hope in those who want to see power decentralized and fear in those who want to maintain centralized authority along with the "smaller, purer" brand of Catholicism heralded 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, what Catholics can do to make a difference and how this might end in October 2015 at the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family.

Deb attended the press briefings at the October 2014 synod in Rome and will return in October 2015. Her blog, Synodwatch, captured aspects of the synod not reported by other media. She has led coalition efforts to help Catholics influence the process by meeting with bishops to talk about synod processes and the issues being discussed, asking synod leaders to "widen the circle" of invitees and encouraging listening sessions to dialogue together about marriage, family and pastoral practices.

Join the conversation and learn what you can do to make a difference!



Rev. William K. Skeeihan

December 8, 1925 - November 29, 2014)

Father William K. Skeeihan, or "Father Bill" as he was familiarly known, passed away early Saturday morning, November 29, 2014. Members of St. James Parish and The Church of the Resurrection were with Father Bill around the clock during his time in hospice care at the Franciscan Villa.

Father Bill was born December 8, 1925 in Forest Hills, New York to Eva Mary Keally and Edward Michael Skeeihan. The youngest of five children, his siblings preceded him in death: Edward Michael Skeeihan killed in WWII, John Charles (Jack) Skeeihan formerly of Los Angeles, California,

Mary Margaret Minter formerly from Annapolis, Maryland and Jeanne Patricia (Pat) King formerly of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Father Bill was ordained in 1960 and served pastorates at Sacred Heart Church in Oklahoma City, St. Joseph's Church in Norman, and the Church of the Resurrection in Tulsa, where he was founding pastor. Father Bill was moved to the Church of St. James in Bartlesville in 1978 and was the pastor there until he retired.

He is survived by 24 nieces and nephews and 61 great nieces and nephews, as well as hundreds of parishioners whom he considered family.

Friends may honor Father Bill's memory with contributions to Martha's Task, 718 S. Johnstone Ave., Bartlesville, OK 74003, or Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 580460, Tulsa, OK 74158.

Mary Betty Murphy

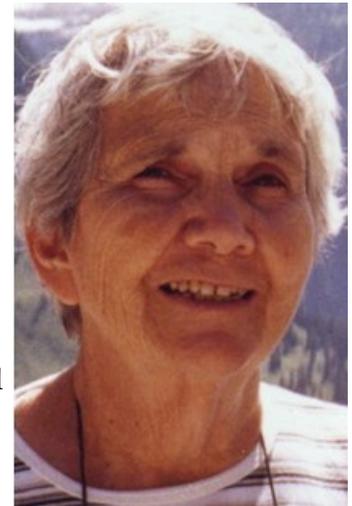
May 20, 1927 - January 4, 2015

On May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off for Paris and Mary Betty was born to LaSetta and John Keegan in Buffalo, N.Y. She grew up in Buffalo and graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y. She moved to NYC to finish her education in Occupational Therapy, where she met Frank, to whom she was married for 62 years until his death in May of 2014. They relocated their family to Tulsa, Okla., where it grew from three to nine by 1963.

Mary Betty was one of the first OTs in the Midwest, working at Children's Medical Center and Tulsa Psychiatric Center. After her retirement, she worked with Alzheimer's patients at Adult Day Care.

Mary Betty will be remembered for her creation and maintenance of a large and loving family, which included friends - old and new. Her door and her heart were always open. Her love was limitless.

Mary Betty is survived by: her sister, Leona Schwartz of Ft. Worth; and daughters, Mary Jo (Jack) Kinzie, Katie Murphy, Clare (Subir) Mukerjee, Ellen (Steve Unterman), Kris Murphy, Molly (Karl Rambo), Aileen (Paul Heilker); eight grandchildren, Kimberly Mukerjee (Christian Montesdeoca), Anthony Mukerjee, Sophie Unterman, Eli Heilker, Phoebe Unterman, Ellie Rambo, Madeleine Murphy, Olivia Rambo. Eight nieces and nephews and two sisters-in-law also mourn her passing. Always stop to look at the wildflowers. .



President's Message

Dear Friends,

I'm very excited to announce our 2015 Epiphany speaker is Deb Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch. If you are not familiar with FutureChurch, I have copied below their Mission and Vision:

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.

Be sure to spend some time on their web site, www.futurechurch.org to learn more about this wonderful organization.

One of Deb's reasons for visiting Tulsa is to work on influencing the bishops around the country to ensure Pope Francis' model of open, frank and respectful dialogue is carried out in every diocese. She has shared some other links that may be useful for Catholics who seek to influence synod leaders and delegates to the Synod. I have provided shortcut versions of the links:

bit.ly/epiphany-groundswell - This is to sign a petition that Deb will deliver n March 4th to Cardinal Baldisserio as well as all the bishops of the world. She will also hand deliver them to the Synod in Rome in October.

bit.ly/epiphany-synod-petition – More info on the FutureChurch web site about the Synod and the petition above.

bit.ly/epiphany-synod-watch - A blog from FutureChurch with the latest updates on the Synod

ourcatholicfamily.org - Calling our bishops to dialogue and to widen the circle of invitees at the 2015 Family Synod.

Continued on back page



Sign our petition!
Ask synod officials to
“Widen the Circle”
at 2015 Family Synod
to include Catholics who can speak
from experience on the issues being
discussed!

President's Message Continued from page 3

You will find lots of great info on the FutureChurch web site. One I'll highlight is their teleconferences anyone can call in to. The next is February 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Central, with Dr. Richard Gaillardetz on "Reforming the Church with Francis. See bit.ly/epiphany-teleconference

As you may be aware, we lost two more longtime members of the Epiphany group in the last few months.

Mary Murphy's death followed Frank's death a year earlier. I think of them each and miss their presence at every meeting. Quoting her daughters, "Her door and her heart were always open".

We also lost Fr. Bill Sweeney. He is, of course, essentially the founding father of the Epiphany Group, and a titan of what it means to be a Vatican II priest. It is a blessing he lived long enough to see Francis become Pope, and his attempts to return the Church to be the Church Father Bill showed us it could be.

You may have noticed on the front page we have re-named our annual lecture to be the "*Rev. William Sweeney Memorial Lecture Series*" as one small way to honor Fr. Bill's legacy.

John Kennington, President

SOAWatch

Close the School of the Americas!

www.soaw.org

Earlier this week, Pope Francis declared that Archbishop Oscar Romero died as a martyr, clearing the way for Romero's beatification, which will likely take place within a few months in San Salvador. Monseñor Romero, a champion of the poor and an advocate of peace, was shot to death on March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass at a small chapel near his cathedral in San Salvador the day after giving a sermon in which he called for Salvadoran soldiers to stop the repression and to end the killing of their own people.

With a few exceptions, much of the media coverage of Pope Francis' declaration left out Romero's condemnation of the U.S. funding and training for the Salvadoran military. SOA Watch is hoping that Romero's recognition by the Vatican will spur more discussion about how he died.

The Epiphany Group
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