

The Epiphany Group of Tulsa presents Dead Man Walking author and anti-death penalty activist Sister



Helen Prejean on Sunday, May 17th, 3:00 PM at Resurrection Catholic Church 4804 S. Fulton, Tulsa. Sister Helen Prejean, a 1999 nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, is a Roman Catholic nun, educator and anti-death penalty activist and author. Her book *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* was nominated for a 1993 Pulitzer Prize and made into an acclaimed movie with Susan Sarandon. Fifteen years since beginning her crusade, the Roman Catholic sister has witnessed five executions in Louisiana. As the founder of "Survive", a victim's advocacy group in New Orleans, she continues to counsel not only inmates on death row, but also

families of murder victims. Her most recent book is *The Death of Innocence: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*.

Sister Helen began her prison ministry in 1981 when she dedicated her life to the poor of New Orleans. While living in the St. Thomas housing project, she became pen pals with Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer of two teenagers, sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison.

Upon Sonnier's request, Sister Helen repeatedly visited him as his spiritual advisor. In doing so, her eyes were opened to the Louisiana execution process. Sister Helen turned her experiences into a book that not only made the 1994 American Library Associates Notable Book List, it was also nominated for a 1993 Pulitzer Prize. *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* was number one on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks. It also was an international best seller and has been translated into ten different languages.

In January 1996, the book was developed into a major motion picture starring Susan Sarandon as Sister Helen and Sean Penn as a death row inmate. Produced by Polygram Pictures, the film was directed and written by Tim Robbins. The movie received four Oscar nominations including Tim Robbins for Best Director, Sean Penn for Best Actor, Susan Sarandon for Best Actress, and Bruce Springsteen's "Dead Man Walking" for Best Song. Susan Sarandon won the award for Best Actress.

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The Epiphany Group is 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.

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