



MaryAnn Kinyon, S.D.S.

<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>August 9, 1939</i>
<i>Date of Commitment</i>	<i>September 7, 2003</i>
<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>June 26, 2006</i>

MaryAnn Gilson Kinyon was born August 9, 1939 in Sacramento, California. She was the third of seven children born to Carl and Josephine (Brady) Gilson. On her paternal side MaryAnn's roots in the Sacramento area go back four generations to the Gold Rush era. She is named after her grandmother and her great aunt, MaryAnn Egan, was one of six sisters and several brothers who came to California from Ireland to find a better life. MaryAnn Egan found a position as a nanny to Leland Stanford, Jr. which allowed her to fund the passage of the other sisters to California. MaryAnn Egan also converted Mrs. Stanford to be a Catholic, resulting in the donation of the Stanford family home to the church for use as a children's home. MaryAnn Kinyon's maternal grandfather was manager of St. Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento. Her maternal aunt, Sister Rita Bernard (Auntie Mikey), was a sister in the Holy Cross Order. Several of her distant cousins were priests in the Holy Cross Order.

MaryAnn's family of nine lived in a small two bedroom house in East Sacramento. Her father was an internal auditor for the State of California and spent several weeks on the road each year. Family life centered on church, school activities, Sunday drives, vacations to the ocean and Camp Sacramento. Her father raised a large garden and also kept a flock of chickens to provide eggs and meat. Because funds were limited, MaryAnn learned to sew at an early age and made many of her clothes on her maternal grandmother's treadle sewing machine. MaryAnn attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Saint Francis High School which was relocated to the Christian Brothers campus during her Junior and Senior years. After graduation from high school, MaryAnn became a postulate and later a novice in the Order of the Holy Cross Order of nuns at St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. Prior to MaryAnn taking her final vows, her mother became seriously ill. At the request of her father, she returned to Sacramento to help care for her mother and her younger brothers and sisters. When her mother began to get better, she enrolled in Sacramento State College and began studies to become a Social Worker. While attending college, she also worked for the Sisters of Social Welfare as a tutor for girls at the Stanford Home for Girls. After graduation from Sacramento State College she attended the University of California Berkeley and then joined the Sacramento Social Welfare Department. At the welfare department she was a foster home worker, monitoring the placement and care of foster children. She also helped establish an auxiliary group to provide guidance and support to the girls at Stanford Home.

In 1965 MaryAnn met Kendall Kinyon and married him on January 2, 1966. Three children were born of that marriage: Joseph, David and Carol. Shortly after the marriage MaryAnn's brother, Michael, was killed in action in Vietnam. Within a relatively short time after her brother's death, her mother and father each became ill and died. She then assumed the task of raising her 13 year old brother, David. During this time MaryAnn stayed home to care for the family. After her brother David graduated from high school, the family moved to Orangevale, California and MaryAnn enrolled in an experimental one year program at Sacramento State University to become an elementary school teacher. After obtaining her license as a teacher, MaryAnn secured a job as a pre-school teacher in the San Juan Unified School District. After several years of teaching pre-school, MaryAnn, returned to school at nights and through a local Sacramento extension program offered

the University of San Francisco, obtained a degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. After being licensed as a Marriage and Family Counselor by the State of California, she was employed as a grade school counselor in some of the poorer schools in the San Juan school district. She worked at this job for several years and also worked with other counselors in the district to train and mentor intern students from Sacramento State College. She was very proud of holiday food basket, clothes closet, and shoe programs she administered for children attending her schools. MaryAnn also operated a limited private marriage and family counseling practice. When the San Juan School District fell upon hard economic times, most elementary school counseling positions were eliminated. MaryAnn then returned to teaching where she taught immigrant children with language problems until they could be merged into the regular school system. This was shortly after the mass migration of people from Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. Many times she would have children with up to 10 to 15 different foreign languages in her class.

During the time MaryAnn was a school counselor and teaching, two of her younger brothers were diagnosed as having a rare lung disease. One of the brothers was David, who MaryAnn had raised after her parents death. Both brothers were placed into an experimental lung transplant program offered by Stanford University. One brother passed away while awaiting a donor lung, the other, David, received one of the first lung transplants in the United States and became a poster child for the Stanford transplant program. Although the lung transplant was a success, David suffered many side effects from the anti-rejection medications. He eventually died from the effects of the medications. Shortly after her brother's death, MaryAnn was diagnosed as having the same lung disease. She enrolled in an experimental drug program at the University of Washington in Seattle and initially appeared to show positive effects from the treatment. Because of her ill health she was placed on terminal leave by her employer. MaryAnn then began to attend daily morning mass at Divine Savior. She also became active in delivering communion to those unable to attend church, providing grief counseling, and facilitating programs for those returning to the church.

In 1997 it became evident that the experimental drug program was not working and MaryAnn was placed on the list for a lung transplant at the University of California, San Francisco. After more than a 9 month wait for a donor lung, and several false trips to San Francisco, it appeared that she would die before receiving a lung. Then in April of 1998 a donor match was found and she received a single lung transplant. This was just the beginning. In the years after her brother's death, great strides had been made in administering anti-rejection medications, however many problems still remained. After leaving the hospital MaryAnn showed positive signs for recovery and became active again in her church activities. She did suffer some setbacks, including osteoporosis, which resulted in severe back pain and a loss in height of about 5 inches. The medical setbacks were followed by the death of her college age daughter, Carol, from a rare form of leukemia.

During these trying times, MaryAnn formed a special bond with members of the parish who were Lay Salvatorians. Under the sponsorship of Henry and Gladys Gonsalves, MaryAnn embarked upon a program to become a Lay Salvatorian. This program resulted in her eventual acceptance into the Society and continuing her mission of counseling those suffering grief from the loss of a loved one or the dissolution of a marriage. She truly believed that because of her own past experiences, faith, and training, she was equipped to nurture others through their times of despair. The Lay Salvatorians were a perfect fit for MaryAnn. Almost 10 years after her lung transplant, MaryAnn succumbed to the long term effects of the anti-rejection drugs and went to meet her Lord on June 26, 2006.