

MaryAlice Byars

Obituary

MaryAlice Byars, 79

MaryAlice Byars, of Rialto, passed away January 22, 2018, in Ontario, CA. She loved the Lord, her children, her friends, and her dogs/cats; the precise order can be debated. She had her hair done every single week and made sure each of her children joined Scouting and attended Mass.

The funeral Mass will be at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Rialto on February 7, 2018, at 10 a.m., on what would have been her 80th birthday. MaryAlice would encourage you to wear bright colors.

MaryAlice was born in Chicago, Ill on February 7, 1938, the only child of John and Alice Shaughnessy. The couple had traveled to the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre in Quebec, Canada, where Alice prayed for the miracle of a child and promised to name her Mary.

The family moved to Barstow in 1946. They lived in a dusty village of pre-fab houses called Victory Homes. After graduating from Barstow High School in 1956, MaryAlice worked as a clerk typist at the Marine Corps Logistics Base and later at the Ft. Irwin Army Base. She married John Byars in 1958. The couple had four children and divorced in 1968.

MaryAlice worked as a nurse's aide at San Bernardino Community Hospital for 32 years. She helped to unionize the hospital's workers by picketing and participating in a sit-in organized by United Healthcare Workers West. After retiring, she volunteered with the Hospital Auxiliary.

MaryAlice was a 50-year parishioner at St. Catherine's, where she enthusiastically participated in choir, making "a joyful noise unto the Lord." She was an Eucharistic Minister, lead a Holy Spirit prayer group, and participated in the Fellowship of Catholic Christian Women.

MaryAlice is survived by her four children, Dennis Byars of Bend, OR, Christopher Byars of Rialto, Paul Byars of Wichita Falls, TX, and Patricia Byars Cisneros of Riverside, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the San Bernardino Pregnancy & Family Resource Center www.pregnancyfamily.org.

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