

Longtime Arkansas Catholic freelancer dies in Harrison

written by Special to Arkansas Catholic |

Patricia Ann May, freelance writer for *Arkansas Catholic* for 11 years who attended St. Raphael Church in Springdale, died Sept. 2 in Harrison. She was 55.

She was born Nov. 11, 1957, in Fayetteville, the daughter of William Richard and Ann May of Harrison.

She was a 1976 graduate of Harrison High School and a 1980 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree in journalism. In 1988 she earned a master's degree from Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

She was a category manager and market analyst for Church and Dwight Co. She had previously worked as a market analyst in the Walmart vendor community for Procter and Gamble, Clorox Company and AC Nielsen. Before her business career, May was a journalist who served as an editor and reporter for several publications. She was a reporter for *The Springdale News* and the *Northwest Arkansas Times* in the 1980s. While she pursued her graduate studies at Northwestern, she was a reporter for *American Banker* in Chicago and Washington. Upon returning to Arkansas, she was a business reporter for the *Arkansas Gazette* in Little Rock and Fayetteville and *The Morning News* in Springdale. She was also executive editor of the *Northwest Arkansas Business Journal*. During her years working in the Walmart vendor community, she continued freelance writing for *Arkansas Catholic*.

May routinely covered Catholic parish and school events in Fayetteville, Springdale and Tontitown. Her last story in *Arkansas Catholic* appeared in March on parenting coach Marti Genge. She took a leave of absence in the spring when she became ill.

She is survived by her parents; and two brothers, Bill May of Bentonville and Robert May of Chonburi, Thailand.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6 at Holt Memorial Chapel in Harrison. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 at Mary Mother of God Catholic Church in Harrison. Father Jim Fanrak will officiate. A rosary will be prayed at 9:30 a.m. before the Mass. Burial will be in the Mary Mother of God Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Hills, 501 E. Sherman, Harrison, AR 72601.