

Cynthia L. Rellihan, 55; founded Mother of God Ministries

BY KIMBERLY RATLIFF
Of the Post-Dispatch

Cynthia L. "Cindy" (Haake) Rellihan, founder of Mother of God Ministries, died of a heart attack Dec. 8, 2003, during a car accident near Arnold, Mo. She was 55 and lived in Centreville.

Mrs. Rellihan was born in Joliet, Ill., to John and Zita Haake. She attended St. Francis Academy in Joliet and received an associate's degree from Joliet Junior College.

After her divorce from Henry Martin in 1993, Mrs. Rellihan re-

ceived her declaration of nullity from the church. She met James Rellihan of Belleville in 1994, and the couple married in 2002.

Mrs. Rellihan started Mother of God Ministries in Joliet in 1993. Two years later, the ministry of prayer moved to Mary's Little House in Centreville. She operated the ministry until her death.

"We could not stop Cindy from working, and she worked tirelessly in the church," said her husband, James Rellihan. "Cindy was a woman of integrity and a real woman of prayer. She loved all of us and always spoke the

truth."

Mrs. Rellihan was a Eucharist minister at St. Vincent Catholic Parish in St. Louis and a co-worker for the Missionaries of Charity, an order started in Calcutta by Mother Teresa that helps provide meals to women in St. Louis.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Rellihan is survived by two

sons, Scott Martin of Chicago and Patrick Martin of Florida.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at St. Vincent Catholic Parish. Burial was in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Belleville. Memorials may be made to the Mother of God Ministries, 136 South 88th Street, Centreville, Ill., 62207.