

BIOGRAPHY: LONG VERSION-2500 Words

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Dr. MaryAnn Diorio is the wife of Dominic A. Diorio, MD, a retired Emergency Room physician. Dom and MaryAnn have been married for 52 years and are the blessed parents of two amazing adult daughters, Lia Diorio Gerken, PhD, and Gina L. Diorio, M.A.; parents-in-law to two fantastic sons-in-law, Peter Gerken, M.S. and Colonel Tito Pope; and grandparents to seven wonderful grandchildren. Theirs is a closely knit family who enjoy spending time with one another over a good cup of coffee or a delicious Italian meal, usually cooked by Dom, a master chef.

When not writing, MaryAnn loves to read, paint, play the piano and cello, and spend time with her family. She intensely loves people and has a life coaching practice to help her clients find their true purpose in life.

Dr. MaryAnn, as she is affectionately called, is a widely published, multi-award-winning author who writes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry for both adults and children. Her work has appeared in over 100 national magazines, newspapers, and journals, including *The Saturday Evening Post*, Billy Graham's *Decision Magazine*, *The Press of Atlantic City*, and *Human Events*. She has also served as head writer for a regional television series entitled *Teen Machine*.

MaryAnn's writing is based not on opinion, interpretation, or cultural consensus, but on Scriptural truth. At all times, she remains faithful to Biblical principles. For more information, visit the following pages:

- [Dr. MaryAnn Diorio, Children's Author](#)
- [Dr. MaryAnn Diorio, Fiction Author](#)
- [Dr. MaryAnn Diorio, Non-Fiction Author](#)
- [Dr. MaryAnn Diorio, Poet](#)

In 1979, Dr. MaryAnn accepted God's call on her life to become a writer. For several years, her popular syndicated column, *Winning with the Word*, appeared in newspapers throughout the state of New Jersey. She was also a contributor to the AMY Foundation's Internet Syndicate via its national column, *Real Answers*, that was published in newspapers throughout the United States.

Dr. MaryAnn has authored the following books:

- *Dixie Randolph and the Secret of Seabury Beach* (TopNotch Press, 2022)
- *A Writer's Devotional* (TopNotch Press, 2022)
- *The ABCs of TopNotch Writing* (TopNotch Press, 2022)
- *Self-Image and the Writer* (TopNotch Press, 2022)
- *Penelope Pumpernickel: Mystery Maven* (TopNotch Press, 2022)
- *Miracle in Milan* (TopNotch Press, 2021)
- *Penelope Pumpernickel: Dynamic Detective* (TopNotch Press, 2021)
- *The Iron Saint* (TopNotch Press, 2021)

- *Poems for All Seasons* (TopNotch Press, 2020)
- *Penelope Pumpnickel: Precocious Problem-Solver* (TopNotch Press, 2020)
- *In Black and White* (TopNotch Press, 2019)
- *Poems for Wee Ones* (TopNotch Press, 2018)
- *God Speaks to Me* (TopNotch Press, 2017)
- [*Return to Bella Terra*](#) (TopNotch Press, 2017)
- *A Sicilian Farewell* (TopNotch Press, 2016)
- [*The Madonna of Pisano*](#) (TopNotch Press, 2015)
- [*Toby Too Small*](#) (TopNotch Press, 2015)
- *Surrender to Love* (TopNotch Press, 2015)
- *Do Angels Ride Ponies?* (TopNotch Press, 2015)
- *Who Is Jesus?* (TopNotch Press, 2014)
- *A Christmas Homecoming* (Harbourlight Books, 2012)
- *You Were Made for Greatness* (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2012).
- *Magnolia Memories* (TopNotch Press, 2012)
- [*A Student's Guide to Mark Twain*](#) (Enslow Publishers, 2008)
- [*A Student's Guide to Herman Melville*](#) (Enslow Publishers, 2006)
- *A Student's Guide to Nathaniel Hawthorne*, (Enslow Publishers, 2004)
- *Selling Yourself On You: Discovering God's Will for Your Life* (Daystar Press, 1984)

She has also been a contributor to eight other books:

- [*Mastering the Art of Success*](#) (Insight Publishing, 2011).
- *The Young Generation Book of Short Stories*
- *The Heart of a Teacher* (Bethany House, 2005)
- *God Answers Moms' Prayers* (*God Allows U-Turns* series, Harvest House, 2005)
- *Rest Stops for Busy Moms* (Broadman & Holman, 2003)
- *Rest Stops for Teachers* (Broadman & Holman, 2003)
- *My Turn to Care* (Thomas Nelson, 1999)
- *Religious Writer's Marketplace* (Abingdon Press, 1993)

MaryAnn has written eight booklets:

- [*Beyond the Grave*](#) (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2015)
- [*After You're Born Again*](#) (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2015)
- *God Speaks to Me: Two-Way Conversations with God* (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2013)
- *The ABCs of TopNotch Writing* (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2012)
- [*Self-Image & the Writer*](#) (ebook, TopNotch Press, 2015)
- [*Making Your Marriage Work*](#) (TopNotch Press, 1998)
- *Balancing Your Budget God's Way* (Daystar Publishing Company, 1987)
- *Dating Etiquette for Christian Teens* (Daystar Communications Press, 1984).

MaryAnn has appeared on several radio, television, and Internet talk shows, including *The Rich Zeoli Show* on Philly talk radio 1210 AM; *Read All about It* with RadioVision program hostess Stefani Milan; the popular *Christian Authors Show* with Danielle Hampson; the nation-wide *LeSea Alive* program with the late Dr. Lester Sumrall; *By the Book* hosted by Debbie

Williams; and *Women of Grace* hosted by Kelly McCausey. She has also been interviewed on WDAS (Philadelphia), WIBG (South Jersey), and WNNN (South Jersey). Articles about her writing have appeared in *The Press of Atlantic City*, *The Daily Journal*, *The Millville News*, *The Bridgeton Evening News*, and *The Times Herald* of her hometown of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Dr. MaryAnn has served as a distinguished judge for the annual AMY Writing Awards Program, the annual Capitol Writers Writing Contest (Washington, DC area), the annual American Christian Fiction Writers' Genesis Contest., and the ACFW First Impressions Contest. She is listed in *International Who's Who*, *Who's Who in the East*, *International Authors and Writers Who's Who*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *The World Who's Who of Women*, *Who's Who in the World*, *The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*, *The National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in Finance and Business*. Most important of all, MaryAnn rejoices that she is listed in *The Lamb's Book of Life*!

Dr. MaryAnn holds several degrees:

- The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in French with a concentration in Comparative Literature from the University of Kansas;
- The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree in Christian Counseling from Christian Leadership University;
- The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in French with a concentration in Comparative Literature from the University of Kansas;
- The Master of Arts (MA) degree in Italian Language & Literature from Middlebury College and the University of Florence, Italy;
- The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Writing Popular Fiction with a concentration in Writing for Children from Seton Hill University;
- The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in French from Immaculata University;

She has also completed studies and is a diplomate of the following institutions:

- The Institute of Children's Literature: *Writing for Children & Teenagers*;
- The Highlights Foundation Workshop, *Writing the Middle-Grade Novel*;
- The RHEMA Correspondence Bible School (Three-Year Program of Study);
- Christian Leaders, Authors, & Speakers Services (CLASS);
- The Life Coach Institute (Certification in Life Coaching);
- American Association of Christian Counselors, Light University, *Caring for God's People*.

WRITING AWARDS WON

- Finalist in Romantic Suspense for *Miracle in Milan* in the 2022 Reader's Choice Awards Contest sponsored by Faith, Hope, and Love Christian Writers
- First Place in Historical Fiction for *In Black and White* in the 2020 Christian Indie Book Awards Contest

- The Silver Medal for E-Book Fiction for in the Illumination Book Awards Contest sponsored by the Jerry Jenkins Group for her novella, *A Christmas Homecoming* (2015)
- First Place in Inspirational Category for Novel, Spacecoast *Launching a Star* Contest (2011) for *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*)
- First Place in Inspirational Category for Novel for *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*) in the Colorado RWA *Heart of the Rockies* Contest (2011)
- Second Place in Historical Category for Novel for *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*) in the Romance Writers' Ink *Where the Magic Begins* Contest (2011)
- Second Place in Inspirational Category for Novel for *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*) in the East Texas RWA *Southern Heat* Contest (2009)
- Third Place in Women's Fiction for *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*) in the American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) Genesis Contest (2006)
- Second Place for Novel, *The Madonna of Pisano* (formerly titled *Sicilian Sunrise*) in the St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference Contest (1992)
- Honorable Mention for radio script, TAKE ONE Radio Theatre (1990)
- Top 100 Short Stories ranking for "The Birthmark", Writers' Digest Short Story Contest (1990)
- Fifth Place, National Writers' Club Short Story Contest for "The Birthmark" (1990)
- Third Place for "From Feminism to Freedom," AMY Writing Awards, (1990)
- Poetry Award for "The Beauty of Stars," National High School Poetry Association Contest (1960)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. MaryAnn has taught Italian at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas); French at Pitman High School (Pitman, New Jersey); Italian and French at Cumberland County College (Vineland, New Jersey); English, French, Spanish, and Creative Writing at the Fairton Christian Center Academy (Fairton, New Jersey); and Writing for Children and Public Speaking at Rowan University (Glassboro, New Jersey). She also served as Assistant Professor of Italian and Spanish at Camden County College (Blackwood, New Jersey); Adjunct Professor of Biblical Business Principles at New Life Bible College (Millville, New Jersey); Adjunct Professor of Writing at Nottingham-Trent University (United Kingdom); and Adjunct Online Professor of French and Fiction Writing at Regent University (Virginia Beach, Virginia).

MaryAnn has served on the faculty of several writers' conferences, including the *Philadelphia Writers' Conference*, the *St. Davids Christian Writers Conference*, the *Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers' Conference*, the *Sandy Cove Christian Writers' Conference*, and *The New Jersey Society of Christian Writers' Seminar*.

In 1984, MaryAnn founded Daystar Communications, later known as Daystar Ministries International. She ran this ministry until 2005, at which point it was incorporated into MaryAnn's writing business. In 2011, she changed the name to MaryAnn Diorio Ministries and, subsequently, to its current name of MaryAnn Diorio Enterprises, LLC.

MaryAnn is also a Certified Life Coach, a Certified Behavioral Consultant, and a Certified Biblical Counselor as well as a gifted Bible teacher whose heart's desire is to help people become all that God created them to be. She publishes a weekly blog and podcast titled *Winning with the Word* that reaches 71 countries throughout the world.

Dr. MaryAnn is a member in good standing of the following organizations:

- [*American Christian Fiction Writers \(ACFW\)*](#)
- [*Association of Independent Authors*](#)
- *The Christian Coaches Network*
- *Transformational Fiction Authors*

FORMAL EDUCATION:

Dr. MaryAnn holds several degrees and certifications:

- The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in French with a concentration in Comparative Literature from the University of Kansas;
- The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree in Christian Counseling from Christian Leadership University;
- The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in French with a concentration in Comparative Literature from the University of Kansas;
- The Master of Arts (MA) degree in Italian Language & Literature from Middlebury College and the University of Florence, Italy;
- The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Writing Popular Fiction with a concentration in Writing for Children from Seton Hill University;
- The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in French from Immaculata University;

She has also completed studies and is a diplomate of the following institutions:

- The Institute of Children's Literature: *Writing for Children & Teenagers*;
- The Highlights Foundation Workshop, *Writing the Middle-Grade Novel*;
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- Christian Leaders, Authors, & Speakers Services (CLASS);
- The Life Coach Institute (Certification in Life Coaching);
- American Association of Christian Counselors, Light University, *Caring for God's People*.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- International Who's Who*
- Who's Who in the East*
- International Authors and Writers Who's Who*
- Dictionary of International Biography*
- The World Who's Who of Women*
- Who's Who in the World*

- International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*
- The Nationwide Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Businesses*
- Who's Who of American Women*
- Who's Who in America*
- Who's Who in Finance and Business*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. MaryAnn Diorio has taught Italian at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas); French at Pitman High School (Pitman, New Jersey); Italian and French at Cumberland County College (Vineland, New Jersey); English, French, Spanish, and Creative Writing at the Fairton Christian Center Academy (Fairton, New Jersey); and Writing for Children and Public Speaking at Rowan University (Glassboro, New Jersey). She also served as Assistant Professor of Italian and Spanish at Camden County College (Blackwood, New Jersey); Adjunct Professor of Biblical Business Principles at New Life Bible College (Millville, New Jersey); Online Adjunct Professor of Writing at Nottingham-Trent University (United Kingdom); and Online Adjunct Professor of both French and Fiction Writing at Regent University (Virginia Beach, Virginia).

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In 1984, MaryAnn founded Daystar Communications, later known as Daystar Ministries International. She ran this ministry until 2005, at which point it was incorporated into MaryAnn's other ministries. In 2011, she changed the name to [MaryAnn Diorio Ministries](#).

MaryAnn is also a Certified Life Coach, a Certified Behavioral Consultant, and a Certified Biblical Counselor. For 12 years, she owned and operated *TopNotch Communicatiodns Group*, a multi-faceted business that included three main divisions: *TopNotch Life Coaching*, *TopNotch Writing Solutions*, and *TopNotch Translation Services*. In 2013 she closed this business to become a full-time writer of fiction.

Dr. MaryAnn is a gifted Bible teacher whose heart's desire is to help people become all that God created them to be.

Writing Classes & Workshops MaryAnn Has Taught

June 19-23, 2012

St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference

Grove City College, Grove City, PA *Writing Short Stories for Children* *Writing Non-Fiction for Children* *Writing with Pizzazz!* *Life Management for Writers*

July 21-26, 2002

Montrose Christian Writers' Conference (Montrose, PA)

Juvenile Fiction

Writing for Teens and Young Adults

Keynote: *The Christian Writer as Salt and Light*

June 21-22, 2002

Mid-Atlantic Christian Writers' Conference (Gaithersburg, MD)

Writing for Children

Life Management for Writers

June 18-23, 2000

St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference (Geneva College)

Writing for Children

Life Management for Writers

Keynote Address

November 4, 1999

Christian Writers' Club Internet Chat

Self-Image and the Writer

April 29-30, 1994

Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers' Spring Seminar

Writing for Women

October 6, 1993

Sandy Cove Christian Writers' Conference *Writing for Women*

The Christian Writer As Salt and Light **October 31, 1992**

The New Jersey Society of Christian Writers' Seminar

Breaking into the Secular Market

October 6, 1992

Sandy Cove Christian Writers' Conference

Writing for Women in the '90's

June 25, 1992

35th Annual St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference

Writing for the Secular Market

May 8-9, 1992

Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers' Spring Seminar

Paid Critiques

April 11, 1992

St. Davids Christian Writers' Seminar (Howell, NJ)

Keynote Address: *The Writer As Visionary*

June 8-10, 1990

42nd Annual Philadelphia Writers' Conference

Inspirational Writing (Three-day workshop)

November 16, 1989

Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Fellowship

Time Management for Writers

July 15, 1989

Fairton Christian Center Writers' Workshop

The Basics of Article Writing

March 28, 1987

Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers' Spring Seminar

The Basics of Article Writing

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

[*Advanced Writers & Speakers Association*](#)

[*American Christian Fiction Writers \(ACFW\)*](#)

[*Association of Independent Authors*](#)

[*Christian Authors Network \(CAN\)*](#)

The Christian Coaches Network

The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators

The Society of Christian Scholars

Transformation Fiction Authors

For all that God has done and continues to do in her life, MaryAnn gives Him all the praise and all the glory!

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