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Dearest Sisters,

At about 7:00 yesterday evening, one of the members of our Divine Providence community of Alba, Italy, returned to the Father as a result of kidney failure:

**FERRANTE ASSUNTA – SR. M. DANILA**  
**born in Dossobuono (Verona), Italy on 4 December 1928.**

Sr. M. Danila had just been released from the Alba hospital because nothing more could be done for her. She died upon her arrival in the community in which she had lived for almost 40 years and where she had dedicated all her time to carrying out various household services generously and joyously. Everyone in Alba was familiar with this good-hearted sister, who deeply loved the apostolate and who was always ready to help others.

She entered the Congregation in Alba on 2 Dec. 1948, made her novitiate in Rome and concluded this stage of her formation with her first profession on 19 March 1951. From that time on, she carried out the service of driver until, in 1963, she was sent to Bolivia to help open our La Paz community. This foundation was deeply desired by M. Thecla, who followed its progress with great affection and interest during the last months of her life.

Sr. M. Danila arrived in La Paz with Sr. Rosaria Aimo on 12 Nov. 1963. They stayed with the Sisters of St. Anne for about a month, lodged in a tiny room that could barely hold them. When a huge supply of books arrived from Italy and Argentina, they had nowhere to put them so they moved to the minor seminary until they could find a place of their own. Sr. Danila's years in Bolivia were characterized by hard work, poverty, countless sacrifices and above all a faith strong enough to move mountains.


The stories she told about her diffusion experiences had the flavor of the "Little Flowers of St. Francis." The sisters began to visit the indigenous villages scattered at an altitude of 4000-meters and higher, where life was simple, poor and primitive and where it had been years since anyone had come by to offer the people a little spiritual comfort. At times the two propagandists got lost and, not knowing in which direction to go, had to trust totally in divine Providence, which was never lacking. They recount that one day a huge consignment of books arrived, putting them in a very embarrassing situation because they did not have enough money to pay for unloading the packages. Someone saw the problem, came forward and promptly took care of the matter, then disappeared before the sisters had time to thank him.

In Bolivia, Sr. M. Danila crossed valleys, mountains and rivers in her jeep overflowing with books. Like St. Paul, she ran into dangers of every kind and managed to come through them unharmed, including the time she was almost swept away by a very large wave. Her apostolic enthusiasm and spirit of sacrifice enabled her overcome every obstacle. Sr. M. Danila was a very hard worker. Ignoring their fatigue, she and her companion would often remain away from home for two months at a time, visiting remote villages until they had exhausted their supply of books and had to return home for more.

Sr. M. Danila returned to Italy in 1974 and was assigned to the community of Alba, but Bolivia always remained in her heart and its people returned her great affection. She continued to think of them, to collect offerings for them and to send them "care packages." In fact, the last of these, sent shortly before her death, is still in transit.

At the Motherhouse in Alba, Sr. M. Danila continued to pour all her energies into the technical apostolate, into equipment maintenance and into the service of driver. She was always very creative and big-hearted when it came to providing services for the community—a care she also extended to the many birds and small animals that tended to collect around her.

But the Lord Jesus is never outdone in generosity and yesterday evening he called our sister to eternal peace—the peace that he alone can give: the peace of his presence and intimacy. Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 8 May 2012