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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

At 7:20 this evening, Christ the Master visited our James Alberione community, Albano, Italy to call to joy and fullness of life our sister:

**ZACCAGNINO MARIA INCORONATA – SR. MARIA DANIELA**  
**born in Sant’Ilario (Potenza, Italy) on 13 March 1927.**

In 1969, when Sr. Daniela was stationed in Perugia, she wrote her provincial superior the following words, which summarize her life very well. “I am doing fine,” she said, “and don’t have any requests to make of you. I am very happy to serve the Lord by always trying to do his will.” The entire life of this dear sister was distinguished by serenity, joy, a spirit of availability and discretion. Her goodness was well known and admired by all the sisters. She truly spent and over-spent herself in her efforts to make her sisters happy, especially in her many years of service as a cook. Her only desire was to carry out the will of her Lord in the most perfect way possible.

Born in a hamlet on the outskirts of Basilicata, Italy, Sr. M. Daniela was nourished by the profound religious spirit and the example of honesty, hard work and sacrifice to which her parents witnessed. At that time, the population of Sant’Ilario was very small so all the inhabitants knew one another and were ready to offer the others their help, especially when any of them had economic problems. The atmosphere of Sr. M. Daniela’s home was characterized by simplicity and frugality, along with a concrete and supportive love enriched by genuine faith.

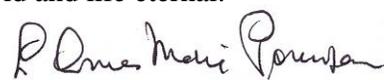
She entered the Congregation in Rome on 24 June 1948, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Sr. M. Redenta, who died in 2007. As a postulant, Sr. M. Daniela spent some time in Ancona, carrying out the itinerant apostolate, which enabled her to bring “the joy of the Gospel” to many families, schools and institutes. She made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession seventy years ago on 19 March 1951. Following this, she immediately began her long *curriculum* as a cook, interrupted only by short period of apostolic experience in Perugia. But Sr. M. Daniela was profoundly convinced that she was a Pauline apostle to the full, even when she stood behind the stove, maneuvered huge cooking pots or cleaned mountains of vegetables. The kitchen was truly the privileged place from which she offered her life for the work of evangelization. Rome (Via Antonino Pio), Naples (Capodimonte), Genoa, and once again Rome (Castro Pretorio) were the communities graced by her outstanding care, spirit of availability and kindness.

She was a person who was able to anticipate the needs of every sister and hastened to fulfill them, spreading joy and peace everywhere. She was an attentive and tactful person who radiated a positive attitude, love and welcome to everyone around her. The same words used to describe her sister, Sr. Redenta, can be repeated today to describe Sr. Daniela because she too has left us with the memory of an industriousness permeated with kindness, boundless generosity, and rock-solid faith. Her goodness was enriched by great serenity and the wisdom that the Lord pours out on his “little ones,” who place all their trust in him.

In 2008, the onset of Alzheimer’s disease made it advisable to reassign Sr. Daniela to the Thecla Merlo community, Albano. Eight years later, her condition had worsened to the point that she was transferred to the James Alberione community in the same town. In the last few years of her life, she was unable to speak and found it very hard to swallow. Her sole means of communication was her habitual, radiant smile, by means of which she expressed her joy at belonging to the Lord like a child in the hands of her Father. Sr. M. Daniela’s life was a concretization of the “little ones” spoken about in the Gospel—the small and humble who, having lowered themselves, are then raised up to receive the hundredfold and life eternal.

Affectionately,

Rome, 17 August 2021

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan