



2015

Sister Danile (Mary Daniel) Vaneecke, OP
Born to earthly life: August 29, 1932
Religious profession: August 15, 1952
Entered eternal life: April 14, 2017

*“There are different kinds of gifts
but the same spirit . . . :
to some the gift of healing.”*

1 Cor 12

Ministering as a nurse for nearly fifty years, Sister Danile Vaneecke was known for her kindness and compassion. “We are most grateful for her loving, cheerful, and joyful, caring spirit that she shared with so many,” Sister Agnes Johnson reflected in welcoming sisters, family, and friends to Danile’s funeral. “She had a natural knack of caring for others and found it life-giving both to herself and to those she cared for.”

Sister Danile not only provided gentle, expert care to her patients; she also forged relationships of love and trust

with their families, friends, and associates. She devoted almost twenty years to providing private duty in-home nursing care because she firmly believed in keeping patients at home as long as



First Communion



1947



About 1935

possible, in the comfort of familiar surroundings and with easy access to friends and family.

Isabelle Marie, born in Detroit on August 29, 1932, was the youngest of Lucie Callewaert’s and Firmin Vaneecke’s five children. She came to know the Racine Dominicans in her home parish, Nativity of Our Lord. At the age



Aspirant Isabelle with Rose Marie Anthony

of sixteen she decided to join the community, planning to do so in mid-January 1949. Her oldest sister's wedding was to be on January 29, however, and she wanted Isabelle to be a bridesmaid; so Isabelle stayed for the celebration.

Two days later she left for Racine. Her mother accompanied her and stayed for three days. That way, Isabelle thought, if she did not like the convent, she could go back home with her mother! She did like it, however, and the next year was received into the community as Sister Mary Daniel of Our Lady of

Fatima. She pronounced her first vows on August 15, 1952. (In 1968 she would assume a feminine form of her religious name and become known as Sister Danile.)



About 1950



Postulant, 1950



Reception Day, August 17, 1950



Danile and her parents on Reception Day



Tending to a patient in the emergency room, Osmond

That same month, she began her professional life as a practical nurse at Villa Saint Anne, a home for elderly women managed by the Racine Dominicans in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. A willing and eager student, she learned on the job. Her more formal training would not begin until a decade later, when she attended Kenosha Technical Institute (now Gateway), graduating in 1964 as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She later called that course work “one of the greatest joys” of her life.

In the summer of 1954, Sister Mary Daniel was transferred to Our Lady of the Oaks in Pewaukee to assist with the care of the community’s infirm sisters. Later that same year the community assumed charge of a small hospital in Osmond, Nebraska, and she served there from 1955 through August 1957, at which point she was assigned once more to Villa Saint Anne.

She spent the summer of 1958 at the motherhouse, preparing for and celebrating her final profession, and was then assigned again to Our Lady of the Oaks. The 1960 to 1962 terms found her back in Osmond. In the fall of 1962 she moved again to Pewaukee. Assignments followed at the motherhouse (1964 to 1965), Villa Saint Anne (1965 to 1967), and OLO (1967 to 1977).



The final profession class, 1958

In 1977, when OLO was about to close, she requested and received permission to move to Detroit to care for her aged and ailing parents. The next eight years would be among the most cherished experiences in her nursing ministry, and her siblings and other family members were grateful to her for the loving care she gave and to the community for allowing her the time to do so. Family remained important to her throughout her life, and nieces and nephews found in her a kind, supportive aunt and friend. After her father's death in 1982, she returned to Our Lady of the Oaks for two years and then, in 1984, began to apply her skills to home nursing in the Detroit area.

In 2009 her own declining health dictated her return to Racine, her special shamrock plant in tow. As her illness progressed, others would tend the shamrock.

Danile was able to live at Siena Center for about a year before her needs necessitated a move — first to Golden Living Center in Kenosha (March to July 2010), then to Kenosha's Harbor House (July to October 2010), then to Kenosha Estates Living and Care Center (October 2010 to March 2017), and finally to Lakeshore Manor in Racine.

At the beginning of Holy Week in 2017, Danile's condition declined markedly. On Wednesday of that week a number of



About 1975



With Sisters Kateri Byrne and Jane Frances Steffens at OLO, about 1958

sisters gathered at her bedside to sing the *Salve Regina*, and on Good Friday morning, about nine o'clock, she slipped quietly into eternity. She was eighty-four years old. Besides her parents, her brother Joseph and her sister Marie had preceded her in death. Her survivors

included her brother A. Dave and her sister Godeliene Rummel as well as many nieces and nephews and cousins. She was also survived by seven classmates: Sisters Rose Marie Anthony, Kathleen Bohn, Mary Ann Pohl, Barbara Fisher, Alice Pittz, Alice McCormick, and Jean Ackerman.

Danile's funeral liturgy was celebrated at Siena Center on the morning of April 21, with Father Ed Cook presiding and Sister Jean Ackerman preaching the homily. Her treasured shamrock adorned the altar. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Caledonia.



About 1990



Detroit: About 1995, with Sisters Dolores Chartrand and Carolyn Leffler



Silver Jubilee, 1977

**Back: Sisters Danile Vaneecke, Barbara Fisher, Alice Pittz, Jean Ackerman, Mary Ann Pohl, Kathleen Bohn;
Front: Sisters Helene Heuser, Alice McCormick, Mary Scherer, Rose Marie Anthony**