



Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

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From: Brian C. Blasco

Director of Communications and Archivist - Assistant Coordinator of Community Life

Date: April 10, 2025

RE: Sister Augustina Quartmann, OSF

Birth	April 12, 1844, in Vestrup, Germany and named Gertrud
Parents	Herman and Gertrud (Busche) Quartmann
Entered HSOSF	June 17, 1869
Profession of First Vows	August 12, 1871
Missionary to the USA	October 1875

Assignments

Litchfield, IL	St. Francis Hospital	November 13, 1875
Decatur, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1879
Aviston, IL	Sacred Heart of Jesus Hospital	1882
Peru, IN	St. Ann's Wabash Railroad Hospital	1886
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1889
Highland, IL	St. Joseph's Hospital	1895
Litchfield, IL	St. Francis Hospital	1903
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1904

Entered Eternal Life

January 14, 1908, and buried in Calvary Cemetery (Springfield, IL)

Litchfield, November 22, 1875

P.B.J.Chr.

Most dearly loved Reverend Mother!

A rather long time had passed since, according to Mother Superior's wishes, I left Germany. During this time I was comforted by the thought that I did not travel on my own volition. Obedience makes everything possible. Never before had I trusted Jesus and Mary as much as when we were on the ship. Even during the most violent storms, when one easily could have lost all courage, I was quite calm, that I trustingly asked: "Lord, if it is your Will you can save us, or if we should die, then it was your Will."

The first days it was very hard to think that perhaps I should never see or talk to Mother Superior again and also that I should not see again the dear Motherhouse where I received numerous blessings.

Tears were frequently shed when I was alone, but I have not been homesick. We have no time for that. We are about to learn English and it is very difficult for me. I think it is easier for the others. Frequently the people like to talk to us but we cannot understand each other. We have to clean a lot at first because the house is very dirty but it is quiet since we are all alone something we had desired so often. Reverend Mother permit me to unburden myself in writing.

The first four weeks I did not observe the Rule. The daily prayers we have as well as possible prayed together. The irregular on the trip I have all done - everything what I could only see. The mortifying of the flesh ceased totally for me, because I ate what I desired. I dropped this habit the last week.

I am fighting a hard battle about the judging of others, but in petty matter I have all kind of thoughts. Immediately I know that it is wrong of me and still I cannot get rid of it. Even while praying in the church I am confused and struggle with

Litchfield, November 22, 1875
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these thoughts. Mainly about the discussion and the consideration of the facilities. Sometimes I thought it impossible that I could go on. Because of my pride I failed. At times it was too hard for me to get rid of it.

Then I surrendered to Mary's Sacrifice - Mary and I prayed, and through the seven pains which she endured, she might rescue me from my distress and that really helped. I am quite calm and it lightened my burden.

I don't want to be guilty in judging the other Sisters again, but will endeavor to be humble. I plead innocently in spirit again and ask for your forgiveness. From now on I will try to be only of joy to you.

Otherwise I am fine. Only one day I was not well on the ship but did not stay in bed for that. I was able to help take care of the others who were sick. The first two weeks I ate almost nothing, everything was so distasteful to me.

Thank God I have regained my appetite. I have been so forgetful and left the salve, which Sister Agnes prepared for me, on the ship. I am sorry.

May I ask, if there is a chance, some might be sent to me.

In the heart of Jesus and Mary I remain with love and gratitude

your most obedient child
Schwester Augustine

und gutes Dinstagmorgen. Ich will ab und zu
hin und her gehen und dann das zu machen.
Das habe ich mir schon oft gesagt. Ich habe
dabei schon viel gemacht, aber ich bin noch
nicht fertig. Ich will es bald machen.
Ich will es bald machen. Ich will es bald machen.

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SR. AUGUSTINE

"Mary—our comfort and our hope—

"O, may that word be given

"To be the last we sing on earth—

"To be the first we sing in heaven."

At the age of twenty-five Gertrude Quartmann of Vestrup joined the Sisterhood at St. Mauritz as a Postulant ~~June 17,~~^{July} 1869, and received the habit of a Franciscan Sister Aug. 12, 1871. She became one of the celebrated band in 1875, working ever since with might and main for the propaganda of the American Branch for upwards of thirty-two years till January 14, 1908 when the tired and worn-out body sank to its last repose and the unfettered spirit jubilantly soared upward to the Great White Throne, there to share the heavenly crown with those ten pioneer sisters who thus far had preceeded her in death. Sister Augustine acted as superioress at Aviston and later becoming a valuable aid in the laundry of the motherhouse. She was an ever devoted client of the Blessed Virgin Mary. R. I. P.

