



## 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 Basilia Menting, OSF

Birth	November 1, 1839, in Raesfeld, Germany, and named Julia
Parents	Albert and Maria Anna (Terhart) Menting
Entered HSOSF	May 16, 1868
Profession of First Vows	July 23, 1870
Missionary to the USA	October 1875 at age 36

### Assignments

Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	November 11, 1875
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1876 Superior/Administrator
St. Marie, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1880
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1890
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1890
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1890
Chippewa Falls, WI	St. Joseph's Hospital	1892
Effingham, IL	St. Anthony's Hospital	1901
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1901

### Entered Eternal Life

February 25, 1918, and buried in Crucifixion Hill Cemetery (Springfield, IL)



Dear Reverend Mother,

Since our last farewell from each other on October 11, some events have occurred for us and joy and pain were for . . . . . In former times I would have never believed it, that we would write a letter from America to Germany, but it has really happened. About the voyage . . . . . received. What emotions I often experience, I cannot describe to you. We all were prepared to die on the boat, and when we arrived in New York harbor and saw how the Sisters so friendly beckoned us to come to them, our spirits were much uplifted. They took us by carriage to the convent where we found everything imaginable for our refreshment prepared. It seemed to me so wonderful, especially the love, friendliness, and kindness of the Sisters, that I could not help thinking how we must feel, if after this stormy time, we would be welcomed to Heaven. I have seen only the goodness of the Sisters, nothing bad and all virtues together united. They said also, that in America all their Sisters would die peacefully. Altogether, I have to admire the friendliness of the people, even the Captain and the Mate came to us on the train in the evening, when we were already in the coach, to say their farewells, and the Captain, although not catholic, asked every Sister to pray for him. And then the warm and kindhearted reception which the Most Reverend Bishop in Alton prepared for us, and of which you, Reverend Mother, were informed already. After we received on November 17<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion in the Most Reverend Bishop's house chapel, we started our trip to our destined field of activity. Here, at the train station, Pastor . . . . . our local director, most heartily welcomed us. It is this gentleman, so very lean and reverend, who gave one the impression to have had a vision of the hereafter. Together we had dinner and he also offered us of his self produced wine. After we then had greeted the Savior in the church, we were taken to the Ursuline

Convent, where we still are. Again, we are here so very welcome and see so . . . . . The Mother Superior always tries to be helpful to us and very much wants us to be happy. We are eating in the refectory with the Sisters and may go anywhere in the house. We have here a splendid opportunity to learn English, the Sisters give us daily 3 - 4 hrs. lessons and, usually we attend class for one hour. The rest of the time we already prepare things for our house. Already we feel here very much at home as . . . . . Motherhouse. It would be very desirable that there and everywhere the Sisters would be as friendly and virtuous. The letter would be too long, and not sufficient paper, if I would want to talk about the kindnesses which the Sisters receive; . . . . . could we only show them . . . . . Daily we experience how kind-hearted the people here are. The young men give us two Dollars, the young girls make bed covers and five old German women were here who wanted to help furnish the house with utensils. The city is very large, 25 - 30,000 inhabitants, approximately like St. . . . ., of which are only two catholic, one German, one English. The language is mostly English. When we are in our house, two young orphans will teach us English. Indeed it is difficult, but not impossible to learn. We already know to pray the creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ave Maria by heart in English. When we arrived the English church had retreat and next Sunday it will start in German. Hopefully we shall participate. Finally, I wish you, Reverend Mother, the most heartfelt Christmas Joys and a Blissful New Year. and the very same to our Sisters in Germany. Write soon how you are.

. . . . .

Your Spiritual Daughter  
Sister Basilica

Springfield, November 25, 1875





[illegible]









*[The handwriting is extremely faded and illegible throughout.]*



## SR. BASILIA

*"Beyond life's stormy seas of woe*

*"There is a happy shore.*

*"Where tears of sorrow never flow*

*"And trials are no more."*

In duty simply accepted and simply performed, one finds happiness. And there is little beside duty in which happiness is found. Of this truth our Sister Basilia was thoroughly convinced, hence her whole long life was lived in accordance with it. She strictly lived up to Motto: "Duty first," all her actions were chrystallized by it, nothing seemed difficult and insuperable when performed under the aegis and in the name of duty. A sister's first and most important virtue to acquire is obedience to duty submissiveness to authority. Sr. Basilia had acquired this virtue, all her actions were guided thereby, thus setting a luminous example unto others; in this she excelled. The roster of the first twenty of '75 contains the name of Sr. Basilia. (Julia Meunting of Raesfeld, born on All Saints Day 1839.) Following her inner voice which for years had loudly spoken to her Julia presented herself to the Mother Superior, May 16, 1868, earnestly petitioning that motherly Mother for the privilege of being admitted a Postulant. It was granted. From July '69 to July '70 she passes as Novice a year of rigorous study and self-examination at the end of which she takes the vows as Sr. Basilia. In Aug. '72 and Oct. '74 she reaffirms her holy resolutions. Not found wanting in anything that constitutes a good Religious and giving evidence of an active and zealous future life, she is assigned the following fall to the band of our valiant "20". The untold good performed by Sr. Basilia during her eventful long career as Franciscan Hospital Sister has been penciled by the Recording Angel upon the pages of the Book of Life. She peacefully expired April 22, 1918. May she rest in Peace!

Feb 25, 1918

