



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 Fridolina Pieper, OSF

Birth	January 5, 1844, in Telgte, Germany and named Catharina
Parents	Joseph and Elisabeth (Schemmel) Pieper
Entered HSOSF	October 3, 1868
Profession of First Vows	February 26, 1871
Missionary to the USA	October 1875 at age 31

Assignments

Litchfield, IL	St. Francis Hospital	November 13, 1875	Superior/Administrator
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1878	
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1879	
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1901	
Green Bay, WI	St. Vincent Hospital	1901	
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1906	Superior/Administrator
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1911	

Entered Eternal Life

March 27, 1930, and buried in Crucifixion Hill Cemetery (Springfield, IL)

Litchfield, October 19, 1876

Dear Reverend Mother!

For a long time we have waited for a letter from you; we still believed we would receive a few lines from you. For that reason we hesitated to write at the beginning and later we had so much work that we had no time to write. We are quite well off. Thank God we three are healthy and have work in abundance. This summer we had work for four Sisters. There were so many people sick with dysentery here and also several with rheumatic fever.

The beginning was rather limited and poor but we have made progress. We have bought a house with a large yard across from the church. The house fits us quite well and we received it at half price. There is room for ten patients and four Sisters and later we can add to it on both sides. For a long time we waited for help from Germany, but as I hear from Springfield none can be expected. That is very bad! In the house we already had several sick people and there is always a lot of work in the community. The people need the Sisters very much. Beginning of November we move into our new house. It is being repaired and painted and around the yard we have a high lath fence so everything will look very nice.

Father Cluse takes care of us like a good father. For three and a half days I went around collecting and next week we have to go again, so that we can pay for our house. The dear Lord speaks well for us. A short time ago we took care of a miller. He wants to give us flour from the best wheat - as much as we need for a year. Groceries we have always enough. If only more Sisters could come to us. I have almost nearly forgotten Germany; one hardly has time to think much about it. The dear Lord no doubt wants it this way so that we don't get homesick, and I have not had it yet.

A short time ago the Most Reverend Bishop has visited us and he was delighted that we were doing so well. Reverend Mother from Springfield has until now not visited us; she is so busy that

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she cannot get away. Often we exclaim as the blessed Most Reverend Dr. Salzmänn did, whose biography we recently read and who also arrived here from Germany: "My battlefield is America and here I want to die" - and I would give Germany for the heavenly kingdom. We know heaven is worth everything and no sacrifice shall be too much for me, who knows how long it will take.

The dear Lord takes good care of us and he has given us good Superiors in America and with the holy sacrament he enters our heart. We live close to the church so that every time we go to a patient, we first can go to church and can offer ourselves with the holy altar sacrament to Jesus.

The English we can manage quite well, also with reading and praying we are making progress. The homilies we understand well. Dear Reverend Mother please send us a letter some time, we have not received any from you. As soon as we have time we shall write again. Greetings to the Motherhouse and all Sisters in Germany.

We were very happy that you returned safely from Silesia and are quite well. We shall pray diligently for your health. Please pray for us also, I certainly will not forget you in my prayers.

In the heart of Jesus and Mary
your
obedient spiritual daughter
Sister Fridolina

[The handwriting is extremely faded and illegible throughout.]

Handwritten text in German script, likely a letter or document from the early modern period. The text is written in a cursive hand and appears to be a formal communication, possibly related to military or administrative matters. It begins with "Hochwirdiger Herr" and ends with "Ihre Diener".

Hochwirdiger Herr
Ich habe die Ehre zu empfangen, dass Sie mir
den Inhalt Ihrer Schreiben vom 17ten dinstags
zugethan haben. Ich danke Ihnen sehr dafür.
In demselben Schreiben ist enthalten, dass Sie
mich bitten, die Befehlshaber der Truppen,
welche in der Gegend von ... sind, zu veranlassen,
dass sie sich mit den Truppen des Königs vereinigen.
Ich werde mich bemühen, dies zu bewerkstelligen.
Indessen muss ich Sie darauf aufmerksam machen,
dass die Befehlshaber dieser Truppen nicht
allezeit in der Gegend von ... zu finden sind.
Es ist daher nöthig, dass Sie sich mit ihnen
in Verbindung setzen, um ihre Absichten zu er-
fahren. Ich werde Ihnen gerne alle nöthige
Unterstützung leisten.

Ihre Diener

[illegible]

[illegible]

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[Faint handwritten notes]