



# Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

4849 La Verna Road • Springfield, IL 62707 217-522-3387 • hospitalsisters.org

From: Brian C. Blasco

Director of Communications and Archivist - Assistant Coordinator of Community Life

Date: April 10, 2025

RE: Sister Gerburgis Weiling, OSF

Birth June 23, 1842 in Boesensell, Germany and named Elisabeth

Parents Heinrich and Clara (Hundekamp) Weiling

Entered HSOSF April 17, 1869
Profession of First Vows August 12, 1871

Missionary to the USA October 1875 at age 33

### **Assignments**

Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	November :	13, 1875
East St. Louis, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1876	
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1879	Superior/Administrator
Highland, IL	St. Joseph's Hospital	1887	Superior/Administrator
Streator, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1897	

#### **Entered Eternal Life**

March 11, 1903, and buried in Calvary Cemetery (Springfield, IL)

P.b.J.Chr.

#### Dear Reverend Mother!

At this moment, while I am writing with a heavy heart and not particularly want to admit it, I feel quite depressed. I have not dared to think about it. It was like a dream when we departed and on the boat I once cried all night. Also when the Sisters left Alton I was overcome with emotions. Dear Reverend Mother, how often did we say if only Reverend Mother could see us here, how delighted would she be. Oh, Reverend Mother, I don't believe that all Sisters have found such a Father as we did. Here we have a beautiful church and exemplary discipline among the students as if in a convent. Often I think if only I were a child and had such guidance to pray. I most certainly would have turned out quite differently. Before the Holy Mass the children pray in unison the morning prayer as we pray the Prayer of the Hour, then the good opinion (?) before the Holy Mass, a short devotion and several times all answer: "Lord accept graciously our sacrifice". Then follows the transubstantiation, this prayer loud and solemn and during holy communion.

I wished, Reverend Mother, could see and hear it some time, it is so beautiful and devotional. Our Most Reverend Father accomplishes all of this and we also become more religious if we only follow his guidance. Oh yes, Reverend Mother, I again hope, that I yet can become religious. Our Most Reverend Father is very strict. The Holy Rules, the Order of the Day, the Silentium are all necessary. As long as I am in the convent, I daily failed often the Silentium. Now I shall learn to be silent and when there is penitence on Friday, he informed me about unnecessary words. Yes, we have a strict Father who I fear but also respect: deeply and love. The Most Reverend would strive for more friend-liness and paternal care, thus the heart is inclined to an innocent

Belleville, November 30, 1875 page two

trust. For this reason His Eminence has declared, so that we are not jokingly called out during the night, that we should never go to patients without a definite sign from His Eminence. Most Reverend Father has repeatedly been in danger of losing his good name and life, when he was called with the blessed sacraments to patients at night.

We are so very fortunate to have someone watch over us in this careless world, though the egotism now already makes it difficult. Most Reverend Father says the habit is different from the worldly people, it also must be the life.

On Sunday a homily in church touched our hearts. Most Reverend Father said, you are my parishioners, you know that I love you and if I could save you with my life I would gladly do so. The people know that it is the truth and nobody will call Most Reverend Father's name. During All Saints' Day more than 1400 holy communions were distributed. On another Sunday there were approximately 400. And the same every Sunday and then Pentecost and every Sunday two to three homilies.

Religion lessons, Vespers, Evening Prayers and the people say, should we not get to heaven here. The Lord forgives the earned step.

Soon we will move to another house which belongs to the parish. This house leases monthly for 20 Dollars.

Most Reverend Father has it furnished like a little convent, simple and with a candle, where then occasionally a Holy Mass shall be celebrated. That is so unexpected for us, since the first Holy Mass is in the convent and when the Most Reverend Father speaks, he is so enthused. We are not to move in earlier.

Dear Reverend Mother, for already two weeks we are seeing patients and only can be on duty: the other night. The people here are very generous. We get everything we need. They are quite hale and hearty. Only one thing cannot be replaced, we

Belleville, November 30, 1875 page three

cannot go to our Most Reverend Father and our dear Mother.

Dear Reverend Mother, I wish you with all my heart a Merry

Christmas. I have seen a beautiful Christmas tree in the

Motherhouse. Daily the Sisters talked about it. Now we all

have to make the sacrifice. The dear Christ child will replace

it. Everything has been cut off, only mail we can receive.

I can safely pray to our Savior, since, as never before, the

world is now. We only find grace in our contribution to the

world and thus the Savior appears closer.

I also wish Reverend Mother a happy New Year with many Blessings, without sorrow and grief.

In J. Chr., Jesus and Mary

greets you Sister Gerburgis

Dear Reverend Mother, please write often, we so much want to hear from you. Oh, this dreadful ocean has so separated us. I write from Alton. P.b.J.Chr.

y. 1. y. y.

No. 705

No. 705

Link winning My for!

Jarifon Oligen With mer if of four he wow were more gun South wind mind for Jufano mul Gong , mit for sure from the growing of some fit is in how mery for and how many in Tiffe fel inframed it Doft migs · full ymain lawifraid his I'ls we ett ton mus ? yingon Amhirfennif mift intercenter . It wing With and off-for min folow you fugh; Mich dif wing Mithe offer in 2 y ing lain with fir fif from a fre wing IMILAD infoglich and wall floor horse ninn folym the by of wind futin win wir. find firming for fifting Ming in thing. the San I fel the word on the minum Alin to rejul in he seft think if dely air him rouse with John the hilling som fithe febre it wind your

wind think but firmer . I of Meff I Mayor you had a for min has left min wien out I Simon Galant a see in yok Maining wer in of Maffer your by for for comme in they beinfoy formy in alles un how he for Dan long with you hat for last in fairly with Verfor by refer, Stucker bring to Said welled go Thend S. min medicing from Mil Dome min with in aning Millerif foffig Aflicians from man work Manner, What Guipe Viching for With about mer freeway & For lung in if in Mithe him facher if highifuffyufflyggen de Tillingin it fik ment if landing of from your and sin God Soglat and the try yill file in wife thouse mouth mist will inform found jo " usind for love in wome sign form White if finglish ung med link . Cfafe William youghout fifter mofy is Santhan the last Long of fline St.

For forben Dr. Sprifer Sum A mino might your Just Son Hugh former gufullandin . buffine to wind fellow in go has thanken menon mind with min buffinder friften ever di Gripa forbano. Gorfas, White inven infall in the for your face from yehre Me war " and find In huy Translinan unward Bluff wit in the the firty fine your Pour kon your for it of it min yorthe flish firm in in minn for ling finnig on Will jamen gu ficher son ? will import of the rough a life from it was figurely Jefew gift formaning Gupm Hater fugl willling inthe ser when Wallblandow was fifican wer the months of elegy will from were Touchey we down for Light in his haf in your Granging . By M. fyright If friemin for him if might in his ming timber Windowiff and on the minim In base infinish of gun goton in in Suite soffer in a young, recept ight and an amount former Marmon and all wind info Sporfer Value, Our South Allachelan for firmage Mayor for down in

ha Dirthe Gofmaniga " Plate by by by invitte got aim Thought for and an fait wis traine they got inse were of growings Buffy of intamating Will ist of in. for ... would wait you wonth g. Allf frain Alm high a come of Alah how fyright it way Engrighed wie a informith fire of mindingifu . Willer wering of Mithe first set began fit wind follow mind on in down Les fueflige and from mil distraction Buff weefer before will you wid Such find fire fift god win in bufulfil of for white will in lift miften fift uf mid time diff not a finished of upo, When in the like Mility for -Siches winding Ille infraint for Office and your Guyan in friflight Mainght fifting filiain wiften White file Vin Miller feel grafifier in I for fyra fait for higher war julyheariffer inives the his Syfres hingan and like High thin in

## SR. GERBURGIS

"Art thou weary, art thou languid, "Art thou sore distressed? "Come to Me," saith One, 'and coming, "Be at rest!"

She shared the joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, good and evil days with her Sister companions for upward of thirty-two years till it pleased divine Providence to lift the oppressive burden of a hospital Sister from her stooped and frall shoulders March 11, 1905 to reward faithful Sr. Gerburgis for the sacrifices borne and hardships endured with the promised crown of heaven. She belonged to the band of pioneers of '75. As Elizabeth Weiling she originated from Boesensell near Muenster where she was born June 27, 1842. Being one of God's chosen favorites, she cheerfully complied with the call of the inner voice which beckoned her to service in the tospital as nurse of the poor sick and dying. Longfellow in dwelling on the world's misery exclaims:

"Oh suffering sad humanity
"Oh, ye afflicted ones who lis
"Stupid to the lips in misery."

To alleviate this misery and suffering she consecrated her life to God and humanity, undergoing her probationary, test from June 17, 1869-Aug. 12, 1871, on which latter date she was invested with the Franciscan habit. In Oct. \*78 and again two years later our Sister renewed her Consecration to God, during all the years as a Religious shedding lustre on that humble and severe habit. She acted as a prudent and economic Superioress at Belleville, and Highland. In the midst of her usefulness. Sr. Gerburgis suffered a paralytic stroke from which affliction she never fully recovered. Gently she expired at Streator surrounded by her sympathising Sister-companions on the above mentioned date. Her mortal remains were conveyed a Springfield for burial. R. I. P.

