



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 Rosa Walzer, OSF

Birth	April 12, 1840 in Beckum, Germany and named Theresia
Parents	Mauritz Schulze and Maria Theresia (Brothues) Walzer
Entered HSOSF	May 1, 1869
Profession of First Vows	August 12, 1871
Missionary to the USA	October 1875 at age 35

Assignments

Litchfield, IL	St. Francis Hospital	November 13, 1875	
Decatur, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	November 17, 1878	Superior/Administrator
Chippewa Falls, WI	St. Joseph's Hospital	June 28, 1885	Superior/Administrator

Entered Eternal Life

August 18, 1893, and buried in Old Hope Cemetery (Chippewa Falls, WI)

Litchfield, November 22, 1875

P.B.J.Chr.

Dearest Reverend Mother!

Almost six weeks have passed since we said good-bye to you dear Reverend Mother. Many storms, difficulties, and sacrifices we have endured, more than I ever had imagined. Often I remembered our dear Reverend Mother's saying: gradually one gets used to misery and distress and in the end it is not as hard. ✓

Needless to describe the difficulties of the trip since the Sisters wrote about it earlier. Fear and panic of sinking as some Sisters experienced I did not have, I was quite sick and tired of living on the boat, that I thought if it would sink it would be God's Will and thus I would be saved from life on the sea and would not have to go to America. It was not as difficult to say good-bye in Muenster as it was later on the boat. It seemed impossible to travel to America - it was a dream. Our dear God has been so kind to us and always protected us and sent us guardian angels and so suffering changed into joy. We were overjoyed when we saw again land and at night admired the wonderful sight of the big city of New York. We thanked the dear Lord with all our heart and sang on the ship the Te Deum and several other songs. Hardly had we disembarked the next morning, we saw the Sisters who wanted to pick us up. We were most kindly received and taken to the Convent. What joy we experienced when we after long deprivation for the first time again could worship our dear Savior with the Most Holy Sacrament, you, dear Reverend Mother, could easily understand. We enjoyed watching the Sisters very much, they were so virtuous and kind so that we resolved to follow their example. They told us many stories, how poor, small and with what difficulties they began and drew our attention to the fact, that we should only concentrate on our divine calling and disregard everything else. We feel quite at home here, as if we were in Germany. ✓

Litchfield, November 22, 1875

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We have here a chapel, pictures, crosses, patients and patient-rooms etc. just as in the Motherhouse, yet a little smaller. But our stay did not last very long. At 11:00 A.M. we arrived at the Convent, and at 7:00 P.M. we left by train which took two days and two nights to reach Alton. The Most Reverend Bishop already had sent a Priest to pick us up from New York to Alton, who already had waited several days for us. It was Father Sauer and we were delighted when he told us that he held several times hl. Mass in the Motherhouse. I liked travel by train much more than by boat. We were not so much made unsteady by the rocking. Saturday night at 7:00 we arrived in Alton and were received very friendly by the Sisters, as our Sisters already reported. After three weeks of going without we went to a beautiful large church to thank our dear Savior with the Most Holy Sacrament and were able to open our hearts. Yes, dear Reverend Mother, when for such a long time one has to go without one truly feels how dear and precious it is when it always is with us. In Alton we were comfortable happily together in our House and when we saw how much we were welcomed by the people, the hardship of the journey was soon forgotten. Only one thought made us sad, we knew that not all of us could stay in Alton, and again we had to part. Already on Monday Sister Fridoline, Sister Augustina and I had to travel to Litchfield. We were on the boat with Franziskus - Zell ? - and here we found the House of Nazareth. During the first week of our presence our House was not ready and we had to stay with some townsfolk, the wife turned only two years ago catholic, but they were very nice and generous people. The name of the Priest is Marhot and he is also of German descent. We were very happy when we were able to move into our House. We were tired of living among people of different worlds. Although our House is small we live quite happily together and are looking forward to share the local needs. Mostly English is spoken here and we cannot begin our work until we understand the English language, which we now

Litchfield, November 22, 1875

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study diligently. Here are school-sisters, Ursulines, who daily are teaching us English, they are very kind to us and help us in every way they can. So, also here in Litchfield, the dear Lord has sent us his guardian angels. The people here welcomed us very kindly and we hope that the dear Lord will bless our work, this I am confident of because of the prayers of our dear Mother Superior and our dear Sisters in Germany.

Dear Reverend Mother, the Rules I have badly adhered to during this time, partly because I was sick on the boat, partly I was not able to because of the association with the other people, and partly also because of carelessness. But now that we are leading a calmer life, I seriously want to improve. Dear Reverend Mother, I very much thank you for everything which I received through your motherly love, and at the same time recognize that I have been very ungrateful, I humbly ask your forgiveness.

Finally, dear Reverend Mother, I urgently ask for your and our Sisters prayers, we need the same here very much and I surely will not forget you. Please pray that I learn English soon, here in Litchfield it is absolutely necessary and it is not easy to learn. We are so busy doing that, that we have no time to be homesick. If you, dear Reverend Mother, could send us a little letter we would only be too happy in this foreign country. In the meantime I am already looking forward to meeting you all again in Heaven. What joy and jubilation will that be. Although apparently I will not die so quickly, I am quite healthy, it seems the climate is quite beneficial to me. I trust the Reverend Mother is also well. I am and remain in the hl. heart of Jesus and Mary

your reverend and
obedient daughter
Sister Rosa

Dear Reverend Mother, please send the little letter to Sister Limbanice. I send some stamps which I forgot to turn over and which cannot be used here,

[illegible]

nicht das Leben willkommen warren für immer die den
 Leben und die Reize sehr bald vergangen, allwo wir
 gedulden mußten wie wir eine Summe, wie wir schon
 das wir nicht alle in Aldon bleiben konnten und wir
 uns verjüngt wieder kommen müßten. Deswegen
 Mit dem müßten Dym. Priscilla Dym. Augustina,
 und ich auf Litchfield waren. Wir guthen wir der
 Dym. mit Franziskus halbes vergangen und eine
 fanden wir nicht das Leben von Elizabeth. In der
 nach dem 8. August nach Litchfield war eine große Menge
 nicht gering und wir müßten bei einem Litchfield in
 der Stadt sein, die Stadt war eine große Stadt sehr
 angenehm, es waren aber sehr gute Freizeitige Leute.
 Der Herr war nicht Markob und Litchfield gebürtig.
 Wir haben mit sehr angenehmen als wir in unser Haus kom-
 men konnten, wie wir den Herrn & immer zu wissen
 nach Litchfield bald so würde. Obwohl wir nicht die kleinen
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 glücklich und immer zusammen, und immer noch
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 die unterrichten und singen in Litchfield, sie sind
 sehr lieblich gegen uns und haben uns in allen
 Jahren so gut, sie sind kommen. So sind die lieben
 Gott und wir sind in Litchfield immer glücklich
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 wir wollen sagen, daß die Liebe Gott unser Leben
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1875

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Report

Friend

Mary Ann

SR. ROSA

*"When time was entwining the garland of years
"Which to crown Christs' bride was given
"Though some of the leaves might be sullied with tears
"Yet the flowers were all gathered in heaven."*

St. Mary's Hospital of Decatur and St. Joseph's of Chippewa Falls were the main scenes where Sr. Rosa's activity showed itself at its best. Both places she was commissioned to start and rule over in the capacity of Superioress. How well she accomplished her tasks we may readily understand by listening to the recital of her merits by her older Sister-companions, those who had seen and witnessed her untiring efforts from early till late during all those years of her God-consecrated life. The mere mention of Sr. Rosa's name today calls forth spontaneous hymns of praise, her life having been a rare inspiration especially to younger Sisters. She had borne the heat and burden of the day, which had meant much to her since she shared the pioneer work with the valiant "twenty", of self-denial and mortification, poverty and suffering. However she was a Franciscan nun, a hospital Sister, which implies forbearance, renunciation and self-effacement. What a splendid follower of the Poverello of Assisi she must have been. An untoward accident overtook Sr. Rosa which soon unfitted her for the accustomed daily round of duties, meeting with a severe fall, the poor Sister had the misfortune of sustaining a fractured hip, from which she never fully recovered.

Sr. Rosa (Therese Valzer of Beckum, born April 12, 1840) became a professed Sister Aug. 12, 1871, repeating her vows in '73 and '75, ascending into Glory Aug. 18, 1908. The love and suffrages of her bereaved Sisters daily follow excellent Sister Rose beyond the tomb. Her death occurred at Chippewa Falls. R. I. P.

