



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 Silvana Bosse, OSF

Birth	April 13, 1847, in Ibbenbueren, Germany, and named Theresia
Parents	Herman and Angela (Kerlemann) Bosse
Entered HSOSF	July 22, 1871
Profession of First Vows	October 11, 1873
Missionary to the USA	October 1875 at age 30

Assignments

Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	November 13, 1875
Highland, IL	St. Joseph's Hospital	January 26, 1878
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1880
Effingham, IL	St. Anthony's Hospital	1882
Springfield, IL	St. John's Hospital	1884
Lincoln, IL	St. Clara's Hospital	1886
Chippewa Falls, WI	St. Joseph's Hospital	1888
Highland, IL	St. Joseph's Hospital	1890
Decatur, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1895
Belleville, IL	St. Elizabeth's Hospital	1899
East St. Louis, IL	St. Mary's Hospital	1901
Effingham, IL	St. Anthony's Hospital	1903
Springfield, IL	St. John's Tuberculosis Sanitarium	1929

Entered Eternal Life

January 29, 1935, and buried in Crucifixion Hill Cemetery (Springfield, IL)

Belleville, December 1, 1875

P.b.J.Chr.

Dear Reverend Mother!

Finally the dream became reality, we are in America. While traveling it always seemed like a dream that we would go to such a foreign land, until we finally really were in America and could not understand the people. Then I knew that we indeed had left Germany.

Dear Reverend Mother, I don't have to write about our experiences at sea; about the many storms we had to live through you must have heard. But the dear Lord never left us. He has led us to our designated goal and we have arrived at same. How he has provided for us there yet! With the loving reception we received. I cannot describe to you in what state my heart beat. How we arrived in the harbor and the Sisters already were there to receive us. How my heart was moved, especially when I entered the convent and came to the chapel, what I there felt I am unable to express. When I could greet again my Savior, my Lord and Bridegroom in the most holy Sacrament. Oh, how much I had to tell him and to pray. I would have wished to remain with him for half a day and tell him about all my concerns. But yet, I trust the dear Lord will have accepted my good intention before the deed.

I also was delighted by the loving and friendly demeanor among the Sisters, and have decided to copy the same. I too want always to be quite friendly and obliging toward my Sisters. Also, I just now remember the words you told me during my private retreats. In America everything works with steam, I experienced the same. With steam the whole house was heated to the upper floor and the patients while in bed were warmed.

Oh, dear Mother, it was not possible to satisfy the eyes while we were traveling. I could not have imagined America as I found it. Mostly I marveled at the friendliness and empathy the people here displayed toward us.

Belleville, December 1, 1875
page two

Yet the most friendliness we met by our Most Reverend Father, our Father Confessor. Although he is very serious and strict and pays attention to the observance of the Rules to the minutest details. He always tells us to strictly observe the Rules and what immense luck for us to have found such a good Father. So you can see, dear Mother, how the dear Lord looks after us, not alone for body but also soul.

Yes, I have to admit not to have met in Germany a Priest who looks that passionately after his parishioners. Here only two Priests for the parish and you should see how orderly, especially the children, everyone behaves in church and how respectful they come to church and leave the same. How they pray together the morning prayer before Mass. During Mass they sing or pray but everything so well-timed and nice. The beautiful singing in the church on Sundays. The first Sunday I did not pray but just listened to the beautiful hymns. And yet there are only two Priests here for a parish of 10,000 catholics, altogether there are more than 20,000 inhabitants. And we three Sisters are in this town.

Oh, if I could only pray for many more Priests and also for many of our Sisters to come over, because I can see more opportunities for our work here in America than in Germany. So I thank our dear Lord that he chose me to work here in America.

Although the sacrifice of the departure was hard, to leave the most cherished in the world behind, namely the Mother Superior and the dear Motherhouse, yet it was God's Will. Often we experience sad times. But also frequently we have fun, e.g. when we study English. I wished you could be in our midst and hear us.

Now many thousand greetings to all my Co-Sisters and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year and ask all Sisters for their prayers.

Belleville, December 1, 1875
page three

I wish I could continue but the paper is finished. Please, please dear Reverend Mother a letter from you! For such a long time we have not heard from the Motherhouse.

Sister Silvana

H. S. L. L. 172.

Bellville am 1. December 1845

UA 705

Lieber würdiger Mutter!

Freudig ist der Tag dem ich den Tag zum Abschied ge-
schrieben, wie sind in Charitativ. Auf den Brief den ich
wie immer von einem Freund, der wir in ein so
freundliches Land kommen werden, so lange bis wir
den endlich wirklich in Charitativ werden und die Län-
nicht verlassen können, da wir nicht ab wirklich
nicht mehr Dank und was. Lieber würdiger Mutter,
nicht brauchst du mich zu schreiben, wie ich mich auf den
Brief zuwenden ist, von dem ich kein Wissen, da wir
schon mitmachen müssen. Ich werde den ganz
abschreiben geben. Aber der liebe Gott hat mich zu mir
verlassen, er hat mich zu glücklich zu empfangen. Ich
zich geliebt, und ganz geliebt, wie ich es auch
den ich für mich gesagt, dass ich liebevoll und freundlich
den. Und auch sehr zu sehr. Ich bin
ganz oft besorgt dass ich Ihnen nicht schreiben, wie wir in
den Haus und den Haus und so wie die Befehle und so
bald ich in der Lage zu sein. Und ich
mein ganz der nicht geliebt und unendlich wie ich in die
Alte hat auch den ich in der Thiergarten. Ich weiß

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Housing Reform Is Urged In Talk By Dr. Scott Bedford

Addresses Gathering Of Social Workers.

Declaring that "Housing is America's heart disease," Dr. Scott Bedford, new director of community co-operation for this district, urged housing reform in a speech at the dinner meeting of the Social Workers' club last night at the Leland Hotel.

Doctor Bedford's talk before one hundred social workers in public and private welfare agencies, lay board members and civic leaders, was in the nature of an outline of the work to be done by this new service, recently added to the Illinois emergency relief commission.

James Maxwell, director of the local transient bureau, presided at the meeting and expressed to A. J. Davis, retiring executive of the Boy Scouts, a tribute from his fellow social workers. Miss Mary Humphrey, regional director of the Illinois emergency relief commission, took part in the discussion which followed each topic of Doctor Bedford's address.

WHITE KILLS SELF; THOUGHT DERANGED

Joseph A. White, sr., 1737 South Douglas avenue, shot and killed himself about 1:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the residence. Mr. White, an electrical contractor, was believed to be mentally deranged.

Relatives told Sheriff Luke J. Gaule and Deputies Tony Luparell and Arthur Figueira that they heard a shot and rushed to the bathroom where they found White lying on the floor. Mr. White was 51 years old.

Surviving are his wife, Mary L. White; four sons, Joseph A., Jr., Leo B. Francis and G. Nollen, all of this city; three sisters, Miss Esther White and Mrs. Veronica Davenport of this city and Mary F. of New York City.

DEATH CLAIMS SISTER SILVANA AT AGE OF 87

Hospital Nun, Who Came To City Sixty Years Ago, Dies Suddenly

Stricken as she knelt in prayer in the Adoration chapel at the sisters' motherhouse, near Riverton, Sister Silvana, last survivor of twenty sisters who established the Hospital Order of St. Francis in this city in 1875, died yesterday morning at the age of 87 years. The aged sister suffered a stroke of paralysis just before the 7:30 mass began and fifteen minutes later had breathed her last.

Funeral services will be held at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning in St. Francis of Assisi church at the motherhouse. Interment will be made on Crucifixion Hill, the motherhouse cemetery.

Sister Silvana was the oldest member of the community at the motherhouse and although in failing health for some time, had not been confined to her bed.

She was born in Germany in 1847 and came here with nineteen other sisters in 1875 from Westphalia, Germany. This band of pioneer nuns began healing the sick by ministering to them in their homes and opened their first hospital in the old Jacob Lodge residence on Seventh street near Lawrence avenue.

In 1878 the present St. John's hospital was established at Seventh and Mason streets by the Sisters of St. Francis. The order later founded hospitals in Belleville, Effingham, East St. Louis and Lincoln.

Sister Silvana was active as a nurse until recent years when she came to the motherhouse to live in the home especially prepared for the older members of the community. Even here Sister Silvana found many little acts of kindness to do for others and kept busy despite her advanced age.

Funeral Services To Be Held Today For C. L. Allis

Rev. W. H. Nichols, officiating.

Last rites for C. L. Allis, son, former Springfield, will be held at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at the Ellingford funeral home. Rev. W. H. Nichols will officiate. Burial will be in Oak Ridge cemetery. Pallbearers will be Joseph DeSmet, Charles Hauser, Henry E. W. Esper, Edward G. W. Esper.

Capital City Social Club

A meeting of the Capital City social club will be held in the future, to endorse candidates mayor and commissioner. Otto Berger is president; George F. vice chairman, and Anthony M. is secretary of the organization.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Penn and Sutton Pennington of LaGrange motored to Springfield yesterday afternoon to attend the funeral service for Mrs. Ellen Sutton Talbott.

Saved His Da



