

SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

(1769–1852)

FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 18

Early Life

- Rose Philippine Duchesne was born in Grenoble, France, on August 29, 1769.
- She went to school with Visitation nuns and wanted to pray and help others like they did.

Joining the Society of the Sacred Heart

- In 1804, Philippine met Madeleine Sophie Barat, who founded the Society of the Sacred Heart.
- When she was 19, she joined the convent and became good friends with Sophie.
- Many times, Philippine shared with Mother Barat her dream of bringing the Gospel to the native peoples in America.

Coming to America

- Bishop DuBourg asked Mother Barat to send sisters to the St. Louis to open schools.
- In March 1818, Philippine and four other sisters arrived near New Orleans and later traveled to St. Louis.

Starting Schools in Missouri

- On September 14, 1818, she opened:
 - The first Sacred Heart school in America,
 - The first free school west of the Mississippi River,
 - The first Catholic school in what became the Archdiocese of St. Louis.
- Philippine helped open six schools.

Helping the Potawatomi

- In 1841, Philippine went to Sugar Creek, Kansas, to help teach Potawatomi girls.
- Philippine was 72 years old and very weak, so she could not teach in the classroom.
- She spent many hours praying, and the Potawatomi people called her: "The Woman Who Is Always Praying."
- She returned to St. Charles, where she died on November 18, 1852.

