

## ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE



Rose Philippine Duchesne was born in Grenoble, France, in 1769. She had six sisters and one brother.

When Rose was 19 she entered the Visitation of Mary convent, even though her family was strongly against her desire to join the monastery life (*a way of living that's religious, isolated from other people*). The French Revolution caused the convent to close, and she returned to her family home. She spent her time nursing prisoners, and helping the poor and sick, all who were suffering.

Madeleine Sophie Barat visited Rose in France because she was known as a dedicated Religious Sister (*nun*). Madeleine wanted her help with creating the Society of the Sacred Heart. Rose joined that new Society, and in a short time was religious superior (*the person responsible for the organization*) and supervisor of young women preparing to be Sisters.

Sister Rose wanted to be a missionary. She wrote of a spiritual experience she had during a night of adoration (*worship, deep love and respect*) before Jesus in the Eucharist one Holy Thursday. In her vision, she wrote, she had been in the New World (*America*), “carrying the Blessed Sacrament to all parts of the land...” And she spoke to the Lord, saying, “When you say to me ‘now I send you,’ I will respond quickly ‘I go.’”

A dozen years later, in 1818, when she was 49, she did go as a missionary to the United States, to Missouri, where she established a boarding school for young girls who were alone because their parents were pioneers. Because she knew education was important, Rose also created the first free school (*west of Missouri*).



In 1841, Rose and her fellow Sisters were approached by Native Americans in Kansas and were asked to join a new mission. At age 72, poor and in ill health, Rose got her lifelong wish. A mission was founded at Sugar Creek, Kansas, among the Potawatomi and she was part of it. She was named “Woman-Who-Prays-Always.” While others taught, she prayed.

Rose died in November of 1852 at the age of 83 and was canonized in 1988. She is the patron saint of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

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### QUESTIONS ABOUT ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

Answer the questions below to the best of your ability :

1. Where was St. Rose Duchesne born?
2. How old was she when she entered the Visitation of Mary Convent?
3. What did she do when the convent was closed because of the French Revolution?
4. What did Madeleine want Rose to help her with?
5. What did Rose want very much to be?
6. When did she get to do that?
7. What did she feel was important?
8. Who approached her and asked her to join a new mission?
9. At age 72, Rose got her lifelong wish, what was it?
10. At the end of her life, what was she named?

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1. Grenoble, France
  2. 19
  3. Returned to her family home and cared for all who were suffering.
  4. To create the Society of the Sacred Heart
  5. Go to America
  6. In 1818, at age 49
  7. Education
  8. Native Americans
  9. A mission was founded among the Potawatomi
  10. “Woman-who-pray-always”