

Bicentennial 2018

Heart

A Journal of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States – Canada



...to Heart

Dear Friends and Family of the Sacred Heart,

Two hundred years ago, Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne and four companions, Eugénie Audé, Octavie Berthold, Catherine Lamarre, and Marguerite Manteau, set sail for the New World. These were the first Religious of the Sacred Heart missionary sisters. These courageous women led the way for multitudes of RSCJ to take Sacred Heart education around the world!

I try to imagine traveling the ocean for forty days on a ship like the *Rebecca*. What was life like in the Louisiana Territory in 1818 and those early frontier years? Not knowing the language. Living with the bare necessities. But Philippine had a dream so deep in her heart that she would leave everything she knew and persevere.

Now, 200 years later, we are celebrating!

The pages of this issue of *Heart* magazine are special because they are filled with our activities during 2017. They are also special because the guest editor for this issue is Pam Schaeffer, the first editor of *Heart* magazine and a member of the Bicentennial Committee, who generously offered to help.

Among the first activities of the Bicentennial, the Spirituality Forum brought together nearly 400 people from twenty-two countries (see page 16). Pilgrimages have taken place in honor of Philippine, giving participants a sense of walking in her footsteps (page 13). A new mass and hymn have been composed (page 20) and a sculpture commissioned (page 21). And Philippine received a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame!

We've also had fun with Flat Philippine (page 8)! Have you met Flat Philippine? This caricature of Saint Philippine, pictured here with me, has been making friends in many countries, traveling and visiting with sisters, associates, alums, students, and faculty. The stories and photos of her adventures are shared on Sacred Heart social media.

Our bicentennial year, 2018, continues with promises of more connections and opportunities to celebrate Philippine. One of the most significant events will be the Global Service Day on September 15, 2018, in which the Sacred Heart Family around the world will be invited to reflect on where Philippine would serve today. What are the needs that would inspire her to respond? Where would she extend her hand and heart for the sake of God's people?

Visit our website and follow our social media to find out more details about all the events – the online Year of Prayer, the Frontiers Conference, a re-enactment on the St. Charles riverfront, the closing liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, and more. But above all, during this year of prayer, ask Philippine to guide us to the “new frontiers” of our mission today. Let her dreams of spreading God's love ignite our own dreams to live our mission wholeheartedly wherever it is most needed.

With love and gratitude,



Sheila Hammond, RSCJ
Provincial
United States – Canada Province





Heart is published two times a year to highlight the mission and ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States–Canada, for a wide circle of friends. The covers, photographs of hearts in nature, symbolic of Christ’s presence at the heart of the universe, bear witness to the contemplative dimension of the Society’s “wholly contemplative, wholly apostolic” mission: to discover and reveal God’s love through the service of education.




The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in post-revolutionary France and brought to the United States by Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne in 1818.

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ON THE COVER:
 Surfer-photographer Chad Wells captured a breaking wave as it formed a heart shape while he was training on Seal Beach, California, in 2014.

All photos are by Linda Behrens unless otherwise noted.

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Please visit www.rscj.org to learn more about the mission and ministries of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Friendship, frontiers, and more

What we are celebrating in 2018

By Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ

Two hundred years ago, five Religious of the Sacred Heart – Rose Philippine Duchesne, Eugénie Audé, Octavie Berthold, Catherine Lamarre, and Marguerite Manteau – arrived in the New World. Amazingly, it was the Feast of the Sacred Heart.



Sophie and Philippine at the port of Bordeaux, by iconographer Patricia Reid, RSCJ.

Mission to the New World

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat blesses Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne on the eve of her missionary journey, 1818

Eugénie described the moment:

It is with deepest emotion that we set foot on this soil which is for us, in the eyes of faith and the designs of God, the Promised Land. In spite of the marshy ground, Mother Duchesne knelt and kissed the soil. Her eyes were wet with tears of joy. "No one is looking," she whispered, "you kiss it, too." If only you could have seen her face! It was radiant with the joy that only the Heart of Jesus could inspire in her soul, filled with his grace and bent on glorifying his Sacred Heart.

Glorifying his Sacred Heart they did by founding the first free school west of the Mississippi, ministering among Native Americans, introducing Catholic education in the territory, establishing the Society of the Sacred Heart in America, and thus beginning its global reach. And all of this they did in challenging frontier conditions with few resources and only irregular communication with their sisters in France.

Yet dates and accomplishments are not at the heart of the bicentennial. What we are celebrating is so much more. In the year ahead we will be celebrating a woman, a friendship, the crossing of frontiers, and the family of the Sacred Heart across the world.

Celebrating a woman

First, we celebrate Rose Philippine Duchesne, whose ardent desire was to bring God's love to the whole world. Here is a snapshot: she was a woman of Grenoble, France, ten years Sophie's senior; she was sometimes impetuous and impatient, like Peter in the Gospels; she was a missionary who longed to reveal

“...she was a pioneer facing the heroic circumstances and deprivations of frontier life.”

God's love half a world away; she was a pioneer facing the heroic circumstances and deprivations of frontier life; she was a woman always drawn to those on the margins of society; she was an educator to her toes, who educated by love, suffering and humility even more than by word; and above all, she was a woman of deep prayer, known by her beloved Potawatomi as “the woman who prays always.” By the end of the bicentennial year, we hope to know her even more deeply and to be drawn to imitate her generous life.

Celebrating friendship

Secondly, we celebrate a *friendship*, the friendship between Philippine and Madeleine Sophie Barat. Consider this icon, an image of Sophie and Philippine at the port of Bordeaux. Sainte-Marie d'En-Haut, Philippine's Visitation monastery, is in the upper right, and in the upper left is the ship *Rebecca* ready to go out at sea, perhaps waiting for passengers or more favorable weather. And in the foreground, Philippine – in her travelling clothes – is kneeling for Sophie's blessing.

We have come to marvel at their friendship, so intimate for fourteen years in France, and then maintained at a great distance – and often at great personal cost – for the next thirty-four years of their separation. They were different in so many ways – different in background, in social class, in temperament, in spirituality.

What bound them together? I think they were bound by a *soul friendship* – they were bound by their common passion to glorify the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to make God's love known to the ends of the earth.

Perhaps as we celebrate their friendship during the bicentennial, we might also give thanks for the soul friends in our own lives, who, like Sophie and Philippine, ground us, challenge us, and sustain and support us to be faithful to our vocation and our mission.

Celebrating frontiers

Thirdly, the bicentennial celebrates *frontiers*. Let's consider the icon again. It pictures Philippine, leaving everything behind. She is saying goodbye to Sophie, saying goodbye to France, and saying goodbye to everything and everyone she held dear for a new world, totally unknown to her.

But geography was not her only frontier, or perhaps the hardest. She crossed a frontier from the charisma of the Visitation to that of the Sacred Heart. She negotiated frontiers of race and class and language, of different educational

systems and expectations, of civil and ecclesiastical pressures, and of course, the hundred and one frontiers of the human heart – challenges and losses and fears and misunderstandings, frontiers crossed or gotten through by faith and grace and by her extraordinary generosity of spirit.

Celebrating internationality

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the bicentennial is a celebration of our *internationality*, a celebration of our one global family of the Sacred Heart – a gift not to be taken for granted!

In the nineteenth century many, many orders in Europe were asked by bishops to send religious to the New World. Nearly all of those orders ended up breaking ties with the motherhouse and becoming independent religious communities because of distance, because of the enormous frustrations of communication and because bishops requested ministerial works not in the order's original constitutions.

The Society of the Sacred Heart is one of very few orders that came to the Americas but remained in union with their European motherhouse. Why? Maybe it was the fierce loyalty of Philippine to Sophie or maybe it was fidelity to the Society's motto: *Cor Unum et Anima Una in Corde Jesu* – one heart and one soul in the Heart of Jesus. Happily, as a result of that loyalty and fidelity, we now find ourselves, still united, in forty-one countries!

What are we celebrating? A woman and a friendship and frontiers and internationality. And by a wonderful serendipity, these reasons to celebrate perfectly correspond to the General Chapter orientation of 2016 (see *Heart*, Winter 2017):

- Philippine, the woman who prays always, invites us to embrace *silence*.
- The soul friendship of Sophie and Philippine is an icon of *living more humanly*.
- Crossing the frontier to the New World corresponds to our call to *cross new frontiers*, both geographic and existential.
- Finally, our celebration of internationality will be a catalyst across the family of the Sacred Heart to *become one body* in deed, not simply in word. ❖

Excitement, spirit filled the air

Mass marks the arrival of Philippine and her companions in New Orleans

By Georgeann Parizek, RSCJ



Fourth primary students from the Academy of the Sacred Heart Elise Khoury (left), as Madeleine Sophie, and Amelia Stein, as Philippine, took part in the procession at the Mass and greeted guests at the reception.

The United States–Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart and the Academy of the Sacred Heart, the Rosary, in New Orleans launched the Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne bicentennial year on November 18 with a Eucharistic Liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France, in the New Orleans French Quarter. The event marked the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Philippine Duchesne and her companions in North America. New Orleans, where Philippine knelt to kiss the ground, and encouraged her companions to do the same, was the first stop on their journey north to St. Louis, and then to St. Charles, Missouri.

Religious of the Sacred Heart from near and far gathered for the commemorative Mass, joining many children, parents and friends. Participants from the local Ursuline community included successors of the Ursuline sisters who welcomed and housed the weary travelers from France in 1818. Archbishop Gregory Aymond; retired Archbishop Alfred Hughes; Father Frank Reale, SJ, the school's chaplain; and several other members of the clergy concelebrated the festive ritual of thanksgiving.

Excitement and spirit reverberated through the cathedral. It was a true “family reunion,” said Melanie Guste, RSCJ, headmistress of the Rosary.

First came a prelude of songs for Philippine by the school's choirs, then Sister Guste offered a call to worship. The liturgy began with a procession of banners, led by one bearing the saint's image, newly created for the bicentennial. Successive banners represented many aspects of the Society of the Sacred Heart – its spirituality, leadership, schools, various ministries and related associations, such as the fathers' and mothers' clubs, Sacred Heart associates and alumnae, and Children of Mary.

Archbishop Aymond invited Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, provincial for the United States and Canada, to stand, as he thanked the Society for its 150 years of providing education to children in New Orleans. The end of the liturgy was marked by a “Proclamation Honoring the Bicentennial of Saint Philippine Duchesne’s Arrival in New Orleans,” delivered by the Consul General of France.

A New Orleans-style reception at the Old Ursuline Convent followed the liturgy. This convent, which dates to 1752, is important to Philippine’s story, for it was there that she and her companions stayed for several weeks while awaiting instructions from Bishop Dubourg of St. Louis. In a June 2 letter to her sister in France, Philippine described the welcome they received.

Once we arrived at their house, we found not only touching examples of every virtue of hospitality but the most comprehensive care: medicines to guard against change of temperature, baths, cool drinks, carefully chosen food: all kinds of clothing; ours was taken and washed the same day... Mothers could not have done more for their children. They are even talking about giving us several things for the continuation of our travels...

“There is no place like New Orleans for a party,” Sister Guste said. “True to form and reputation, the reception was a memorable fete in a memorable place. From champagne to crabmeat ravigote to a table laden with pink and white candies and cakes, this party was all Sacred Heart.”

Sister Guste noted that many shared her sentiment about the celebration. “JOY! What a joyful event it was! We all sensed that Philippine was smiling and calling us to continue to cross new frontiers.” ❖



Melanie Guste, RSCJ (left), head of school at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans, and Sheila Hammond, RSCJ, provincial of the United States – Canada Province, pose for photos with Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans.



Students from Sophie B. Wright Charter School, a charter high school and middle school in New Orleans, welcomed guests at the Old Ursuline Convent with lively tunes.

Upcoming events, celebrations

Mark your calendar now!

START HERE!



Jump in at any time
to join in the bicentennial
Year of Prayer

rscj.org/spirituality/year-of-prayer

Ongoing Pilgrimages

Create your own, or join Winter Pilgrim Ann Sieben for part or all of her repeat journey from Mound City, Kansas, to St. Charles, Missouri, from April 29 through May 23 and October 23 through November 17, arriving in St. Charles the day before the festival Mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. *See pages 13-15*



June 2018 Sculpture unveiling

A bronze sculpture of Philippine Duchesne, designed by a Milwaukee artist, will be installed in the garden of Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri. The unveiling and installation are planned for sometime in June.

See page 21



July 19, 2018 Cokie Roberts at the Missouri History Museum

Journalist and author Cokie Roberts, alumna of Sacred Heart schools in New Orleans and Bethesda, Maryland, will speak at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, on July 19. Her topic will be Pioneering Women.

Go to: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/missouri-history-museum

July 19 to July 22, 2018 Frontiers Conference

At this academic conference, RSCJ from around the world will deliver papers on various frontiers related to Philippine Duchesne and the Society of the Sacred Heart today. The conference will be held at the Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, Missouri. Registration is limited.

Go to: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/frontiers-conference

Have you met Flat Philippine? She is a media sensation!

This caricature of Philippine Duchesne has been making friends in many countries, traveling and visiting with sisters, associates, alums, students, and faculty.

The stories and photos of her adventures are shared on many forms of Sacred Heart social media.

Using the concept of Flat Stanley, a children's book from 1964 about a boy who becomes flat and can be mailed around the world, Flat Philippine was designed as a fun way to share the story of Philippine around the world.

Artwork of Flat Philippine was created by Lisa Carswell, art teacher at Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School in St. Louis, and her son Matthew D. Francis.

Follow Flat Philippine's adventures on Facebook by searching for FlatPhilippine (no space) or on Twitter with #FlatPhilippine.

Download your own Flat Philippine at rscj.org/bicentennial2018/flat-philippine.



September 7, 2018

Reenactment: Philippine's arrival in St. Charles

Join RSCJ and friends and family of the Society of the Sacred Heart to celebrate the arrival in St. Charles, Missouri, of Philippine Duchesne and her companions. The event will include a reenactment of the arrival.

Go to: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/reenactment-st-charles-riverfront



September 15, 2018

Global Service Day

RSCJ, associates, alums, friends, and students from Sacred Heart schools around the world will undertake a variety of service projects on this day, designed to address the question: If Philippine were living today, how and where would this pioneer missionary devote her time and energy in the service of God's kingdom on earth.

Go to: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/global-service-day

November 18, 2018

Festival closing mass

The bicentennial year culminates with a liturgy featuring a specially commissioned orchestral mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri, at 2:30 p.m. Archbishop Robert Carlson will celebrate and the choir of St. Louis University's Saint Francis Xavier (College) Church will lead the congregation in singing the liturgy. A reception in the cathedral hall will follow. All are invited.

Go to: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/feast-day-celebration



Stay updated

For more information about these and other upcoming events, see the website of the United States – Canada Province, rscj.org, and the international website of the Society of the Sacred Heart, rscjinternational.org



rscj.org/bicentennial2018/events



ST. CHARLES

The seeds she sowed

RSCJ now serve in 41 countries

By Therese Meyerhoff

Beginnings

Rose Philippine Duchesne was born August 29, 1769, in Grenoble, an ancient city, France's beautiful archway to the Alps. One of eight children in a family of privilege, she was strong-willed, impetuous and generous. Educated by the Visitation nuns at Sainte-Marie d'En-Haut monastery, she was drawn to their life of contemplation. She entered the congregation when she was 18, against the wishes of her family.

The French Revolution soon forced the nuns to leave the monastery, and Philippine returned to her family. For eleven years, she risked her freedom and life by nursing prisoners, bringing priests to the faithful and teaching and feeding poor children. At the close of the war, she gained title to Sainte-Marie d'En-Haut and opened a boarding school. Only a few other nuns returned, and they did not stay long. In December 1804, she met Madeleine Sophie Barat, who in 1800 had founded the Society of the Sacred Heart. Philippine immediately turned over Sainte-Marie and entered the Society.

A deep friendship formed between these two remarkable women of such different temperaments. For twelve years, the patient wisdom of Sophie molded the ardent, steadfast Philippine into a religious called to glorify the Heart of Jesus. Philippine, whose greatest joy was to spend whole nights in prayer, soon felt a call to serve as a missionary. Many times, Philippine shared with Sophie her dream of bringing the Gospel to the native peoples in America, but her skills were needed at home, first in the school at Sainte-Marie, later as the Society's secretary general.

Sowing the seeds

Philippine saw a chance to turn her missionary dreams to reality when Bishop William Dubourg visited the Society's mother-house in Paris. He had come from the Louisiana Territory to recruit nuns to establish schools for the Indians and French children in his diocese of Louisiana. On May 16, 1817, Philippine begged Sophie Barat on her knees for permission to travel to the New World. At last Sophie gave her consent.

Philippine sailed with four other religious the following year, providentially arriving in New Orleans on the Feast of the

Learn more about Philippine at the sites below

"We cultivate a very small field for Christ. But we love it, knowing that God does not require great achievements, but a heart that holds back nothing for self."

—Philippine Duchesne

1818-2018 Bicentennial Website:
rscj.org/bicentennial2018

Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne
619 North Second Street
St. Charles, Missouri 63301
DuchesneShrine.org

Old St. Ferdinand Shrine
1 Rue St Francois
Florissant, Missouri 63031
OldStFerdinandShrine.com

Sacred Heart, May 29, 1818. She later sailed up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri, a trip of forty days, arriving on August 22, 1818.

On September 14, 1818, Philippine opened a school in a log cabin, not in St. Louis, as expected, but in nearby St. Charles, Missouri. It was the first free school west of the Mississippi. A few weeks later, the Academy of the Sacred Heart was opened with three students. The frontier conditions were a challenge, but even more so was the limited population. Philippine was forced to close this school after one year and open a new school in the nearby town of Florissant, Missouri.

Despite being challenged by the English language, Philippine served as both superior of her religious community and head of the school. She reserved for herself the most menial of chores: tending livestock, chopping wood, gardening, mending shoes and clothing, nursing the sick and making soap and

Archive photo



Original Building, Saint Michael, Louisiana, 1825

Archive photo



Original House, Grand Coteau, Louisiana

Archive photo



Death photo of Philippine Duchesne, 1852

candles. In Florissant, she often slept in a small closet under the stairs so she could slip in without disturbing others after her all-night prayers in the chapel. (This room can still be seen at the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine in Florissant.) She survived pioneer conditions, a bout with yellow fever and persistent feelings of failure.

Taking root

The Society soon attracted new vocations and opened a novitiate. Before long, Philippine was responsible for five convents: St. Charles (which reopened in 1828), St. Louis and Florissant in Missouri, and Grand Coteau and St. Michael in Louisiana. While Philippine adapted to the American culture, she preserved the ways of the Society as much as possible. With the Plan of Studies in place, the Religious of the Sacred Heart offered their students a well-rounded curriculum, combining spiritual and intellectual training. Philippine's schools were the first in St. Louis to educate students of color. She also opened the first orphanage in St. Louis.

Finally, in 1841, Philippine's desire to serve among the native people came to fruition. At the specific request of Fr. Peter Verhaegen, the Jesuit in charge of the mission, she went with three other Religious of the Sacred Heart to Sugar Creek, Kansas, to establish a school for Potawatomi girls. At 72, she was too frail to be of much help with the physical work, and she could not learn the Potawatomi language. She spent much of her time in prayer, gaining the name "Woman Who Prays Always." After just one year, she was called back to St. Charles because of her health. Although she was in Sugar Creek just a short time, she made a deep impression on the Potawatomi.

Philippine's legacy

Philippine once wrote to Sophie, "I carry in my heart a great fear of spoiling things wherever I may be, and this because of some words I think I heard in the depths of my heart: 'You are destined to please me not so much by successes as by failure.'" She did indeed experience many failures, but because of her missionary spirit, the Society of the Sacred Heart spread around the world. Because of her loyalty to Madeleine Sophie Barat, the Society remained one congregation, its internationality one of its strongest characteristics.

Today, Religious of the Sacred Heart serve in forty-one countries. In the spirit of Philippine, these educators prepare the young for today and tomorrow; they seek out the poor and those who have no voice in today's society. Every frontier we face cries out for pioneers who have the courage to follow God's call and the wisdom to pray always.

Philippine Duchesne died on November 18, 1852, at the age of 83. She is interred in a shrine built in her honor at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles, Missouri. She was beatified in 1940 and canonized July 3, 1988. ✚

Following in her footsteps

Pilgrimages past and present

By Linda Behrens

As part of bicentennial celebrations in 2017 and 2018, devotees of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne are taking to the highways and byways, visiting sites associated with a woman whose life has inspired so many. Two group pilgrimages, one on foot, one by bus, have already taken place, and opportunities to follow suit are ongoing.



At Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mound City, Kansas, the pilgrims learned about the history of the church and its devotion to Philippine. During quiet time for reflection, Marimer Cepeda-Lopez, RSCJ, from Mexico prayed by a sculpture of Philippine with a Potawatomi family.

From Mound City to St. Charles

Ann Sieben, who led this pilgrimage to honor Philippine in March, has walked more than 40,000 kilometers around the world along the ancient paths of pilgrims since 2007, carrying neither money nor phone and relying on the kindness of strangers to provide food and shelter. Known as the “winter pilgrim,” she is a woman so devoted to journeying on foot to significant destinations that she founded an order of mendicants, the Society of Servant Pilgrims. Needless to say, she is a font of knowledge about the history of Christian pilgrimage.

“Readiness for a successful pilgrimage requires three elements,” she notes: “conversion of the heart, by making a commitment focused on the pilgrimage sufficient to carry the pilgrim through difficult patches; sacrifice, such as in comfort, access, and personal desires during the pilgrimage; and an openness to transformation, allowing the spirit to take hold.”

Starting their journey on March 24, 2017, three pilgrims (ages 80, 76 and 53) walked from Mound City, Kansas, to St. Charles, Missouri, to commemorate the bicentennial of the arrival of Philippine Duchesne in North America, following an arduous sea journey from her home in France. After visiting Sugar Creek and the area where Philippine lived and prayed with the Potawatomi, they began their 335-mile walk to the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Philippine’s first North American school, and now her resting place.

They traveled on gravel farm roads for the first part of the journey, then walked along the Katy Trail, the nation’s longest developed rail-trail, which spans

Saint Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park is located at the former Sugar Creek Mission in Centerville, Kansas. The mission was the true end of the Trail of Death, where the Potawatomi lived for ten years. Pilgrims took time to read a timeline near the entrance to Sugar Creek that tells the story of the Trail of Death.

Next page: Pilgrims Ann Sieben, Roscoe Hill and James Adams arrive at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles, Missouri, after twenty-five days of walking from Mound City, Kansas.



much of the width of Missouri. They arrived on May 18, after twenty-five days of walking ten to fifteen miles a day, an average of thirteen miles, or a half marathon. The mobile phone app one of the men used showed them walking 35,000 to 45,000 steps a day.

Along the way, they slept at churches of various denominations. Some parishioners took them into their homes.

Ann Sieben, age 53, led the group of three pilgrims. James Adams from St. Louis, age 76, learned of the upcoming bicentennial of Philippine and longed to make a pilgrimage from Mound City to St. Charles. He connected with Ann, who made it happen. They were joined by Roscoe Hill from Denver, age 80, a retired university professor.

Every winter for about six months, Sieben travels the world on foot. She makes shorter pilgrimages the rest of the year. She completed a pilgrimage throughout Japan shortly before beginning the bicentennial pilgrimage, and has recently been walking the entire length of the Danube River.

Sieben plans to walk the same Missouri route for Philippine two more times: from April 29 to May 23, 2018, and from October 23 to November 17, 2018, arriving in the St. Louis area the day before the bicentennial Mass at Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis on the Feast of Saint Philippine Duchesne.

Others are invited to join Sieben for the entire journey, or to meet up with her and walk part of the way.

For more information on the two pilgrimages in 2018, see: rscj.org/bicentennial2018/mound-city-st-charles

From St. Charles to Sugar Creek

It was the last stop of a two-day pilgrimage in July. The 55-passenger bus kicked-up dust as it made its way down the gravel road to the Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park in rural Centerville in eastern Kansas. As passengers from around the world exited the bus, they were greeted by the outstretched arms of a sculpture of the Sacred Heart.

They were now on holy ground. One pilgrim was overheard saying, "I am so honored to be walking on the same land where Philippine once lived."

This visit to a park in the middle of the Midwest was part of a bus pilgrimage that, for those who signed up, capped off the Sacred Heart Spirituality Forum at Saint Louis University. (See story on page 16.) The pilgrims included Religious of the Sacred Heart from sixteen countries, staff from various Sacred Heart schools, and two members of the Potawatomi tribe of Native Americans.

This area was once known as the Sugar Creek Mission, a reservation for the Potawatomi, who settled here in 1838, after being forced to march at gunpoint from their ancestral homeland in Indiana – a 660-mile journey known as the Trail of Death. Over the ten years they occupied this land, hundreds of Potawatomi lived and died here. And for one of those years, Philippine Duchesne lived and prayed here in fulfillment of her life's dream to serve Native Americans.

In 1841 at the insistence of Father Peter Verhaegen, the Jesuit in charge of the mission, Philippine accompanied him and three other Religious of the Sacred Heart to Sugar Creek to establish a school for Potawatomi girls. At 72, she had at



Making a pilgrimage on your own

Individuals or groups may make full or partial day pilgrimages by visiting the two shrines to Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne located in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The Shrine of Saint Philippine Duchesne is located on the campus of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles, Missouri. Philippine founded the Academy of the Sacred Heart in 1818, and on the same site, the first free school west of the Mississippi River. Following her death in 1852, she was buried on the grounds of the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Her shrine was built in 1951, and her sarcophagus was moved there the following year.

Find out more: duchesneshrine.org

Old St. Ferdinand Shrine, dedicated to Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, is at 1 Rue St. Francois in Florissant, Missouri. Philippine founded a school and lived here from 1819 to 1827 and from 1834 to 1840. The St. Ferdinand parish dates to 1789, when a log church served the French village. The settlement is one of the oldest European settlements west of the Mississippi. The parish hall may be rented for special events.

Find out more: oldstferdinandshrine.com

St. Louis Walk of Fame

While visiting the shrines in St. Louis, take time to celebrate Philippine as a star! Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame on June 23. Her star and plaque are embedded in the sidewalk at 6241 Delmar in The Loop.

The St. Louis Walk of Fame is a nonprofit organization founded in 1988. Its purpose is to “showcase the cultural heritage of St. Louis and to advance the knowledge, awareness and appreciation of great St. Louisans and their accomplishments.”

Presently there are 150 individuals on the Walk of Fame, from Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau to Jack Buck and Maya Angelou.

Find out more: stlouiswalkoffame.org ❖



first been deemed too frail for to make the journey. Because she was unable to be of much help with the physical work, or to learn the Potawatomi language, she spent much of her time in prayer, gaining the name “Woman Who Prays Always.” After just one year, she was called back to St. Charles because of her health. Despite the short time she had lived in Sugar Creek, she made a deep impression on the Potawatomi.

Find out more about the Potawatomi at: www.potawatomi-tda.org

The other sisters stayed at Sugar Creek until the Potawatomi left, then moved with them to Saint Marys, Kansas. At Saint Marys, the sisters built a new school, dubbed “Skyscraper of the Prairie” because it was five stories tall. The RSCJ served in Saint Marys until 1879, and today, it is possible to visit the grave of the seven who are buried at the Mount Calvary Cemetery near the school.

The bus tour also took the pilgrims to Saint Marys to see the old school, the cemetery, and an Indian pay station.

One other stop on the pilgrimage included Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mound City, Kansas. The parish, built in 1941, is dedicated to Philippine. There is a shrine at the church in her honor, and the stained-glass windows depict Philippine’s life story.

More information about visiting these locations is available at rscj.org/bicentennial2018/places-visit

Internationality on display at forum

Speaker dubbed it “a Rebecca Moment”

By Pamela Schaeffer



Spirituality Forum participants (from left) Gerardette Philips, RSCJ; Ani Haroian; and Marimer Cepeda-Lopez, RSCJ, share a story during a break. Sister Philips was one of the keynote speakers. Her talk focused on contemporary frontiers.

When life beckons in a new direction, when you need a boost of courage to move to new frontiers; the Society of the Sacred Heart has a metaphor for you.

In the spirit of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, you might think of such turning points as Rebecca moments.

The Rebecca, of course, was the name of the ship that lurched across the Atlantic in 1818, transporting Philippine and her companions to North American shores. It was the first step in what was to become one of the Society’s hallmarks: its internationality.

And so it happened that, thanks to keynote speaker Catherine Mooney, *Rebecca Moment* – a phrase borrowed from the Society’s 2016 General Chapter – was informally adopted as the theme of the 2017 bicentennial Sacred Heart Spirituality Forum.

It was the largest, most international and diverse Sacred Heart spirituality forum to date.

The 358 participants in the four-day event had opportunities in three major talks and thirty breakout sessions to deepen their knowledge of Philippine and her legacy and to visit places she lived in and loved, including the Academy of the Sacred Heart, the school she founded in St. Charles, Missouri.

Special guests included an elder of the Potawatomi tribe, Robert “Kiwezi” Pearl, and his daughter, Janet “Wischap Gishek” Pearl, as well as the Society’s superior general Barbara Dawson, RSCJ, and members of her multi-national Central Team in Rome.

In her opening talk, Mooney focused on Philippine’s efforts to challenge the racism of her day and invited participants to carry on those efforts in their own lives and locales. Although the Society, like many other religious organizations of Philippine’s day, participated directly and indirectly in the culture of slavery, Mooney noted that Philippine “struggled to build bridges.” For

Some came to greet old friends and make new ones; some to learn more about the life of a woman who overcame daunting obstacles, and eventually was named a saint.

example, she founded the first school for girls west of the Mississippi, and petitioned, unsuccessfully at the time, to admit black and mulatto girls into the Society's boarding and free schools, as well as to admit black women into the Society.

Mooney, associate professor of church history in the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College, is a longtime friend of the Society and author of *Philippine Duchesne: A Woman with the Poor* (Paulist, 1990). She said she intended in her talk to resist hagiography – that is, romanticizing Philippine into “more of a saint than she actually is” – but rather to highlight aspects of emerging historical research about a remarkable and holy woman.

The second keynote speaker, Sister Priscilla Solomon, CSJ, who is Ojibway, connected her own background with Philippine's love for Native Americans. A Sister of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, Sister Priscilla is noted for contributing indigenous perspectives to faith-based justice organizations. She fanned participants with wisps of smoke from burning sage, a sacred ceremony of peace and healing, as she spoke about the benefits of a contemporary “resurgence of indigenous identity, spirituality and culture.”

Gerardette Philips, an RSCJ from India who has lived and ministered in Indonesia since 2000, spoke, in the third keynote talk, about contemporary frontiers. Never before has history known so many frontiers, and violations of frontiers, she said. Yet, “the only truly new and significant experience” is that of “journeying from one religious universe to another.”

Philippine, by her willingness to open herself to the spiritual universe of Native Americans, can teach us “how to develop the spiritual agility and wisdom” needed now, Sister Philips said.

In some thirty breakout sessions, speakers talked about emerging research shedding new light on Philippine's personality, spirituality and life.

Robert Pearl, 91, related what he and his siblings had learned from their mother about Philippine's friendship with the Potawatomi. “Our mother had us pray every night for Saint Rose Philippine,” he said. “My mother always wanted her to be declared a saint.”

Special guests and participants included an elder of the Potawatomi tribe, Robert “Kiwezi” Pearl, and his daughter, Janet “Wischap Gishek” Pearl.



During the closing Mass, a special gift was presented to the United States – Canada Province. Sent by the Province of Venezuela, Margot Bremer, RSCJ, gave Provincial Sheila Hammond a ciborium that once belonged to Madeleine Sophie Barat. Mother Barat had given it to Philippine Duchesne to bring to the New World in 1818. The ciborium later traveled to Cuba, then to Venezuela before returning to Missouri in celebration of the bicentennial.



The Society's internationality was on full display at the forum. It drew participants from twenty-two countries – men and women of all ages and walks of life. There were 152 RSCJ, 45 Associates, 37 students representing 18 schools in the U.S. and Canada, and four students representing schools outside of North America: Japan, Mexico, Egypt, and Australia. The Society has members in 41 countries and 147 affiliated schools in 32 countries, including 24 in the U.S. and Canada.

It is too early to know what the seeds sown at the forum will reap, but participants' perspectives offer some glimpses.

Renata Ryszkowska, RSCJ, said the experience would be of great help in her efforts to support people who want to be part of the Society's mission in her home country of Poland. "It has been very important for me to see all of the lay people here," she said. "It is so beautiful."

Irene d'Souza, RSCJ, of Mumbai, India, said her visit to the school Philippine founded in St. Charles, and to her shrine, had given her "more insight to love the people I work with, to go with an open heart to the poor." Sister d'Souza has longed for many years to know Philippine better, as she translated the Constitutions of the Society and stories about Philippine into indigenous languages of India.

The Society's spirituality forum drew participants from twenty-two countries – men and women of all ages and walks of life.

Victoria Lynch, a student at Newton Country Day School in Newton, Massachusetts loved experiencing the goals of Sacred Heart schools in action at the forum – and "especially Goal Four – building community as a Christian value."

Kathy McGrath, RSCJ, one of the forum organizers, was thrilled to experience in one setting the vibrancy of the Sacred Heart family, including associates, students, teachers, coworkers and friends, a multi-layered community that extends "way beyond" the vowed religious.

"It gives us great hope for the future," she said.

The Spirituality Forum was held at Saint Louis University in St. Louis. Liturgies were celebrated in multiple languages, and the three major talks were simultaneously translated into French and Spanish.

During the closing liturgy, a ciborium carried from France by Philippine was transferred to the United States–Canada Province from the Province of Venezuela, where it has resided since the 1960s. This ciborium, originally a gift from Madeleine Sophie Barat to Philippine on her departure from France, had made its way from the United States to Cuba, to Puerto Rico to Venezuela. ❖



Catherine Mooney, one of three keynote speakers, focused on Philippine's struggles with the racism of her era.



Speaker Priscilla Solomon, CSJ, talked about Native American spirituality, connecting her own experiences to Philippine's love of the Potawatomi.

Our journey of the heart together

Year of Prayer

By Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ

Almost from the beginning of our bicentennial planning, a Year of Prayer was at the heart of our design.

Now that the Year of Prayer is underway, we are thrilled to be witnessing each week the anticipated results: the worldwide Sacred Heart family brought together in prayer and reflection. Through the weekly reflections, Philippine is being introduced to those who do not know her, and those who do have frequent opportunities to deepen their love and appreciation of this courageous pioneer.

We also saw this Year of Prayer as a time to reflect on frontiers then and now – on issues, challenges, dreams, and questions worth pondering, and to tease out Philippine’s relevance for today and for the future of the Society’s mission in the contemporary world.

Thanks to regional editors around the world, the collection of postings represents nearly all the countries where we are located. The weekly reflections join image with text. They capture Philippine’s life and mission and illuminate each writer’s understanding of her relevance for today.

In general, the reflections focus on the many frontiers Philippine crossed, both geographic and existential, and



A page from Philippine's house journal.

their contemporary meanings. The subjects are as varied as the background of the writers: friendship, suffering, loss, courage, boundaries, perseverance, hope. The genres include poetry, prose and prayer.

Here are a few titles to whet your appetite: “Handling a Broken Heart,” “With Dirt Under Her Fingernails,” “Grace and Grit: Mysticism and the Cross,” “The Prayer of the Potawatomi on Hearing of the Death of Philippine.”

This year-long online retreat is for all of us: RSCJ, friends, colleagues, associates, student and alums – the whole of the Sacred Heart family. We are, each of us, invited to learn something more about Philippine and, week by week, perhaps also something more about ourselves.

To that end, we have prepared and posted a journal, either to be downloaded from rscj.org or completed on your computer. Keeping a journal is a spiritual exercise, a way to ponder the word heard in our hearts – the question, the challenge, the discomfort, the dream. It is a way to notice patterns, movements of the Spirit, promises made and kept.

Finally, the Year of Prayer offers the possibility of shared conversation. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram – choose your favorite social medium to speak with others about a Monday posting that truly touched you.

So much is going on during the bicentennial. Perhaps we could think of the Year of Prayer as our journey of the heart – together – anchoring conferences and lesson plans, publications and commissions, pilgrimages and service, and all the other initiatives of this great celebration, in prayer and praise. ✚

All are invited to join our online retreat.





For the ages

Music and art

Permanent works of art are being created for the bicentennial of Philippine Duchesne's arrival, among them, a sculpture of the saint and a festival mass in her honor. Here is some background on the creators and the creations.



Father Michael Joncas rehearses the Philippine Duchesne Mass with the College Church choir.

Special mass

Although Father Michael Joncas has composed some 350 pieces of music, he says the mass to be sung at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in honor of Saint Philippine Duchesne is his most daunting project to date.

On November 18, 2018, *Mass in Honor of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*, a year in the making, will resound across the mosaic-studded spaces of the cathedral, featuring strings, woodwinds, brasses, drums and, most importantly, the voices of Saint Louis University's St. Francis Xavier (College) Church choir.

As requested by the bicentennial committee, the mass will be sung in multiple languages, be within the range of most non-professional voices, and be adaptable to a variety of skills and settings, including schools. Further, it includes a hymn, *O God of Ev'ry Nation*, reflecting Philippine's life and spirit that can be lifted from the mass and sung on its own.

In all, the mass contains four languages: French, Spanish and English, the three official languages of the Society of the Sacred Heart, and a bit of Potawatomi for the Native Americans among whom Philippine lived and prayed.

The music for the *Lamb of God* is reminiscent of Native American music, Joncas says, in part because of intermittent drumming. Further, the Potawatomi word "AHO," for Amen, appears in a couple places. Translated literally, it means, "That's all there is to say," says Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, with a hearty chuckle.

Introducing Joncas to the Sacred Heart family is easy. It's almost a cliché to say that he is best known as the composer of *On Eagle's Wings*, a favorite post-Vatican II hymn for Catholic worship. He has previously composed several masses, including the *No Greater Love Mass*, a project he set for himself, as a bow to the great classical mass composers he admires, such as Mozart, Schubert, and Haydn. That mass can be heard at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

Surprisingly, though Joncas grew up around music, he has no formal training in composing. His degrees are in English, liturgical studies, and the history and analysis of Christian worship. He has long taught at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he is currently artist-in-residence and a fellow of the Center for Catholic Studies.

"My mother was a lyric soprano who gave up any career she might have had



to raise the eight children in our family,” he said in a phone interview. “She sang around the house a lot, and gave us the equivalent of voice training.” Joncas’ father worked in technical theater, had a large record collection and introduced young Mike to opera. He learned to sing chant in a Catholic school choir, studied piano for a couple years by a method that included some compositional techniques, and, as a young adolescent, “haunted” the library of a next-door neighbor, who was the principal hornist for the Minneapolis symphony. Joncas eventually learned that he could “hear” music in his head from reading scores. “Nowadays, I’m very fortunate to compose on a computer using a program called *Finale*,” he said.

Joncas’ hope for his latest mass composition is pretty much the same as he has for all his composing work: that “it will help people pray,” he said.

Sister Kathleen Hughes, chair of the bicentennial committee, described the parts of the mass she’s heard so far as nothing short of exhilarating.

“I see this as a real gift to the Church,” she said. ✦

—*Pamela Schaeffer*



Photo by Inspired Artisans

Gianfranco Tassara, art director

In bronze, in a garden

As part of the bicentennial celebrations, the United States – Canada Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart has commissioned a sculpture of Philippine Duchesne for the Jubilee Prayer Garden at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Philippine is a patron saint of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The project derives from a dream of Anne Carleton, longtime member of the cathedral’s garden committee, to honor Philippine’s role in bringing Catholic education to the area with a sculpture for the garden. A local family will cover the cost in memory of their mother.

Seven artists responded to a proposal request, and Inspired Artisans, a family-owned liturgical arts studio based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, received the commission.

“It is an honor for Inspired Artisans to create this image of such historical importance to the St. Louis area,” said Gianfranco Tassara, art director for Inspired Artisans. “As she will be created in bronze, we look forward to her presence in the shadow of the cathedral for many years to come.”

The sculpture design calls for Philippine to be seated with a map on her lap. She will be depicted in her mid-40s, her age when she left France to come to America. Installation is scheduled for June 2018. ✦

—*Linda Behrens*



New icon in Omaha

In mid-November, a new icon by Kyoko Fuller was blessed by Sisters Shirley Miller and Lyn Osiek at Duchesne Academy in Omaha. The icon shows Philippine at prayer, with the *Rebecca* pictured on the left and the first house in St. Charles on the right. Above left are Potawatomi in authentic dress, and on the right, students from the boarding school. Philippine’s halo is adorned with oak leaves, and Christ extends his hand from above. The emblem of the school is on his cloak.

Suggested reading



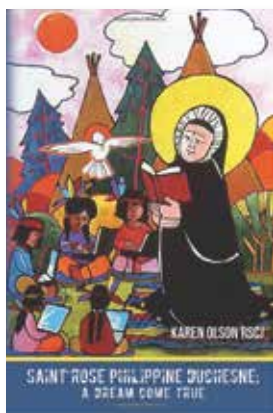
***Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne:
A Heart on Fire across Frontiers***
by Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ

In this short biography, Sister Osiek brings to life this holy and enterprising woman for the 21st century reader, as she traces Philippine's story from her girlhood in the shadow of the French Revolution through her sojourn among the Potawatomi nation at the end of her life.



***Seeking the One Whom We Love:
How RSCJs Pray***
edited by Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ,
and Therese Meyerhoff

Religious of the Sacred Heart were invited to contribute an essay, a poem or an illustration in answer to the question "How do you pray?" The responses are as varied as the women themselves and reveal the various ways the grace of God works in persons who pray.



***Rose Philippine Duchesne:
A Dream Comes True***
by Karen Olson, RSCJ

A longtime middle school teacher, Sister Olson has adapted the story of Saint Philippine's life specifically for children of that age, answering questions she actually received from students. The book is liberally illustrated with familiar drawings and photos Sister Olson took during her travels.

These books are available for purchase at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

COMING SOON:

***A Life Given in Love: Reflections
on Saint Philippine Duchesne***
collected and edited by Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ

Sister Mousseau has gone in search of homilies delivered during countless liturgical celebrations honoring Rose Philippine Duchesne and collected them here. They will be especially useful for historians and those preparing liturgies and prayer services during this bicentennial year.

***Grave on the Prairie: Seven Religious
of the Sacred Heart and St. Mary's
Mission to the Potawatomi***
by Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ

Recognizing that many people may be unaware that RSCJ continued to minister to the Potawatomi for almost forty years after Philippine Duchesne's death, Sister Chicoine has written an account of seven of those who died and are buried in St. Marys, Kansas.

Philippine Duchesne: Complete Works
edited by Marie-France Carreel, RSCJ,
and Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ

Philippine Duchesne took the trouble to record the history and day-to-day events of her journey, from her early days in France as an RSCJ and to America as the Society's first missionary. These writings, along with 600 of her letters, have been collected, annotated, edited and translated. The version in French has been published; the English will appear in the future. They will be of interest to all who want to know Philippine and to anyone interested in 19th century frontier life and the history of Catholicism in Missouri and Louisiana. ❖



Bicentennial prayer

Spirit of the living God,
you first breathed over the waters of creation,
and one day you breathed a passion
 into the heart of Philippine Duchesne.
You called her to cross the waters to a New World,
to bring the message of your compassion and love
to a land and peoples already dear to your heart.

Not knowing the language of the land,
she spoke the language of the heart—
 of love and prayer,
 of attention and openness,
 of steadfast purpose and living faith.
As the Sacred Heart family around the world,
we are the harvest of the seeds she sowed.

Bless, now, our ever-new world,
with Philippine's spirit of great-hearted courage.
Fill us with her desire to cross frontiers,
especially those furthest from the touch of hope.

Renew the whole Church in its missionary spirit
 and give us Philippine's zeal
 to spread your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.

We ask all this in your name, triune God,
whose love knows no borders or boundaries,
and who sends us to make known that love in the heart of the
world now and forever.
Amen.

In memoriam

*Blessed are those who have died in
the Lord; let them rest from their labors
for their good deeds go with them.*

Anne Byrne, RSCJ
January 8, 2017

Joanne Fitzpatrick, RSCJ
February 16, 2017

Beatrice Brennan, RSCJ
February 24, 2017

Virginia "Ginny" Schumann, RSCJ
April 12, 2017

Margaret Mary Miller, RSCJ
May 17, 2017

Carol Haggarty, RSCJ
June 18, 2017

Rosemary "Wickie" Sheehan, RSCJ
June 20, 2017

Mary Blish, RSCJ
June 21, 2017

Sarah Elizabeth "Betsy" Walsh, RSCJ
June 22, 2017

Alice Mills, RSCJ
July 20, 2017

Mary Louise "Tippy" Guillory, RSCJ
July 30, 2017

Mildred Barbara "Bebe" Kearins, RSCJ
August 13, 2017

Anita Louise "Tita" Lapeyre, RSCJ
December 4, 2017

*Full obituaries may be viewed at
rscj.org/about/memoriam.*



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▲ The Mass for the opening of the bicentennial of Philippine Duchesne's arrival was celebrated in New Orleans.



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▲ Students from Sacred Heart schools (and Flat Philippine) attended the Sacred Heart Spirituality Forum.

Network of Sacred Heart Schools



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▲ The life of Philippine Duchesne is depicted in the stained glass windows at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Mound City, Kansas. This visit was part of a Philippine pilgrimage.

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