

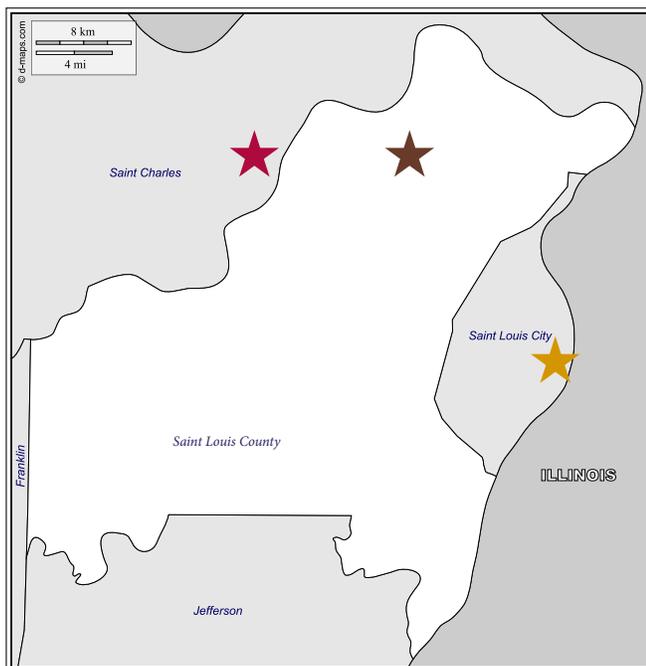
# Saint Philippine Bicentennial 1818-2018

## *In the footsteps of Saint Philippine Duchesne: A self-guided tour*

*Mother Rose Philippine Duchesne was a pioneer Missouri educator, the first to open a free school west of the Mississippi, the first to open an academic school for girls in the St. Louis, Missouri, area, and the first Catholic sister (along with her four companions) to serve in the St. Louis region. She brought the French-based Society of the Sacred Heart to America. The congregation of sisters was just 18 years old, and she led its daring, first foreign mission. It was energized by her lifelong passion to serve Native Americans.*

*Two hundred years after her arrival in the region, many share the stories of her faith-emboldened tenacity and her passion for girls' excellent education. Many strive to model her lifelong determination to reflect the love of God always. Canonized on July 3, 1988, she is a patron saint of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She is known around the world.*

*We hope this guide to seven places where the saint lived and prayed will help you learn more about her often discouraging but remarkable journey of love.*



 Head west to Kansas to visit Mound City and Centerville (Sugar Creek)

 Shrine of Saint Philippine Duchesne, St. Charles, Missouri

 Old St. Ferdinand, A Shrine to Saint Philippine Duchesne, Florissant, Missouri

 Locations in downtown St. Louis include Mississippi River by the Gateway Arch, Old Cathedral and former City House sites

## *Her footsteps in St. Louis, Missouri*



St. Louis Riverfront

### ★ **Mississippi Riverbank**

At the southern edge of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, now called the Gateway Arch National Park, drive to the corner of Wharf Street and Chouteau Boulevard, then south on Wharf Street. Turn left through the first open “gate” of the brightly-painted flood wall. Continue right along the river to the first parking spot perpendicular to the road facing the Mississippi River. Amid wild vines, step in the sandy Mississippi River mud just as Philippine did here on August 21, 1818.

This is where Mother Duchesne and her travel companions disembarked the steamboat *Franklin*, after their hot, 40-day journey up the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

The five sisters had begun their journey from Paris nearly six months before. In the river port of Bordeaux, they boarded the sailing ship *Rebecca* for their 70-day journey across the Atlantic Ocean to New Orleans.

After six weeks “sick leave” with the warm and generous Ursuline sisters in New Orleans, they embarked on the year-old steamboat *Franklin* to travel up the Mississippi River. Today, just as Philippine did, you can see cottonwood, cypress and oak trees on the banks below limestone bluffs (but ignore the railroad, barges and heavy industry found there now).

### ★ **Downtown St. Louis**

When you glimpse the Gateway Arch, think about this: during Philippine’s first three weeks in St. Louis, she slept in a house on what is now the grass under the Arch. She and her four companions were guests in a fine two-story, French colonial house on Market and Main streets.

General Bernard and Emilie Labadie Pratte, a granddaughter of City of St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede and Marie Therese Chouteau, welcomed the sisters for a three-week visit. The couple diligently worked to find rental property for a new school but without success. Bishop William DuBourg had promised a site in St. Louis but made no arrangements. St. Louis was a boom town, and Philippine wrote that rents were higher than those in Paris.

After three weeks, DuBourg accompanied the five sisters 24 miles west, across the Missouri River, to the frontier village of St. Charles.

### ★ **The Old Cathedral**

The Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, is located at 209 Walnut Street, St. Louis, Missouri, next to the Gateway Arch National Park. Visit the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi. The cathedral continues as an active parish with daily Mass. For a recording of Mass times, call 314-231-3250.



Old Cathedral

Mass had not been available on the steamboat *Franklin*. During their two weeks with the Prattes, Philippine and her companions attended Mass in the Church of St. Louis, the King, located on the site of today's Old Cathedral. In 1818, it was the second church on this site.

In 1834, Philippine made a sacrificial contribution to the construction of a new yellow limestone cathedral when she was living nearby at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, City House. That building was the third church on this site.

Today, you are visiting the fourth church on the site. The cathedral grounds are the only land in St. Louis that has had the same owner for 254 years (as of 2018).



Former City House, St. Louis

### ★ Former City House, St. Louis

The former site of the old City House, which Philippine founded in 1827, is at 1131 South Broadway at Convent Street. From Wharf Street and Chouteau Boulevard, it is a three-minute drive uphill on Chouteau. The site is exactly one-half mile south of Busch Stadium. (Convent Street is named for the Sacred Heart convent. Nearby streets – Chouteau, Papin, Gratiot and Cerre – are named for families of Philippine's City House students.)

From 1827 to 1834, Philippine lived at the expansive Academy of the Sacred Heart, what she nicknamed her *Maison de Ville*, her City House. It was a girls' school with classes from first through high school. Another wing had a free school and a small orphanage. In the 1830s, free African-Americans attended the free school until civil authorities ordered their education to cease. Its handsome balconies had river views. The Mill Creek (now underground) drained into Chouteau's Pond and formed nearly a moat around it. A limestone wall surrounded the school.

Today, look at the white stone foundation of the red brick building to the north of the Shamrock Pub. Society of the Sacred Heart historian Sister Marie Louise Martinez believed the stone work was originally part of the well-documented, extensive stone wall around City House.

Philippine loved this school. It was from here, in 1841 at the age of 72, that she finally had the opportunity to travel to Kansas to the Jesuits' Potawatomi Indian mission of Sugar Creek.

By 1893, Broadway had become industrialized, noisy and polluted, so the school's superior, Reverend Mother Elise Miltenberger, moved City House to the then remote Taylor Avenue between Maryland and Pershing avenues in what is today's Central West End. She also founded Barat Hall, a boys' grade school. Both schools flourished until 1968. That year, the Society of the Sacred Heart merged the two schools with Villa Duchesne, which had been founded in 1929 in St. Louis County at Spoeede and Conway. The three schools were reorganized as Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School.

## *Her footsteps in St. Charles, Missouri*



Academy in St. Charles

### ★ **Academy of the Sacred Heart and Shrine**

The school and shrine are located at 619 North 2nd Street at Clark Street, St. Charles, Missouri. Look on Clark Street for the statue by Harry Weber of the joyful saint with a student clinging to her. The Academy is a member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.

Located at the Academy, the Shrine of Saint Philippine Duchesne, where her remains are interred, is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Contact the shrine director at 636-946-6127 for a docent-led tour. It is 24 miles north-west of downtown St. Louis via I-70. For more information: [duchesneshrine.org](http://duchesneshrine.org).

Just three weeks after the steamboat *Franklin* delivered the intrepid five sisters to St. Louis and shortly after Philippine's 49th birthday, Bishop William DuBourg accompanied her carriage and cart to St. Charles. They made the rough, daylong 24-mile journey over rutted dirt roads to LaFreniere Chavin's ferry and floated across the wide Missouri River. They rented a house high on a bluff in the frontier town. The five- (or by her sometimes count seven-) room Creole colonial house had typical wide porch galleries on four sides.

On September 14, 1818, on these grounds, the saint opened the first free school west of the Mississippi in the house. Later she opened a low-fee school and, finally, an academic boarding school for only two St. Louis families willing to have their daughters on the distant frontier. Plans for boarders to support the free schools dimmed.

From the first days in St. Charles, Philippine recalled Bishop DuBourg's early recruitment efforts in her Paris convent parlor. He promised to help her start schools in St. Louis for Indians and Catholic children. Philippine called the St. Charles village, "the remotest village in the U.S." With scant tuition income, she closed the tiny school in less than a year and moved to Florissant, where, in 1819, they occupied a new purpose-built convent and school.

In St. Charles, a decade after she closed the school, Jesuits built a new church there and entreated some of her Religious of the Sacred Heart to found a new Academy of the Sacred Heart. That school thrives today as a private grade school. Its students treasure Philippine's heritage.

She returned to St. Charles at the age 73. She was frail after a severe winter at the Potawatomi mission in Kansas, where she was revered by the Indians as "the woman who prays always." Prayer consumed her hours in retirement at the convent in St. Charles. When not on her knees, she mended the girls' uniforms and sewed church vestments and linen for poor churches. Children cherished the frail sister. As her eyesight failed, the youngest girls vied for the honor of threading her needles.

The room where she spent her last decade survives much as it was the day she died at noon on November 18, 1852. A spare, wooden prie-Dieu, her foot warmer and a picture of a favorite saint, St. Regis, remain. Her beloved



Duchesne Shrine, St. Charles

crucifix later came from the hillside stone Visitation convent in Grenoble, France. Her community's adjacent parlor is furnished with objects and photos of her time.

Her remains are in a marble sarcophagus in the mid-20th century limestone shrine church on the grounds. Pilgrims daily come to kneel to petition her intercession with God.

Do not miss the great silky banner that had hung on the façade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on July 3, 1988, for the Mass of Canonization when Pope St. John Paul II declared her a saint. In Rome that blistering day, French descendants of Philippine's siblings and cousins (who had generously supported her American schools) joined more than 500 St. Louis area residents, hundreds of other Americans, and thousands from as far away as Japan at the Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

### *Her footsteps in Florissant, Missouri*



St. Ferdinand Shrine, Florissant

#### ★ **Old St. Ferdinand Shrine and Historical Site**

Philippine lived here from 1819 to 1827, and again from 1834 to 1840. Old St. Ferdinand Shrine and Historical Site is just northwest of Rue St. Charles, 1 Rue St. Francois, Florissant, Missouri. It is 18 miles northwest of St. Louis via I-70. Tours are available by appointment. Call 314-837-2110 or visit the website: [oldstferdinandshrine.com](http://oldstferdinandshrine.com).

After less than a year in St. Charles, the five sisters along with their cow took a boat across the wide Missouri River and opened a boarding school in St. Ferdinand de Fleurissant, now the town of Florissant. Some of the St. Louis Catholics eager to have a good school for their daughters were pleased by the valley's safety. The three-story, 1819 building housed the school's dorms and convent. (It has been restored and is open to the public by reservation.) Here, Philippine opened a novitiate to educate potential sisters, as well as a girls' boarding school and a free school.

Spend a few minutes at the door of the closet where Philippine chose to sleep. It is a few steps from the convent's private entrance to the church. She prayed late into the night and early in the morning. Here she could sleep without going up and down the wooden steps, which often disturbed the sisters and boarders.

In 1821, she donated the cornerstone for St. Ferdinand Church, adjacent to her convent. The church today is the oldest surviving church building west of the Mississippi.

In its museum, see the priest's vestment, called a cope, which Philippine stitched for the Indians' trusted blackrobe, Belgian-born, Jesuit Father Pierre DeSmet.



St. Ferdinand Shrine, Florissant

## *Her footsteps in Kansas*

### ← **Mound City Shrine and Her Indian Mission at Sugar Creek**



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne** is located at 729 W. Main Street, Mound City, Kansas. The shrine is 320 miles west of St. Louis, a four and a half hour drive. It is south of Kansas City, near the Missouri-Kansas border.

The Shrine's beautiful stained glass windows depict the life and ministry of Philippine, and other features include a marble sanctuary and a statue of Philippine with Native Americans. Original art murals and Stations of the Cross panels were painted by two sisters from the Ursuline community of Paola.

**Saint Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park** is located at the former St. Mary's Sugar Creek Mission on 1525th Road, five miles west of Highway 7, about three miles east of Centerville or 20 miles south of Osawatomie.

The mission, where the Potawatomi lived for 10 years beginning in 1838, was the true end of the Trail of Death. In 1841, four Religious of the Sacred Heart answered the call of Father Peter Verhaegen to go to the Native American mission. At age 72 and in failing health, Philippine was thought to be too frail, but at the thought of going, her energy returned.

Many years after arriving in St. Louis with the dream of working with the Native Americans, she lived among the Potawatomi. She nursed their sick and visited their cold huts, even in deep snow. She was frail and suffered many ailments. The students' language was a struggle for Philippine, but her kindly tones and expressions won them over. They called her "the woman who prays always."

A year after her arrival at Sugar Creek, she was asked by Society leadership to return to St. Charles because of her health.



**THIS MEMORIAL  
IS DEDICATED TO:**

**"QUAH-KAH-KA-NUM-AD"  
POTAWATOMI FOR  
"WOMAN WHO PRAYS  
ALWAYS".**

**ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE  
WAS A NUN OF THE SOCIETY  
OF THE SACRED HEART OF  
JESUS, A TEACHING ORDER.**

**SHE TAUGHT INDIAN  
CHILDREN HERE IN 1841.  
SHE WAS CANNONIZED A  
SAINT ON JULY 3, 1988.**

Duchesne Memorial Park

## *Other locations that honor Saint Philippine in the St. Louis area*



Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

### **Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis**

4431 Lindell Boulevard

St. Louis, MO 63108

Open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Tours run most weekdays and at about 1 p.m. most Sundays. On a large pediment in the southeast corner high above the eastern side aisle, look for the large mosaic of Philippine with two students, and the sailing ship, *Rebecca*. Hildreth Meiere, an alumna of Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in New York, designed the mosaic.

Located in a the north end of the Jubilee Prayer Garden, a sculpture of Philippine by Gianfranco Tassara was commissioned in 2018 in honor of the bicentennial of her arrival in St. Louis. She is seated with a map on her lap, dreaming of coming to the New World. Two benches are next to the sculpture, inviting you to sit with her for awhile. The garden is located between the church and the rectory.

### **St. Louis Walk of Fame**

6241 Delmar at Eastgate Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63130

A star and plaque, dedicated June 23, 2017, on the sidewalk in front of Provisions Grocery tell of Philippine's pioneer determination. She is the only saint listed among 140+ famous Missourians.



St. Louis Walk of Fame

### **Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School**

801 S. Spoede Road

St. Louis, MO 63131

Philippine's image carved into a tree trunk by Robinson Carving Company welcomes students and visitors just west of the Spoede and Conway Road intersection at the school's main entrance on Conway. Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School is a member of the Network of Sacred Heart Schools.

### **Duchesne High School**

2550 Elm Street

St. Charles, MO 63301

A plaster statue of Philippine is in the foyer of this archdiocesan school, named for Philippine. Visitors are welcome during office hours.

## Shrines



### Academy of the Sacred Heart and Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

619 North 2nd Street  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
636-946-6147  
[duchesneshrine.org](http://duchesneshrine.org)



### Old St. Ferdinand Shrine and Historical Site

1 Rue St. Francois  
Florissant, MO 63031  
314-837-2110  
[oldstferdinandshrine.com](http://oldstferdinandshrine.com)



### Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Shrine of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne

729 W. Main Street  
Mound City, KS 66056  
[miamilinn Catholics.org/SH](http://miamilinn Catholics.org/SH)

### Saint Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park (Sugar Creek)

8499 W. 1525 Road  
Centerville, KS 66014  
[potawatomi-tda.org/kansas/stphilip.htm](http://potawatomi-tda.org/kansas/stphilip.htm)

For more information, visit:  
[rscj.org/bicentennial2018](http://rscj.org/bicentennial2018)

Thank you to Patricia Rice for  
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Society of the Sacred Heart  
United States – Canada

## Other locations that honor Saint Philippine

### Hall of Famous Missourians, State Capitol

201 West Capitol Ave. | Jefferson City, MO 65101 | 573-751-2854

A sculpture of Philippine by Sabra Tull Meyer is displayed. Capitol building tours available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on weekends.

### Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

400 Michigan Ave. | Washington, D.C. 20017 | 202-526-8300

A sculpture of Philippine as a “Missouri Pioneer Saint” by Angelo Gherardi is on the crypt level.

### Old Ursuline Convent Museum

1100 Chartres St. | New Orleans, LA 70116 | 504-529-3040

The Old Ursuline Convent is the oldest building in the Mississippi River Valley. Completed in 1752, it is also the oldest surviving example of the French colonial period in the United States. In 1818, Philippine and her companions stayed at this convent when they arrived in New Orleans from France. A sculpture of Philippine is in the courtyard.

### Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

3601 Burt Street | Omaha, NE 68131 | 402-558-3800

A sculpture of Philippine by Michael Montag is on the campus of Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, an independent, Catholic, college-preparatory high school for girls in grades 9-12 and preschool for ages 3-6.



National Shrine, D.C.



Duchesne Academy, Omaha