



Feast of Philippine Duchesne 2021 Prayer-Reflection Guide

Philippine's personality never fails to leave anyone unmoved. A passionate and exciting life, a mixture of achievements and failures, all of which make her a very human woman. It is this combination of fragility and strength that makes her approachable and welcoming, like our sister. With her we walk the path of life, God's way for each one of us. She is a living example which shows that it is worth trying, with determination, without giving up, in the journey she underwent of meeting Jesus - listening to reality - discerning the response, which Pope Francis recently invited us to do in his homily at the Opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops.

In the midst of the Special Chapter 2021, united by the grace of our vocation and praying for one another, we join together during this significant time and ask Philippine for her apostolic passion and her unconditional trust in God.



With great joy, celebrating Rose Philippine, we are united in singing Laudate Dominum – Taize. [Click here](#)

LET US LISTEN TO THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah speaks to a people who are exiled and destitute, who have lost hope and are homesick for the promised land. To this people the God of Love sends a messenger. Wasn't Philippine also a messenger of good news with her life?

Reading from the prophet Isaiah (52:7-9)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem!

CALLS TO BRING THE WORD TO LIFE, BY MEANS OF FOUR INVITATIONS

The JPIC Document, "Artisans of Hope" (June 2019) brings us face to face with reality in an urgent and mindful way. Because the human, global and ecological balance...demands our care and protection. Philippine, in her time and in her own way, already reflected this same need in her copious correspondence with Sophie Barat. Other times, new realities, but the same transformative commitment to building a better world.

1. Washing one another's feet: an invitation to reflect critically on JPIC and on our relationships of power.

"Although God sustains my courage and even the intensity of my desires, when I came here my soul was in a state of anguish, tense and dark (...) My companions have also had their moments of weakness. I understand this and try to help them, knowing full well my own misery. All this only makes it seem more disconcerting that God, in his goodness, has chosen us."

(Letter from Philippine to Sophie Barat, 18th February 1818)

SILENCE...

2. Transforming and being transformed: advocacy that begins with an honest search from within.

"Understand this clearly: our Lord in his goodness wants you to become a great saint. He brought you into this little family for the sole purpose of giving you the means to achieve this".

(Letter of Sophie Barat to Philippine - 12th March 1812)

SILENCE...

3. Caring for our common home.

“God seems to be putting great obstacles in the way of educating the savages. The government is buying up their lands and pushing them out of the states of the Union, forcing them to live restricted within the narrow confines of a territory where they have almost no room to hunt, their only means of subsistence. The different tribes thus grouped together will make war on each other, and will destroy themselves without realising it”. (Letter from Philippine to Sophia Barat - June 15, 1826)

SILENCE...

4. Welcoming people on the move: journeying with those who seek refuge and hope for a better future.

“Pride tries to hide the misery, but we see that these poor and hungry girls often come barefoot even in the coldest weather, wearing only a thin cotton garment, with nothing underneath. See, dear Mother, that although we are forced to give up the boarding school here it breaks our hearts to leave these girls, whom we could educate perfectly well, without any help”.

(Letter from Philippine to Sophie Barat - February 15, 1819)

SILENCE...

TIME FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

We celebrate the life of Rose Philippine, we allow ourselves to be challenged by her love for Jesus, and by her way of allowing herself to be led by the Spirit.

- What does the celebration of the life of Rose Philippine invite me to do today?
- Looking at my concrete reality, which of the four imperatives touches my life most strongly? What steps can I take to live it with more depth and commitment?
- In communion with the Special Chapter I ask to live these days attentive to listening, to discernment, to Encounter. What I experience in my daily reality has a great impact on the Body.

While I listen to the song of the indigenous Potawatomi people, I open my hands and I offer my desire to live in the simple and the everyday what the Spirit is inspiring in me today. [Click here](#)



WE PRAY TOGETHER

At the end of our prayer, we unite our voices in petition and in thanksgiving. We become/are aware that our prayer spans the five continents, and that, as Family of the Sacred Heart, our prayer contains the struggles and joys of our countries, of our local reality and of what we are living personally. On this Feast Day we especially bring the Special Chapter to our prayer.

[We pray...](#)

Lend us your sandals, Philippine (Cecilia Rivero rscj). [Click here](#)

Teresa Gomà rscj and Patricia Hevia rscj
Province of Spain



JPIC LEARNING HUB

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