Philippine's Journey – Lesson Three Important Dates

February 15, 1818: Philippine writes to her family during her long wait in Bordeaux.

February 18, 1818: Philippine writes to Mother Barat during the extended delay of departure.

March 2, 1818: The Rebecca begins to move away from Bordeaux only to be stalled again by bad weather.

March 14, 1818: Five weeks after leaving Paris and many false starts because of unfavorable weather, the Rebecca finally sails from Bordeaux to Pauillac.

March 16, 1818: After spending one night on the ship, bad weather requires that the passengers disembark again.

March 20, 1818: The Rebecca is tossed for one week in the Bay of Biscay, causing widespread seasickness among the passengers.

April 2, 1818: The Rebecca finally rounds the Azores and sails out into the unbroken ocean. The nuns learn to deal with spoiled food and the threat of pirates during their voyage.

May 1, 1818: The nuns has a little celebration for Philippine on the feast day of her patron, St. Phillip, with special "feast wishes."

May 10, 1818: The watch in the crow's nest sights land. A great storm forces them to stop.

May 14, 1818: The Rebecca sails through the channel between Cuba and the Bahama Bank.

May 16, 1818: In calm waters at last, Mother Duchesne writes a letter to Mother Barat describing the voyage. One year since Philippine gained approval for the trip, she writes: "For fifty-two days we saw only sea and sky."