

## Bishop Louis William Valentine DuBourg

So who is Bishop DuBourg? How does he fit into the puzzle of Philippine Duchesne achieving her dream of becoming a missionary to the Native Americans in the new world? Read this short synopsis of his life and how he helped Philippine become a missionary:

Bishop Louis William Valentine DuBourg was a young priest from France who was forced into exile during the French Revolution. He first arrived in Spain, August 1792, and then continued his exile to Baltimore in 1793. DuBourg eventually founded and served as president of St. Mary's College in Baltimore. He was passionate about establishing educational institutions, especially for seminarians. But when the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, a need was created for church leadership in the newly purchased area. DuBourg was chosen to be the Bishop of Louisiana and Two Floridas in 1812. Immediately he was challenged by the corrupt nature of the missionary church and felt it necessary to return to Europe to seek help for his fledgling missions. DuBourg brought his concerns before the Congregation for the Propagation of the Church, which was the department responsible for mission territories. While in Europe, he actively recruited priests and nuns to become missionaries and assist him in the New World. This is how Bishop DuBourg met Philippine Duchesne, a religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart in France. DuBourg met with Fr. Barat who happened to be the brother of Philippine Duchesne's superior, Mother Madeleine Sophie Barat. Fr. Barat was aware of Philippine's desire and passion to bring the heart of Jesus to the native people of Louisiana. Bishop DuBourg begged for religious to establish schools for native people and French children in St. Louis. With permission from Mother Barat, Philippine Duchesne accepted this challenge on January 14, 1817.

To find out more about Bishop DuBourg's life and legacy, explore these links:

<http://archstl.org/archives/page/1818-1843-beginnings-catholic-city-0>

[http://www.bishopdubourg.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=309086&type=d&pREC\\_ID=711898](http://www.bishopdubourg.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=309086&type=d&pREC_ID=711898)

### References

"Dictionary of Missouri Biography." *Google Books*. Ed. Lawrence O. Christensen, William E. Foley, and Gary Kremer. University of Missouri Press, n.d. Web. 19 June 2017.

Link:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=6gyxWHRLAWgC&pg=PA259&lpg=PA259&dq=louis+dubourg+bio&source=bl&ots=DaWsyBn87W&sig=w4F7SZMxnTfMNpTGCrdvQ08vCVE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi6z7vmnsrUAhUD1mMKHY6IAUwQ6AEIWjAM#v=onepage&q=louis%20dubourg%20bio&f=false>

"Louis William Valentine Dubourg." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 15 June 2017. Web. 19 June 2017.

McNamara, Pat. "Bishop Louis DuBourg (1766-1833)." *McNamara's Blog*. Patheos Catholic, 12 Dec. 2009. Web. 19 June 2017.

Link: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/mcnamarasblog/2009/12/bishop-louis-dubourg-1766-1833.html>