

## Lesson 1: Every Journey is Born from a Dream

Instructions for Introducing Rose Philippine Duchesne with Coloring Book Puzzle Pieces

And Putting All the Pieces Together to Build Your Own Dream

1. For each child, copy the following 6 coloring pages from Scarpinato's *Rose Philippine Duchesne: Pioneer Saint Coloring Book*—pages 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
2. Each coloring page will be considered a “puzzle piece.” Hand out the designated puzzle piece (example: piece #1 is coloring page 3). Use the listed information and website supplements to tell the story of Philippine and the beginning of her journey to America as they color that page. Question prompts are also provided to help students connect their own lives with what Philippine experienced. Have students seriously consider the questions in small or whole group discussions.
3. Completed coloring pages can be mounted on construction paper and tied together into individual booklets entitled, “Every Journey is Born from a Dream.” The titles and questions for each of the picture “puzzle pieces” can be answered on loose leaf paper and mounted to the back of the appropriate picture.
4. Option: Divide the class into small groups and make one set of coloring pages for each group. Using poster board or a bulletin board in the room, have students work together to color and label just one set of each of the 6 coloring book pages (puzzle pieces) and put them in chronological order on the board. Create a bulletin board title similar to the one above.

***Puzzle Piece #1 (coloring page 3):*** Philippine has a dream and she feels a deep call to become a missionary to native people in the New World.

- When she is 8-12 years old, a Jesuit priest shares stories of working as a missionary in the Louisiana Territory inspiring her early desire to teach Native American children.
- Philippine's desire to become a missionary in the New World continues as she gets older. On April 4, 1806, she writes to Mother Barat and tells her about her dream of working in America.
  - Read aloud the letter excerpt (April 4, 1806) found in the primary sources document in the common resources on the main lesson 1 webpage.

*Questions to consider:*

- Do you have a life dream? Share if you can.
- How long are you willing to wait for your dream to come true?

**Puzzle Piece #2 (coloring page 5):** OBSTACLES to her dream and how Philippine persevered in keeping her dream alive.

- Against her father's wishes, Philippine enters the Visitation order and stays 4 ½ years. But her father does not allow her to take religious vows and become a nun.
- The French Revolution threatens her family's way of life and many priests are persecuted. Philippine forms a group known as the Ladies of Mercy. For 10 years she puts her dream on hold. Instead she visits the priests in prison, takes food to the poor, takes care of the sick and orphans, and encourages all she encounters that God loves them.
- After the war Philippine tries to restore her convent at Ste. Marie d'En Haut (it had been used as a prison during the war), but her efforts are largely unsuccessful. After 3 years Philippine is very discouraged by her failure to reestablish the convent, and writes to her family about her sadness.

*Questions to consider:*

- If you encounter obstacles along the way toward realizing your dream, do you think you will give up? What might those obstacles be?
- Have you ever considered that obstacles can become tools and valuable lessons?
- In what ways were Philippine's "obstacles" her preparation for working in frontier America?

**Puzzle Piece #3 (coloring page 7):** Philippine meets an important friend.

- In 1804, Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Madeleine Sophie Barat, meets Rose Philippine Duchesne and they become dear friends. Mother Barat invites Philippine to join her religious order. At age 35, Philippine is a novice once again.

*Questions to consider:*

- Who are important people in your life now and why?
- How does it help to have friends and family to support you and your dreams?

**Puzzle Piece #4 (coloring page 8):** Philippine joins the Society of the Sacred Heart.

- A year later, Nov. 21, 1805, Rose Philippine Duchesne makes her vows as a religious of the Sacred Heart. She embraces her new community.

*Question to consider:*

- How important is it for you to have community support (family, school, church and friends) in your life? Give an example.

**Puzzle Piece #5 (coloring page 9):** Still Waiting....

- As early as 1806, Philippine confides in Mother Barat her desire and dream to become a missionary and take the heart of Jesus to native people in the Louisiana Territory.
- Mother Barat asks Philippine to “wait and pray. Later, perhaps we may think of it. It is out of the question for now.” (P194, *Philippine Duchesne* by Callan) There are not enough nuns or resources for Mother Barat to take the Society’s mission overseas. Philippine prays and teaches school while she waits.

Questions to consider:

- How do you deal with disappointing news?
- Philippine taught school and prayed for 10 years while she waited. In what way did all the waiting prepare Philippine for her mission? How can waiting and persevering prepare you for your future?

**Puzzle Piece #6 (coloring page 10):** Finally the waiting is over—launching her dream!

- 1816--Bishop DuBourg, from the Louisiana Territory, arrives in France. He desperately searches France for nuns who are willing to help educate native children and French children in the St. Louis area.
- January 14, 1816: Philippine Duchesne meets Bishop DuBourg for the first time. She knows he is from America and that he is looking for missionaries. She is very hopeful!
- May 16, 1817: Bishop DuBourg visits the Sacred Heart Convent in Paris before leaving for America. Philippine begs for permission to go and her wish is finally granted!
  - *Philippine Duchesne* by Louise Callan RSCJ p. 194-195 (see primary sources document in common resources)
- She is 48 years old—it has been nearly 40 years since she first heard missionary priests talking about working in America and her life dream was born.

Question to consider:

- How old is “old” to you? How would you feel if you were just starting your dream job at age 48?