

## Lesson Two Important Dates

July 15, 1817: Philippine Duchesne begins to study English in preparation for her trip to America.

August 29, 1817: On her 48th birthday, Philippine Duchesne writes to her cousin Josephine about the good news of her proposed mission to America. She begins a lifelong habit of begging for money and other aids to help with her missionary work.

September 21, 1817: Philippine's cousin, Casimir Perier (who tried, unsuccessfully, to teach her arithmetic when they were children) is elected as the youngest member of the Chamber of Deputies in Paris.

October 10, 1817: News of the proposed journey to America reaches the other Sacred Heart convents in France: Amiens, Poitiers, Grenoble, Niort and Quimper. All other Sacred Heart convents contribute money and other gifts to help with the mission to America.

December, 1817: A serious epidemic in the convent in Paris takes the lives of several religious and children. Mother Duchesne spends many nights by the beds of the sick.

January 21, 1818: Philippine Duchesne is informed that her voyage will begin in mid-February.

January 23, 1818: A relative helps Philippine to procure the five necessary passports for this advance travel date.

January 24, 1818: Philippine writes to Josephine begging for financial assistance from all her Perier cousins to help underwrite the voyage. She closes: "I beg you to contribute to this work as long as you live."

February 1, 1818: Philippine writes to her sisters, finally informing them of her planned departure for America within a week.

February 3, 1818: Philippine writes a farewell message to the nuns at Ste. Marie in Grenoble.

February 7, 1818: Mother Barat assembles the community to bid farewell to the missionaries the night before their departure. She names Philippine the group's superior.

February 8, 1818: Philippine and 3 Religious of the Sacred Heart companions leave the convent in Paris. Duchesne and Perier relatives bid her farewell this morning. After Mass and a family lunch the doorbell rings and it is announced that the carriage has arrived to carry the nuns to Orleans; then Tours, Blois, and Poitiers, where the fifth member of their group will be added.