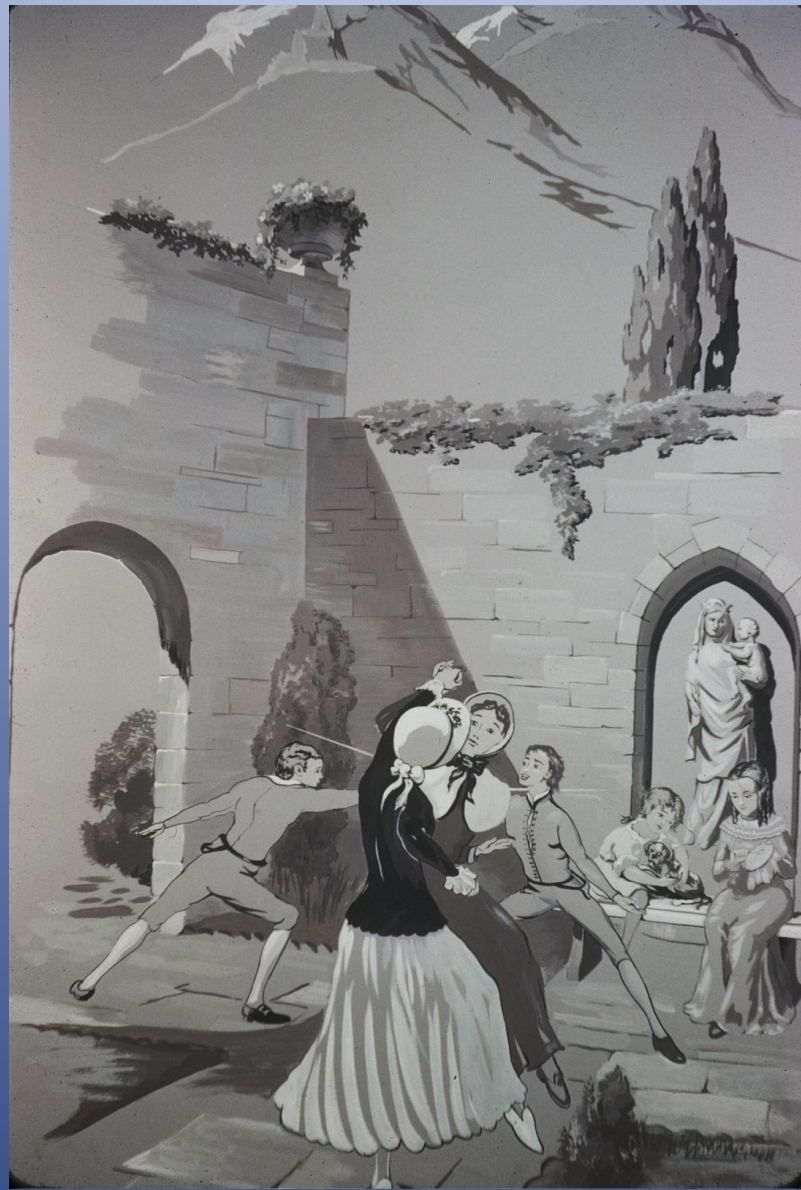


ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, 1769 - 1852



Philippine Duchesne was born in Grenoble, France, on August 29, 1769.



The children spent many happy hours playing in the courtyard that joined their homes.



Philippine and her cousin, Josephine Perier, were constant companions.



One day, when Philippine was giving away her allowance, her mother said, "We give you that for your pleasure." "This is my pleasure," Philippine replied.



Philippine hoped to be a missionary one day.



Philippine, enfant,
au chœur des religieuses.

At 12, Philippine decided that she wanted to become a Visitation nun.



Her father did not support Philippine's intention of entering the religious life.



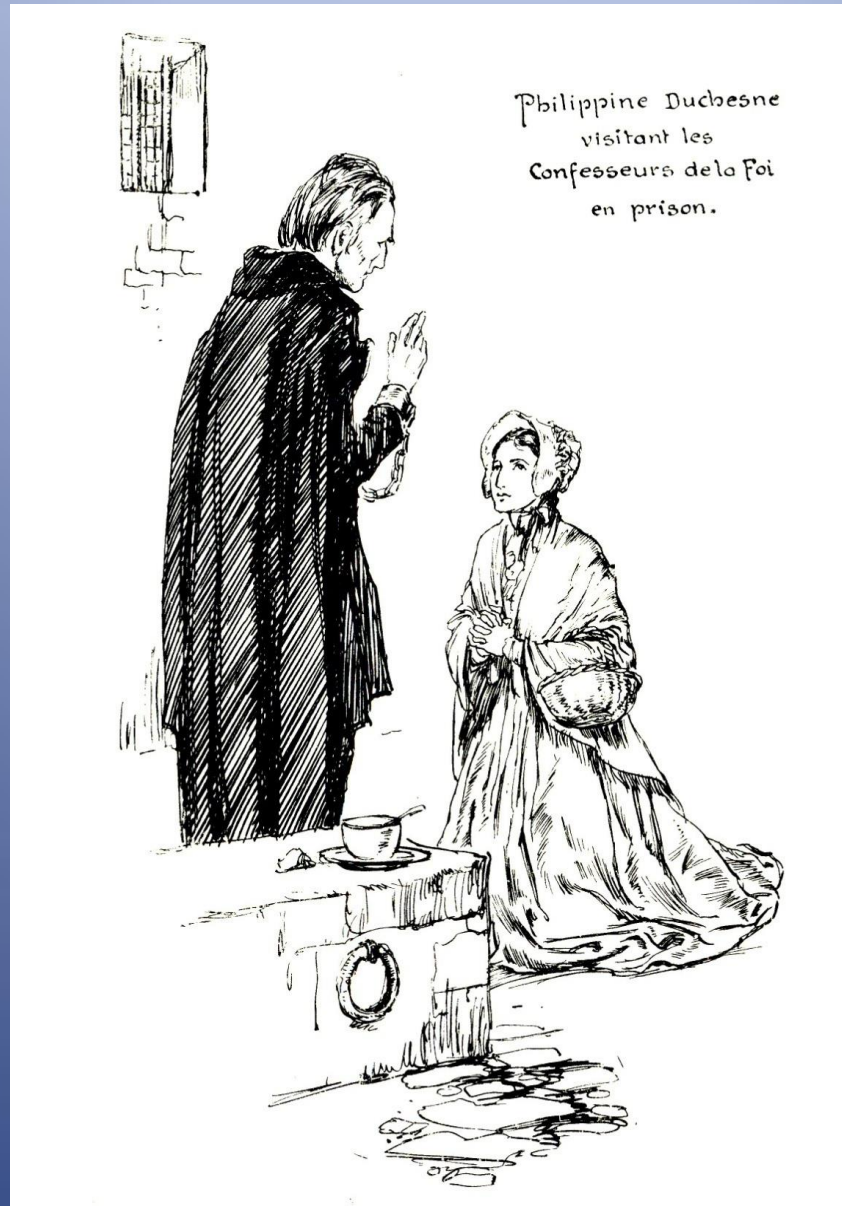
Philippine entered Ste. Marie convent and remained there for four and a half years until convents were closed during the French Revolution.



Philippine enseigne
le catéchisme, aux petits garçons
qui jouent sur la place.



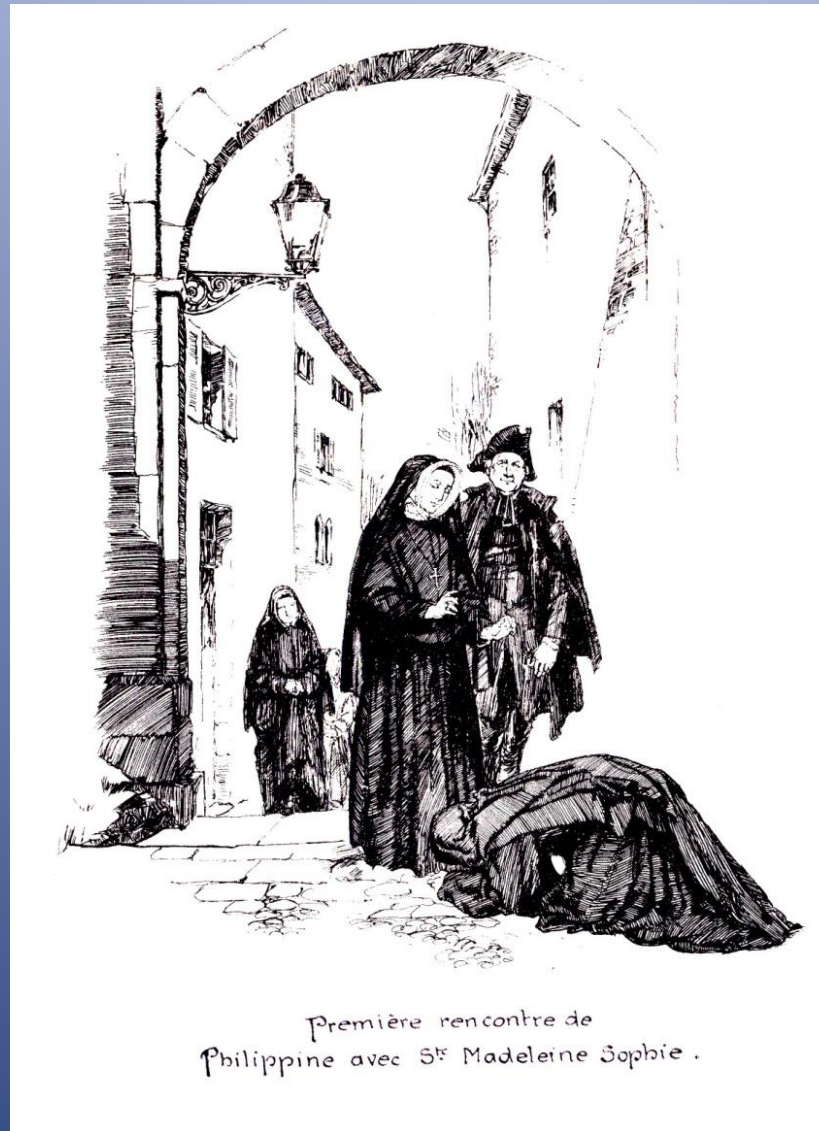
Philippine moved back to Grenoble where she cared for the sick and taught children the catechism.



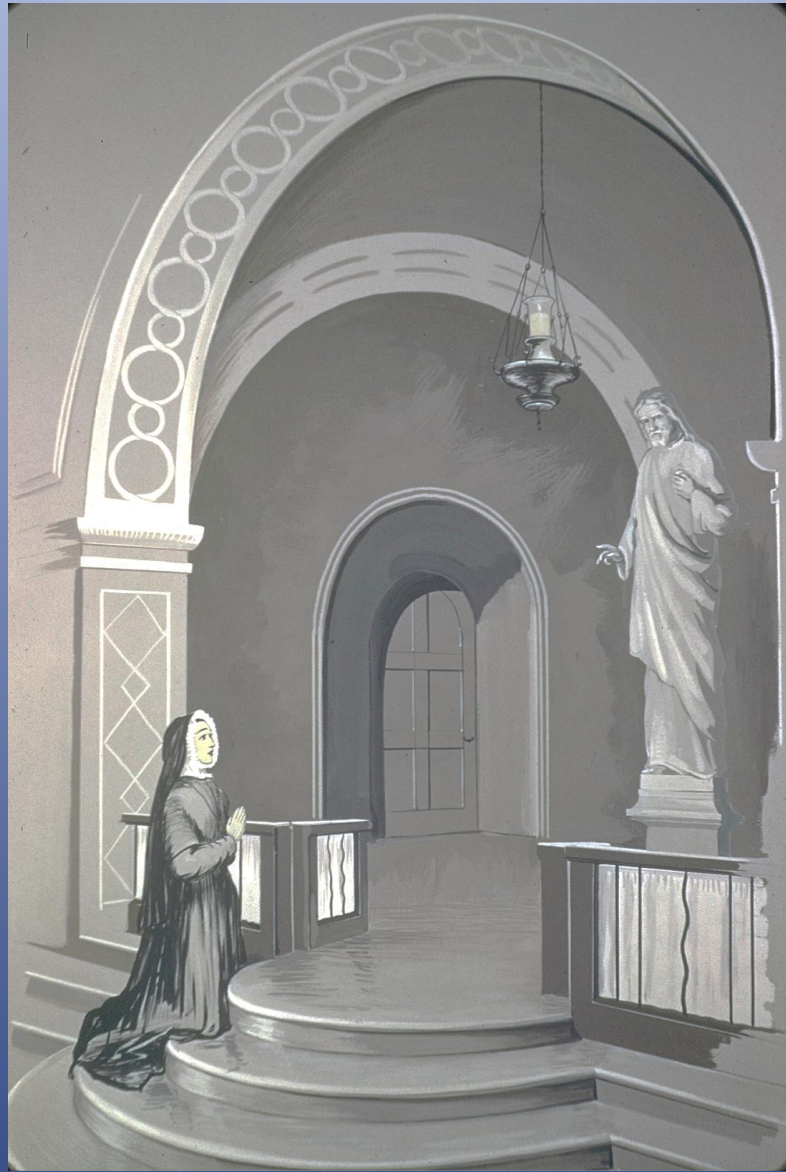
During the Revolution, many priests were in prison. Philippine would visit them. It was dangerous to do so.



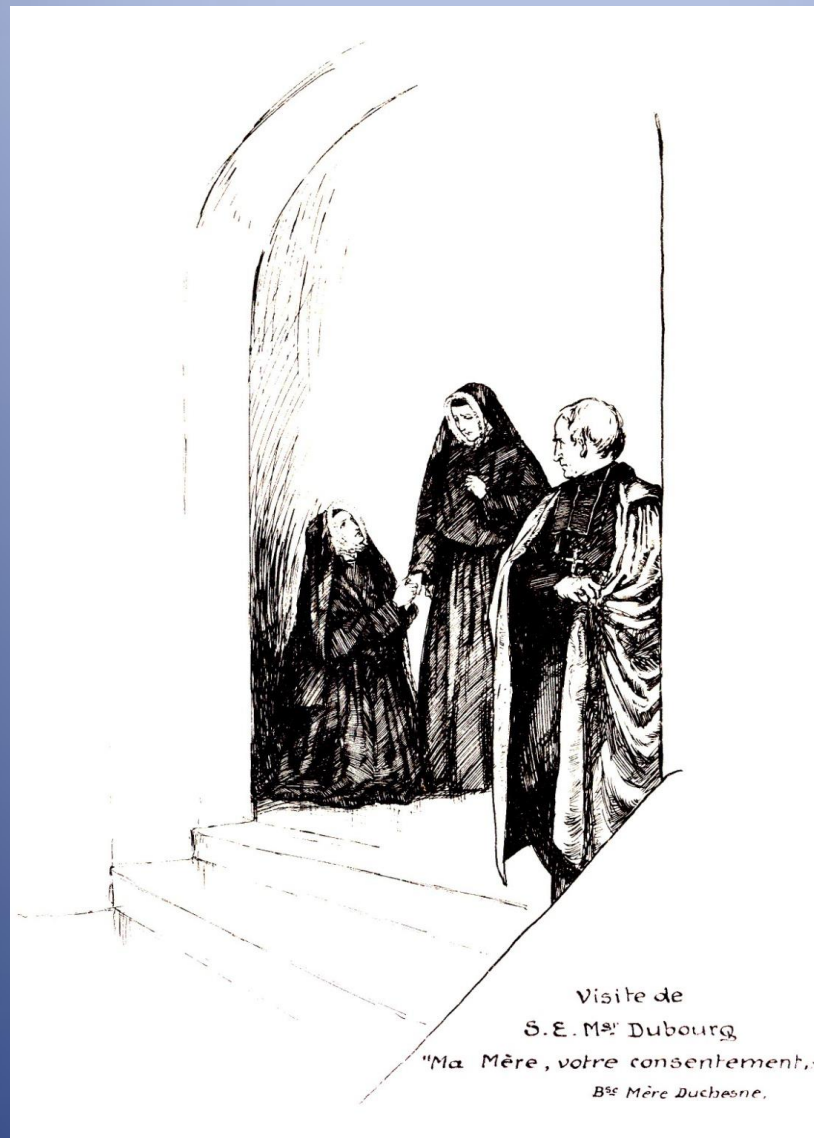
After the French Revolution ended, Philippine's family helped her to recover the old convent on the hill which was in ruins.



In 1804, Madeleine Sophie Barat, who had recently founded the Society of the Sacred Heart, travelled 600 miles to invite Philippine to join the new religious order.



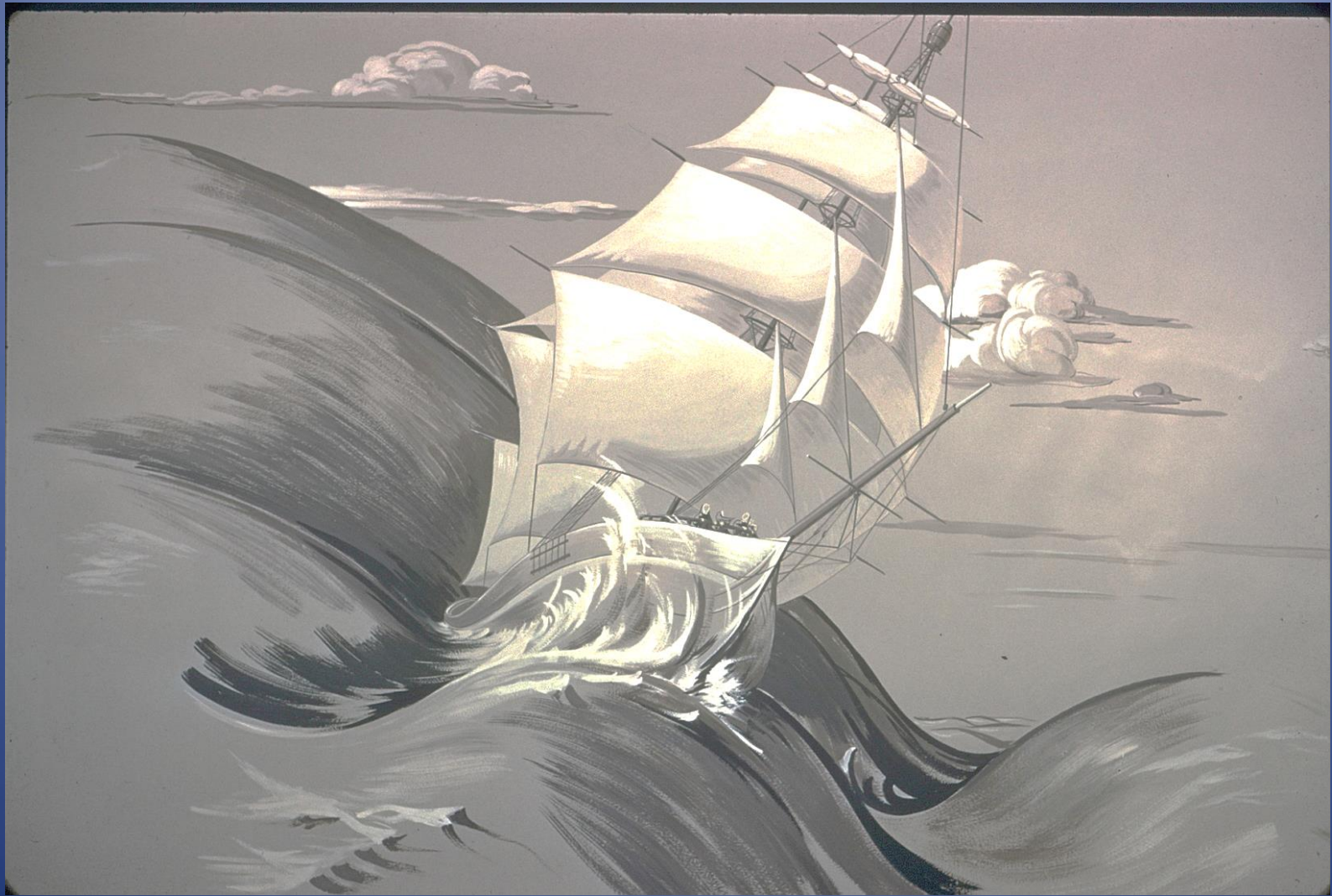
Philippine was finally a member of a religious order whose purpose was to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to educate.



When Bishop DuBourg visited the convent in Paris in 1817, he asked Mother Barat to send Religious of the Sacred Heart to work in his American diocese.
“Your consent, Mother, give your consent!” exclaimed Philippine.



Mother Barat, realizing Philippine's intense desire, did give her consent. She spent the next year preparing for the journey.



On March 21, 1818, Philippine and her companions set sail on the Rebecca to cross the Atlantic.



The Rebecca landed in America on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, May 29.



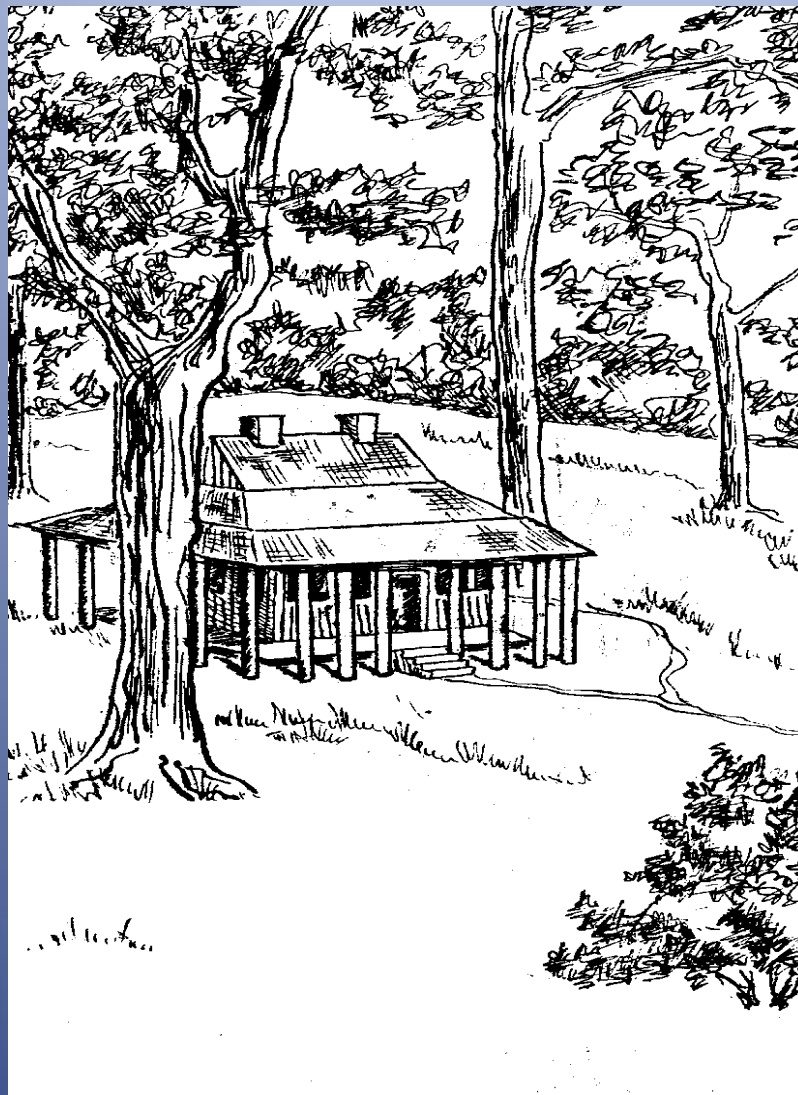
Philippine and her companions were warmly welcomed at the Ursuline convent in New Orleans for the next six weeks.



The last leg of their journey took them up the Mississippi River to St. Louis on the Franklin, a paddlewheel steamboat.



The five nuns arrived in St. Louis on August 22, 1818, only to find that Bishop DuBourg had been unable to find appropriate accommodations for them. They would travel to St. Charles, about twenty miles to the west.



Awaiting them when they arrived on September 7, was the “Duquette Mansion,” a log cabin. One week later, on September 14, 1818, Philippine opened the first free school west of the Mississippi in this cabin.



On October 3, Emilie and Therese Pratte and their cousin, Pelagie Chouteau arrived from St. Louis to board at the convent school. The girls would not return home until August, 1819.



After that first difficult school year in St. Charles, Mother Duchesne asked Bishop DuBourg to move the school closer to St. Louis. Plans were made to build a brick convent across the Missouri River in Florissant.



Nuns, household goods, even a precious cow were moved by ferry across the river to Florissant.



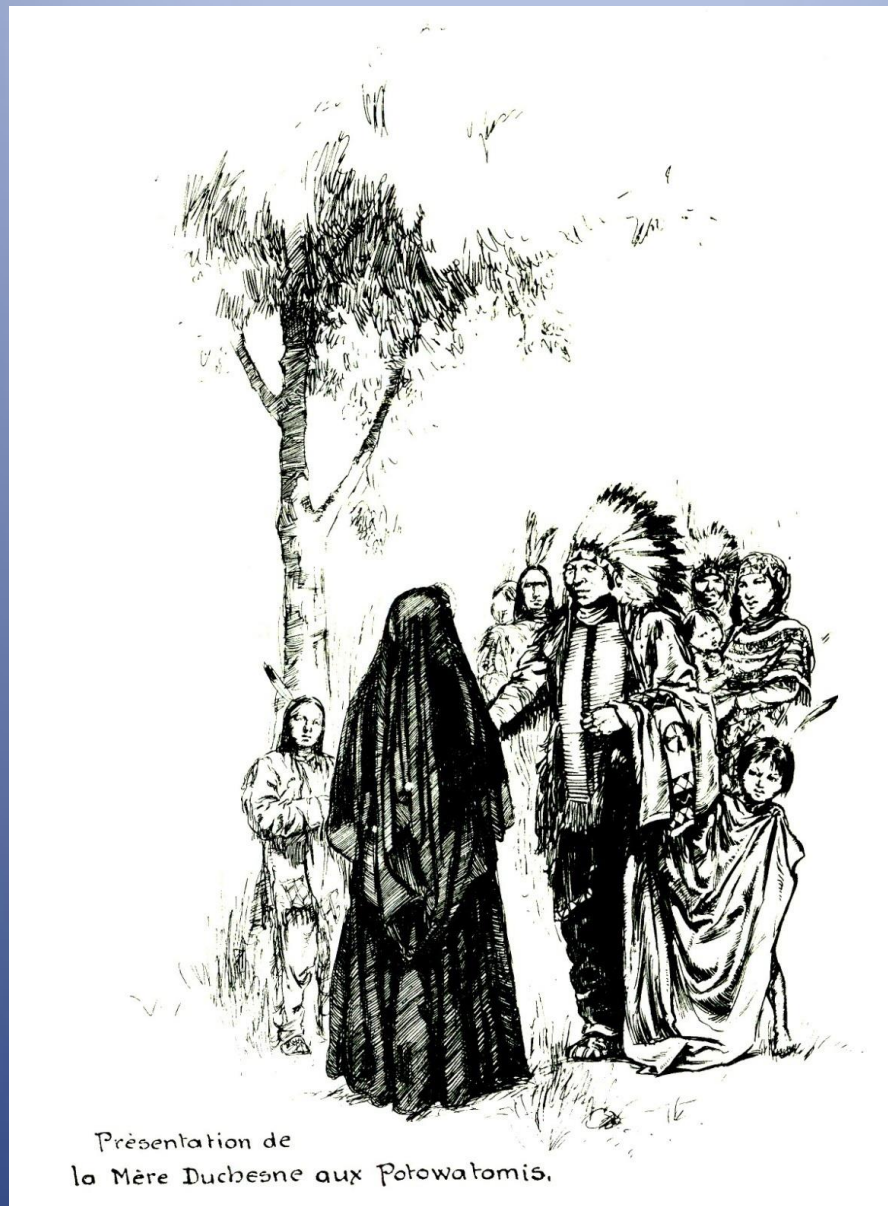
The Florissant convent, a giant step above the log cabin, was still “roughing it.” From this humble beginning, the schools of the Sacred Heart and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese took root in America.



If you were to visit Florissant today, you would see Mother Duchesne's room under the stairs.



Throughout the 1820s and 1830s, the number of religious grew, and it was possible for Philippine and her religious companions to establish additional convent schools beginning with Grand Coteau, Louisiana.



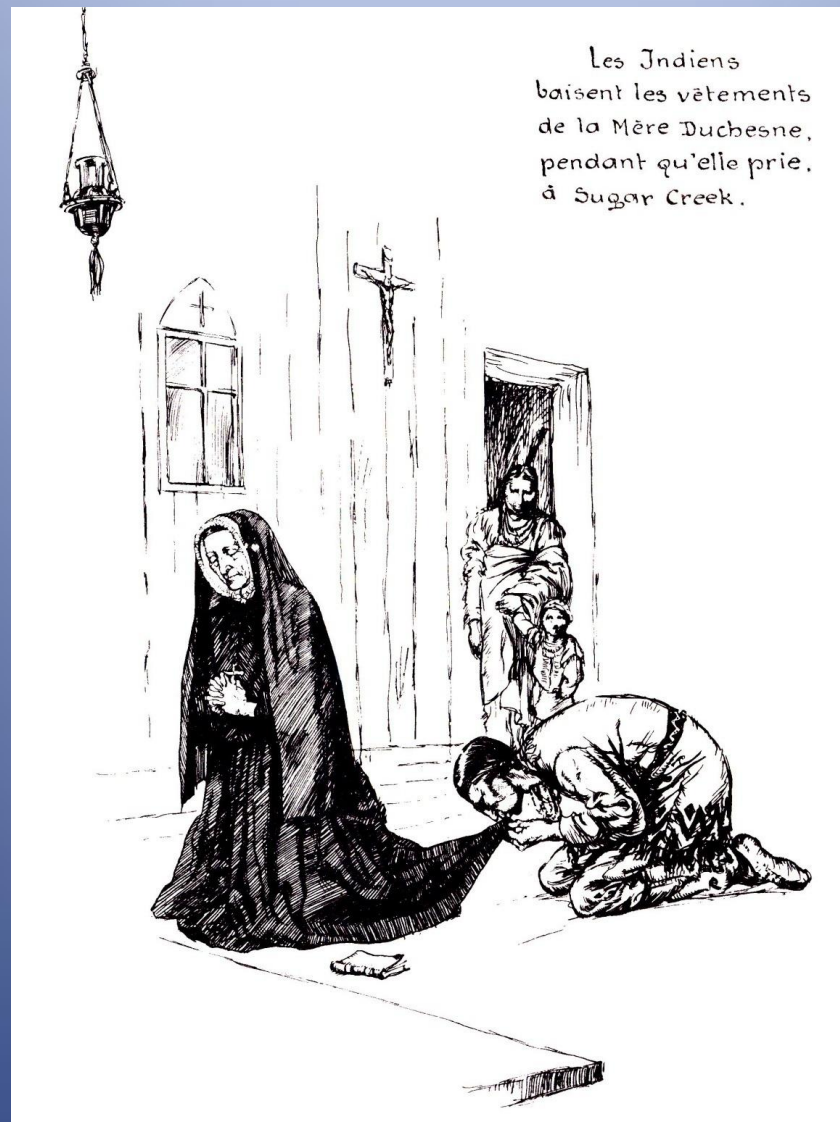
Finally, in 1841, Mother Duchesne's dreams of going to the Native Americans came true.



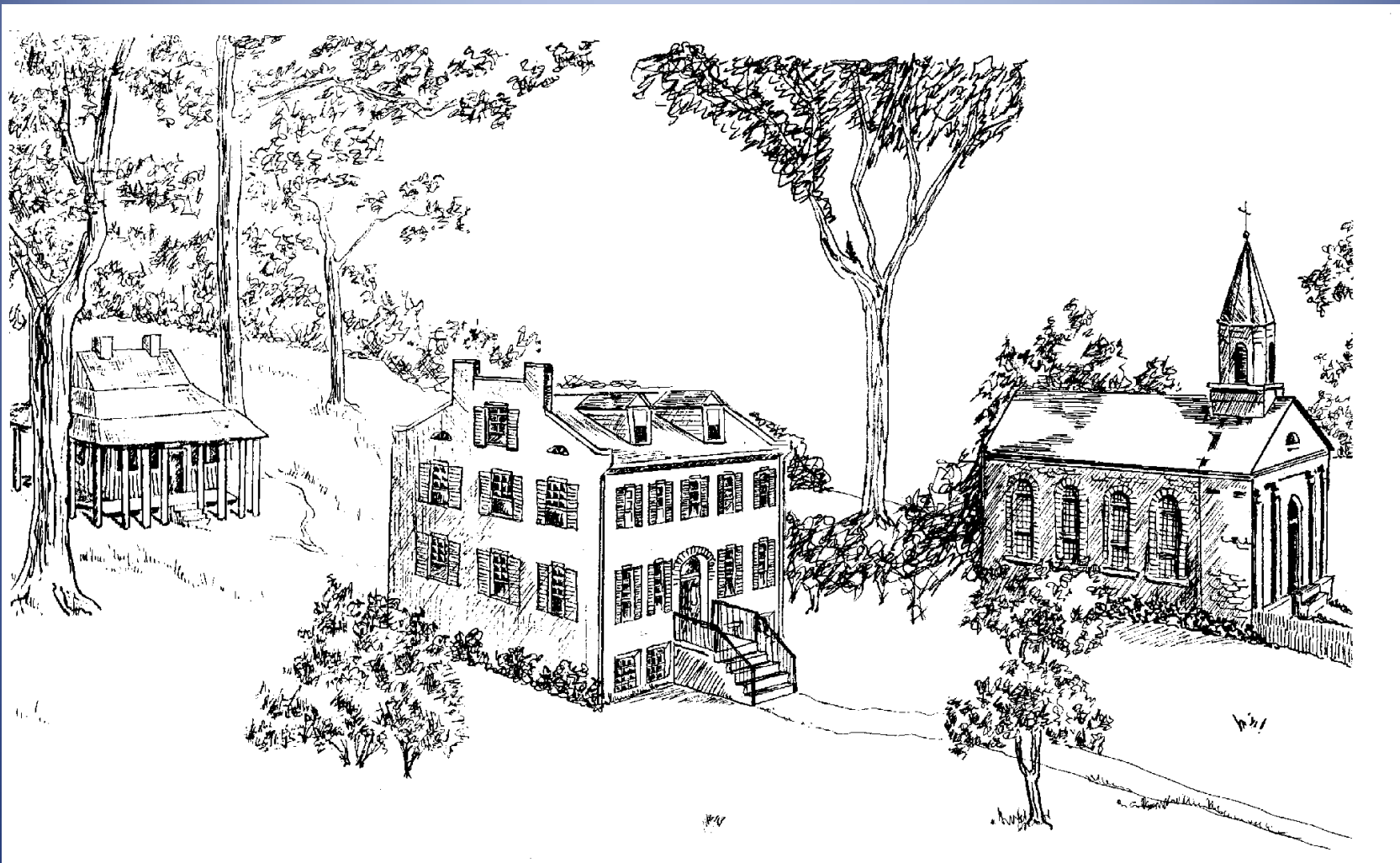
The day of their arrival in Sugar Creek was a glorious day in Philippine's life.



The Native Americans' experience with Philippine was based on what they saw, a figure of pure holiness.



She spent countless hours of prayer in the little log chapel. They would call her...
“Woman Who Prays Always.”



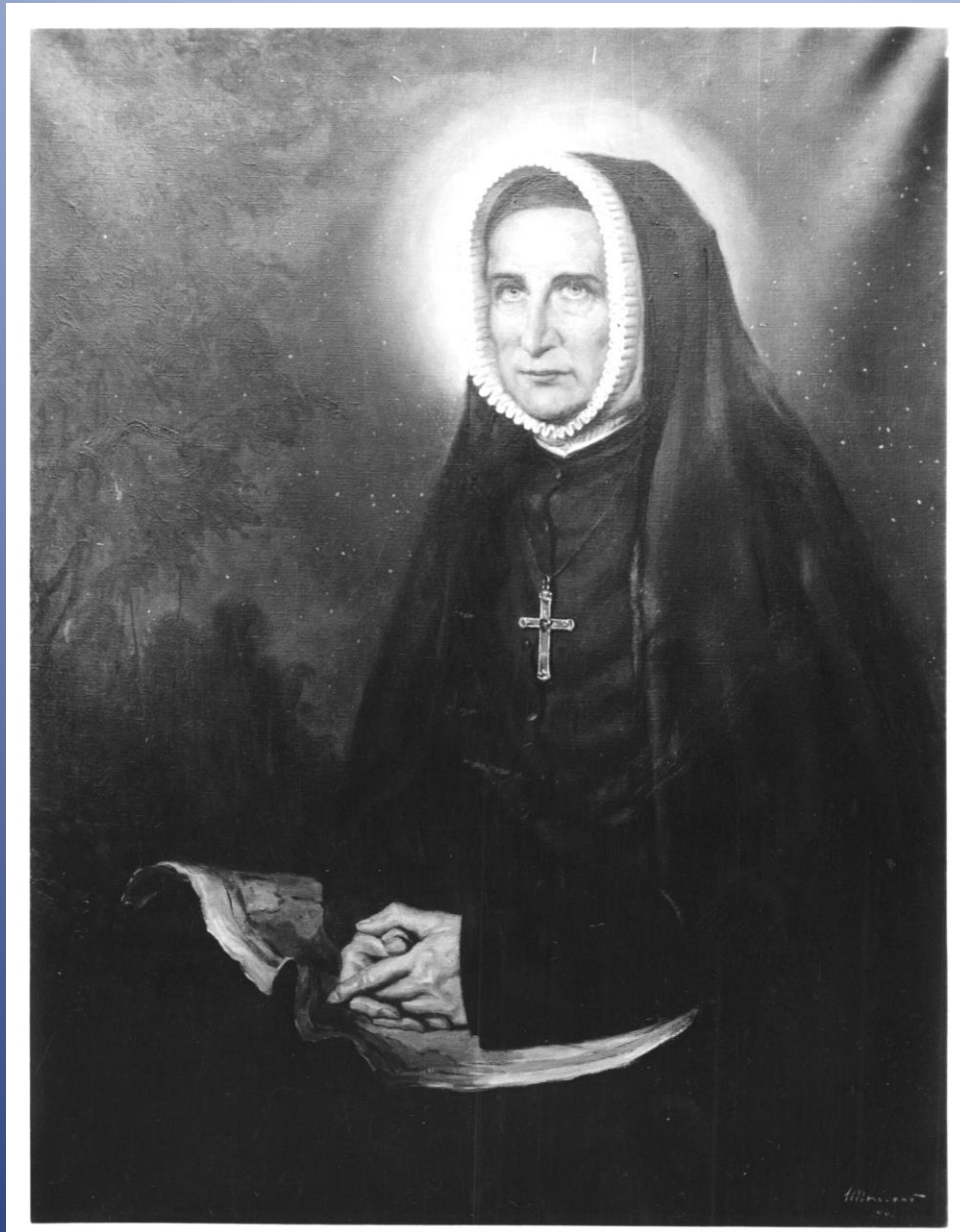
After just one year among her beloved Potawatomi, Philippine and Father Verhaegen made the difficult journey back to St. Charles, where she lived for ten more years.



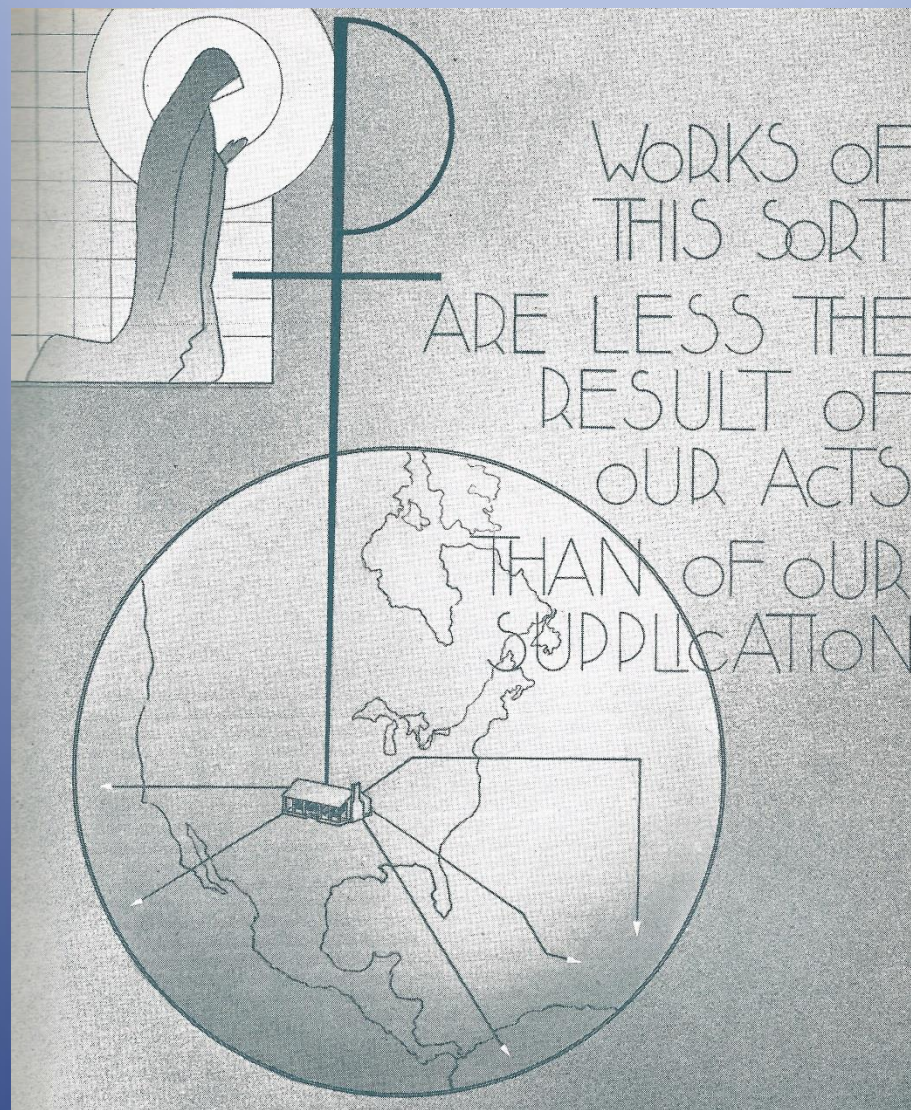
Father Peter DeSmet, S.J., who had been Philippine's friend for many years said, "She has sewn deep roots in American soil, and someday they will reap an abundant harvest."



For the last ten years of her life, much of her day was spent in prayer in her little room close to the St. Charles convent chapel. Two days before her death, Philippine had an important visitor, Anna du Rousier, who was especially sent to deliver a blessing from Mother Barat.



After waiting to be with her God for so long, on November 18, 1852, she said, “I give you my heart, my soul, and my life – oh, yes – my life generously.” At noon, she died.



In the years following Philippine's death, more Schools of the Sacred Heart were opened in North and South America, Africa, Oceania, and Asia.



Sculpture by Harry Weber

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852)

Pioneer missionary and educator

What have we learned from St. Rose Philippine Duchesne?



On July 3, 1988, Pope John Paul II declared Rose Philippine Duchesne a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.



The text was adapted by Kathleen Hopper and Theresa Grass
from a script written by Jane Cannon.