

**Prayer Service in Honor of
ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE**

**Leader: O' GREAT SPIRIT,
That voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small
and weak; I need your strength and wisdom.**

**All: LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold the red
and purple sunset.**

**MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears sharp
to hear your voice.**

**MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand the things you have taught
my people.**

LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

**I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than another, but to fight my
greatest enemy --myself.**

**MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to you with clean hands and
straight eyes.**

**SO WHEN LIFE FADES, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to
you without shame.**

**Sioux Indians
Pine Ridge, South Dakota**

Leader: Mother Duchesne's description of her arrival in Sugar Creek,
Quoted by Louise Callon, RSCJ.

“The Indians had been warned of our coming, so the entire village assembled and waited a day. We had stopped about 18 miles away on the banks of the Osage River at the home of a French settler... The Indians, impatient of our arrival, sent ahead two of their number to find us. These came and knelt before the Father Superior to receive his blessing. We gave them supper, then they started back to announce to their tribesmen that we would be with them the following day. As we advanced next morning, we met, every two miles along the way, two Indians mounted on fine horses. They had come to greet us, and show us the safest and best road.”

Leader: A description of the Potawatomi written by one of the religious, quoted by Callan:

"Here we live in perfect silence and recollection, and so do the Potawatomes among whom we dwell. They are by nature a quiet people; they all speak in low tones of voice, and the children are never noisy at their games or in the classrooms. The little boys stand in silence watching a game, or draw their bow-strings in silence at the birds. On Sundays, however, the women allow themselves the relaxation of singing nearly all day long at the doors of their huts or in the church. Our ignorance of the doings of the world is complete; news scarcely ever reaches us.

Our children are learning to read, to write, to know their religion. They also knit, crochet and sew marvelously well. Many of them can now make all kinds of clothing... They work in the garden, learn to wash and iron, care for the cows, bake bread, churn and make candles... The docility of their character makes them very easy to handle and teach, and the parents uphold us in all that we do."

INDIAN PRAYER: PRAYER OF SIX DIRECTIONS

Great Spirit of Love, come to us with the power of the north -make us courageous when the cold winds fall upon us. Give us strength and endurance for all that is harsh, every- thing that hurts, everything that makes us squint. Let us move through life ready to take what comes from the north.

Spirit who comes out of the east, come to us with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in our words.

Let there be light on the path that we walk. Let us always remember that you give the gift of a new day, a new year, and let us never fear to start over.

Great Spirit of Creation, send us warm and soothing winds from the south. Comfort us when we are cold and tired. Unfold us like your gentle breezes unfold the leaves on the trees. As you give to the earth your warm, moving wind, help us to share your warmth and spirit with one another.

Great life-giving Spirit, we also face the west. Let us remember every day that the moment will come when our sun will go down. Give us beautiful color, give us a great sky for setting, so that when it is time to meet you, we will come in glory.

Giver of all life, we pray to you from the earth help us to remember as we touch the earth that we need to be thankful for the earth and never to walk hurtfully over the world. Bless us with eyes to love what comes from the earth and teach us how to love your gifts, especially the people in our lives.

Great Spirit of the Heavens~ lift us up to you so that together we may worship you. Let everything that is in the world lift our minds and lives to you so that we may live with you in truth and love.

And finally, Great Spirit, instill in each of us a desire to serve and to find you daily in those before us, within us, with us; to serve wherever we stand, north, south, east, west, heaven or earth. Help us to be generous and humble and wise in our spirit of service.

A PRAYER IN HONOR OF PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

It is truly right and appropriate
that you are so starkly honored
in the annals of the Church, Philippine,
For the example you have left us is stark and strong,
and your memory unremittingly ascetical.
But we remember you today
above all
for the warmth and light
which are also part of your heritage.
We remember and celebrate
the energy, the zeal, the hours of prayer,
the difficulties with language the misunderstandings among your own,
and the undying dedication to your Indians.
We remember the treks across cold Missouri snow,
we remember the pain of slow mail,
we remember but do not really understand the months of too little food, as well as the
months of too much strain.
We call upon you now to renew our hearts again,
in the land you kissed so lovingly, and sacrificed for so generously. Renew in us the
vision that sends us daily
to the frontiers of human lives in our care.
Our terrain is better known, but no less challenging;
our surroundings more amenable, but no less in need of the word of God. So we thank
you for the courage that brought you here on the Rebecca, and we beg you for the light
that will enable us to grow
in the vision that sends us into this still new world
with our ciboria, to open new tabernacles in the desert of today,
and to give flesh to his growing body, straining toward full stature.

PRAYER TO BLESSED PHILIPPINE

O Unconquerable Blessed Philippine,
who, from your earliest years and
throughout your entire life, sought
only the glory of God and the extension
of the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
obtain for us the grace to devote our
whole lives to the accomplishment of the
divine will and to the salvation of souls,
penetrating ourselves and others with
love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Blessed Philippine, patroness of this school called the "house built on confidence" we ask
you to guide each one of us along the road that leads us to be Children of the
Sacred Heart.

Help us to know your courage and perseverance.

Help us to value each other and to appreciate the gift of friendships.

Help us to look at the troubles that come our way as fences to climb, and not as walls to
stop us.

Help us to learn what it means to pray always and to grow holy, happily.

Amen.

**Philippine Duchesne,
you were a pioneer woman,
called to join a pioneer endeavor,
-to explore
-to begin,
-to expand the educational frontiers of a new world.**

**Each of us, as a Duchesne Pioneer
asks that, through your intercession,
we be able to face our 'frontiers"
and meet the challenge of being "pioneers".**

**As boundaries appear before us.
help us to step gently over despair
and fashion a resurrection realm,
a hope-hallowed world.**

Help us follow your model as we

- strive for a world which we cannot explain**
- risk our lives to find new life**
- challenge social patterns which give false comfort**
- enter the Heart of the One who is Beginning and End**
- share in the restlessness of the Spirit, -and become instruments of
peace.**

Amen