

ST. ROSE DUCHESNE



“I feel the same longing for the Rocky Mountain missions and any others like them, that I experienced in France when I first begged to come to America...”

FEAST DAY NOV 18

St. Rose Duchesne was born in France during 1769. Educated in a convent, she was drawn to religious life and became a novice when she was 18. When the French Revolution rocked the country, Rose returned to her family home where she nursed prisoners and helped the suffering.

In 1804 she joined a new congregation of sisters called the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Since her childhood, St. Rose felt a deep-seeded calling to serve in the missions and once during adoration she experienced an intense urging to serve in the “New World.”

Sent to the Louisiana territory in 1818 to evangelize French and Native children, she opened the first free school west of the Mississippi River and later founded six more for young women.

St. Rose deeply desired to serve the Native people. A school for the Potawatomi opened in Kansas when she was 72 and, despite her age and health, the mission’s Jesuit head insisted she go. Although only able to stay for one year, her steadfast prayer caused the Native people to name her, Quah-kah-kanum-ad, “Woman-Who-Prays-Always.”

CUT THIS PAGE IN HALF TO HANG YOUR MASTERPIECE ON THE FRIDGE OR WALL!

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adoration duchesne french missionary natives
new world potawatomi prayerful rose schools