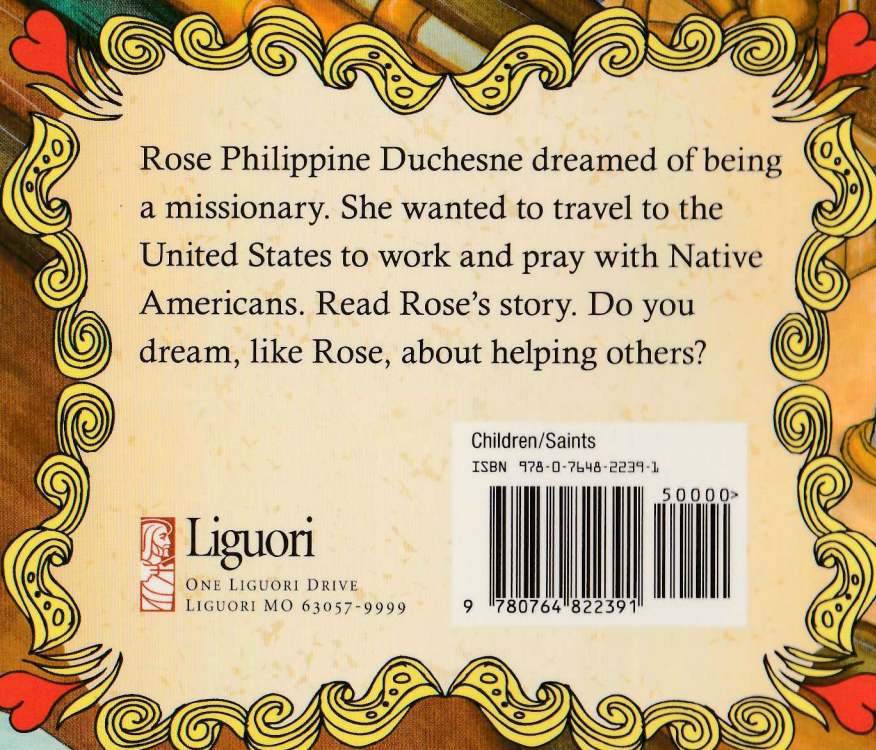


# Rose Philippine Duchesne

A Dreamer and a Missionary



Rose Philippine Duchesne dreamed of being a missionary. She wanted to travel to the United States to work and pray with Native Americans. Read Rose's story. Do you dream, like Rose, about helping others?

Children/Saints

ISBN 978-0-7648-2239-1

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Saints  
AND  
me!

Barbara Yoffie  
Illustrated by  
Katherine A. Borgatti



# **Rose Philippine Duchesne**

**A Dreamer and a Missionary**

1769–1852

Born in Grenoble, France

Came to America in 1818

Feast Day: November 18

Patronage: People who  
do not agree with Church authorities

Text by Barbara Yoffie

Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



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## Dedication

To my family:  
my parents Jim and Peg,  
my husband Bill,  
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,  
and our precious grandchildren  
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of  
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

## Dear Parents and Teachers:

*Saints and Me!* is a series of children's books about saints. Six books make up the first set: *Saints of North America*. In this set, each book tells a thought-provoking story about a heavenly hero.

*Saints of North America* includes the heroic lives of six saints from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Saints Kateri Tekakwitha and Elizabeth Ann Seton were both born in the United States. Saint Juan Diego was born in Mexico, and Saint André Bessette was from Canada. European missionaries also came to North America to spread the Catholic faith, making it their home while they worked with people in the New World. Saints Rose Philippine Duchesne and Damien de Veuster were missionary saints.

Through the centuries, saints have always been dear to Catholics, but *why*? In most instances, ordinary people were and are transformed by the life of Jesus and therefore model Christ's life for us. It is our Lord who makes ordinary people extraordinary. As your children come to know the saints, it is our hope that they will come to understand and identify that they, too, are *called to be saints*.

Which saint wanted to work with Native Americans? Who wanted to work with the sick people on the island of Molokai, Hawaii? To which saint did the Virgin Mary appear? Who loved Saint Joseph? Which saint started the first American religious community of women? Do you know which saint is the patron of nature? Find the answers in the *Saints of North America*, *Saints and Me!* set and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

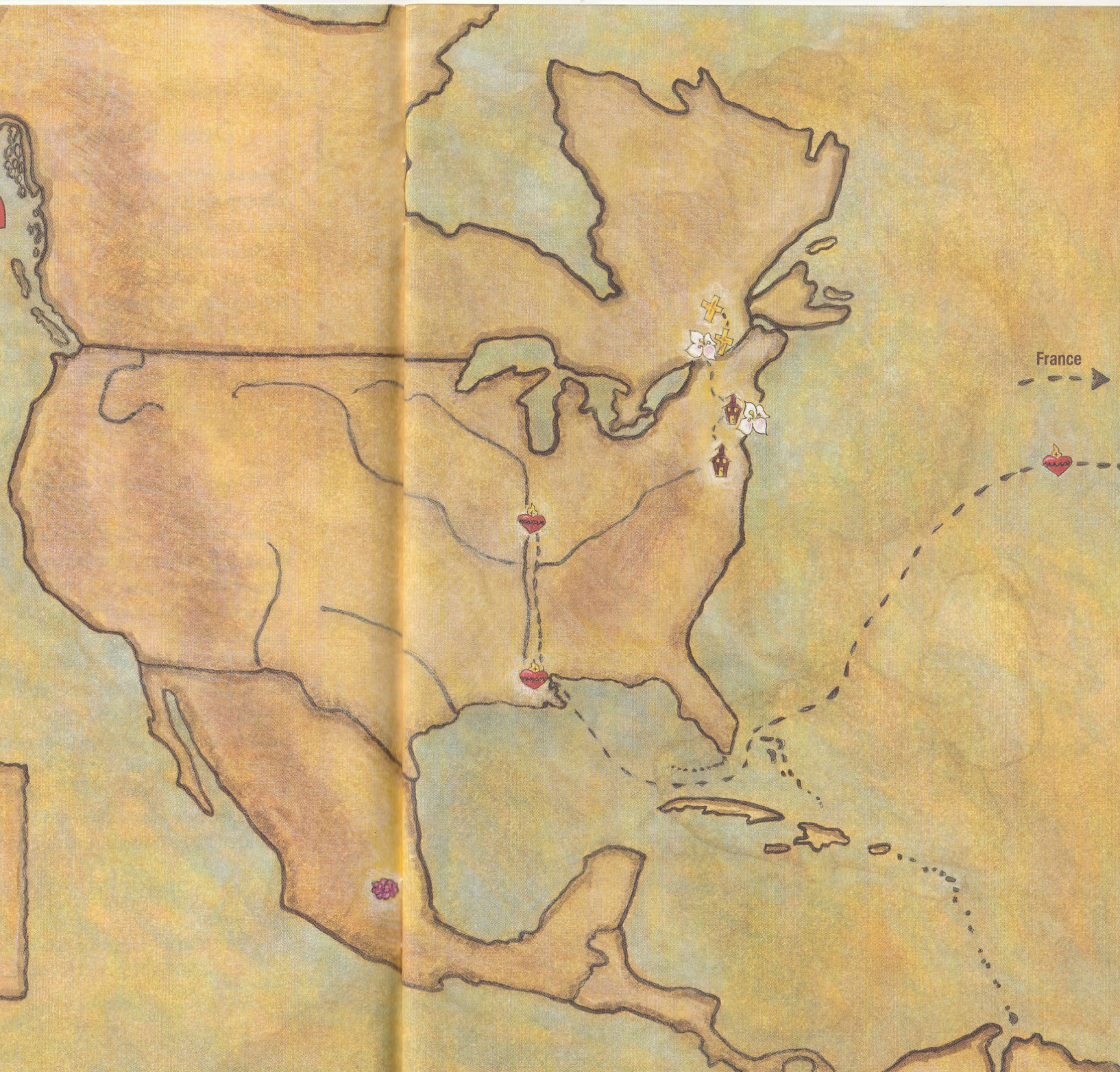
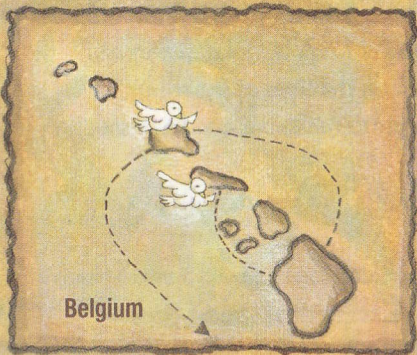
Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.



# Saints of North America

-  Kateri Tekakwitha
-  Juan Diego
-  Rose Philippine Duchesne
-  Damien of Molokai
-  Elizabeth Ann Seton
-  André Bessette





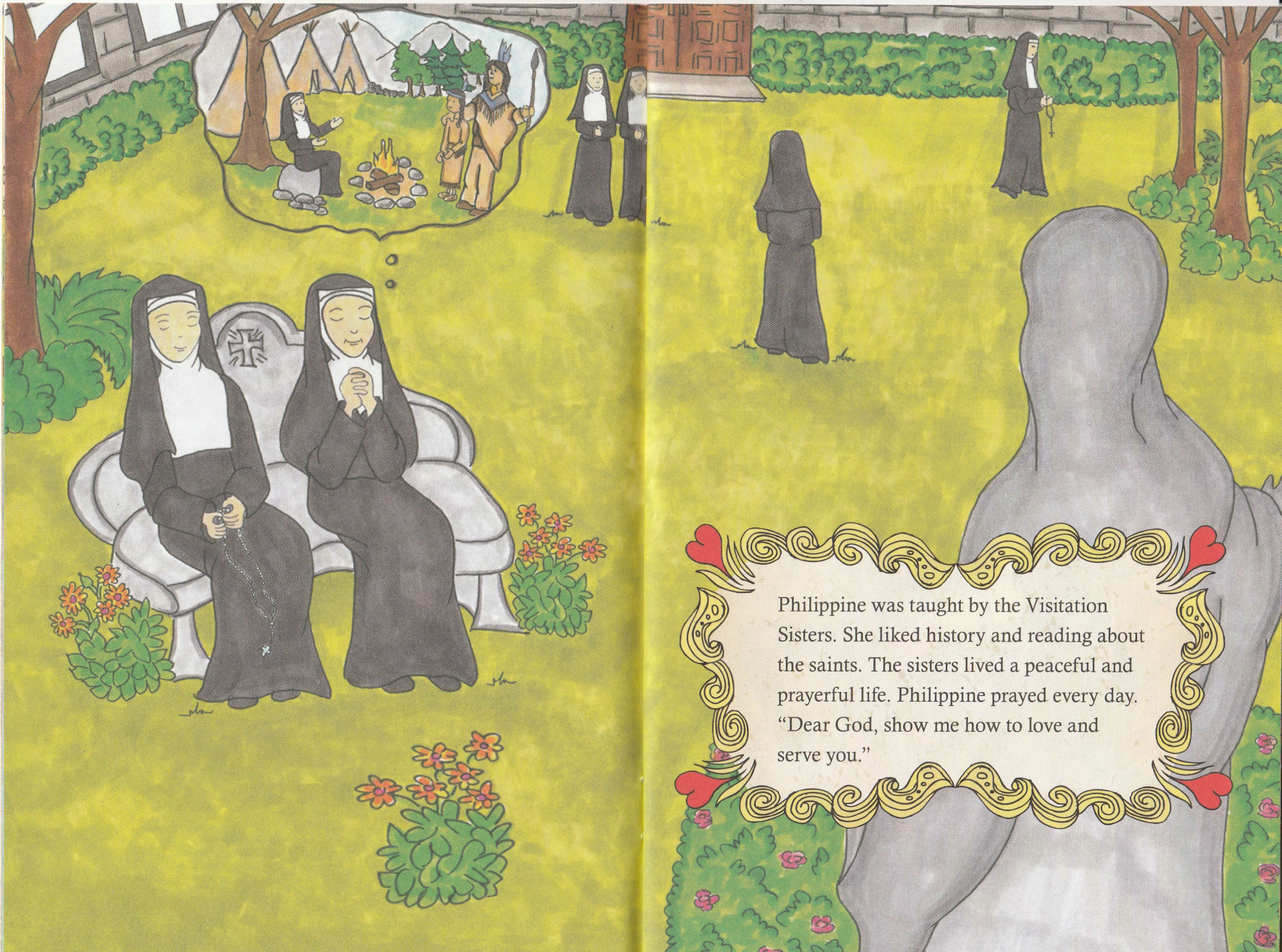


Rose Philippine was a little girl with a big dream. She wanted to be a missionary in America. And she wanted to work with Native Americans.

Philippine was born in Grenoble, France, in 1769. The Duchesne family enjoyed the good things in life. Her mother taught her to care about others. "We should help other people," she told her daughter.



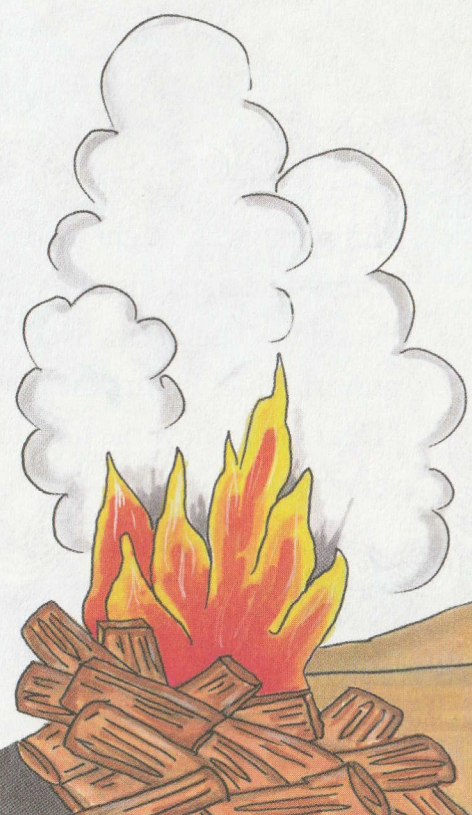




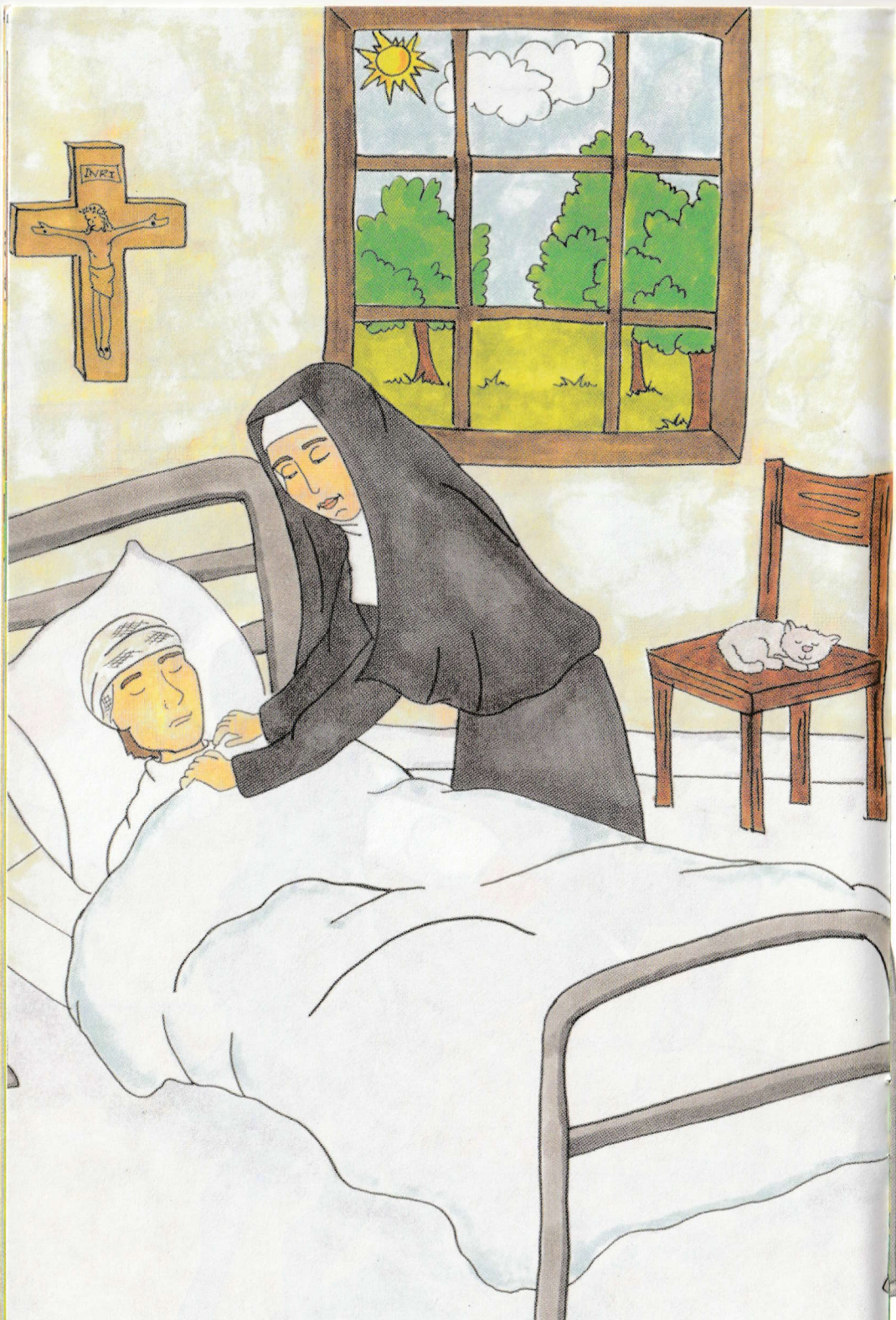
Philippine was taught by the Visitation Sisters. She liked history and reading about the saints. The sisters lived a peaceful and prayerful life. Philippine prayed every day. "Dear God, show me how to love and serve you."



At age eighteen she joined the Visitation convent. A war broke out in France and many things changed. Churches and convents were closed. Philippine went home to her family.

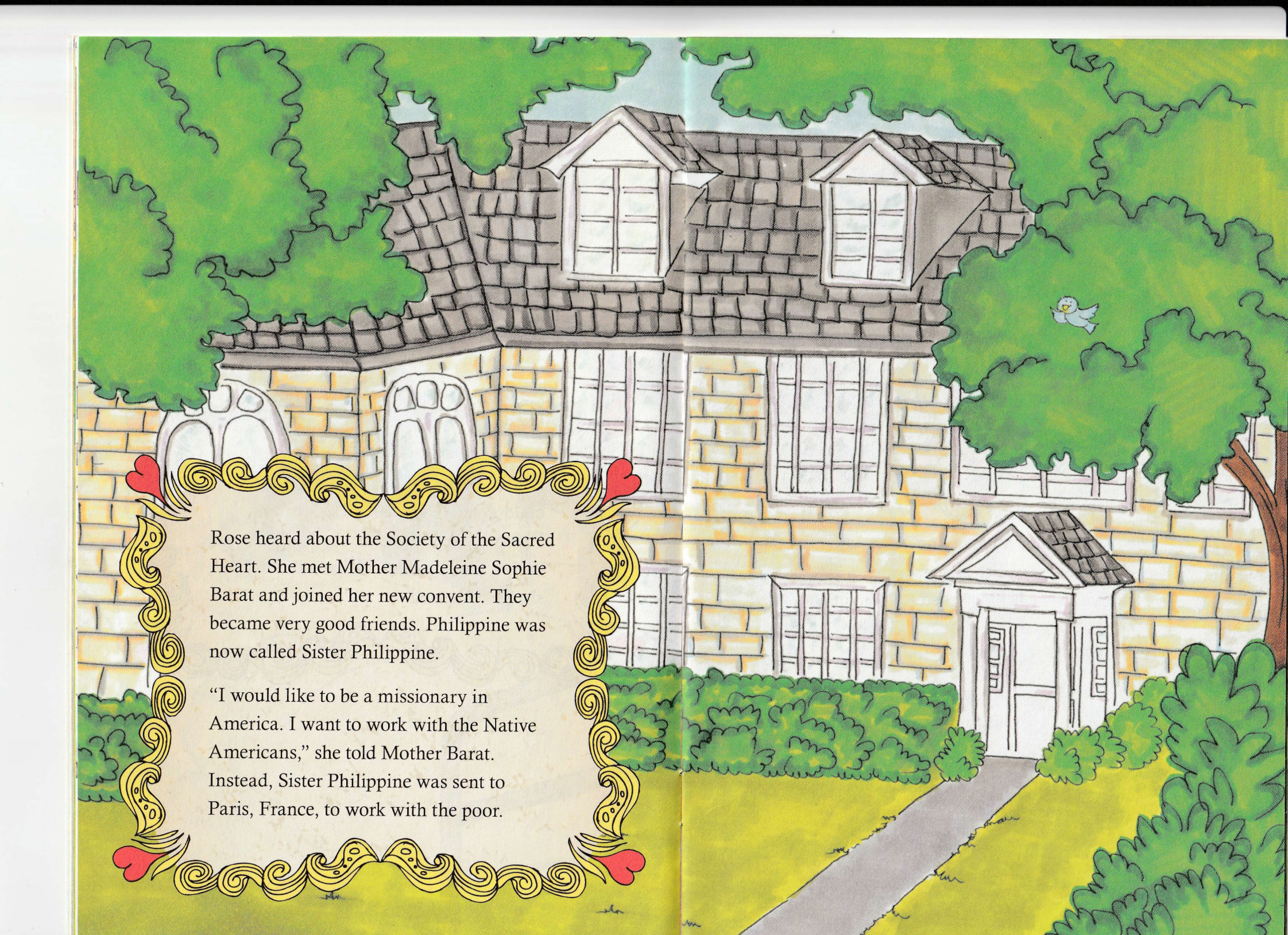






For the next ten years she taught little children and took care of sick people. When the war was over she wanted to go back to the convent. "What will I do?" she asked herself.

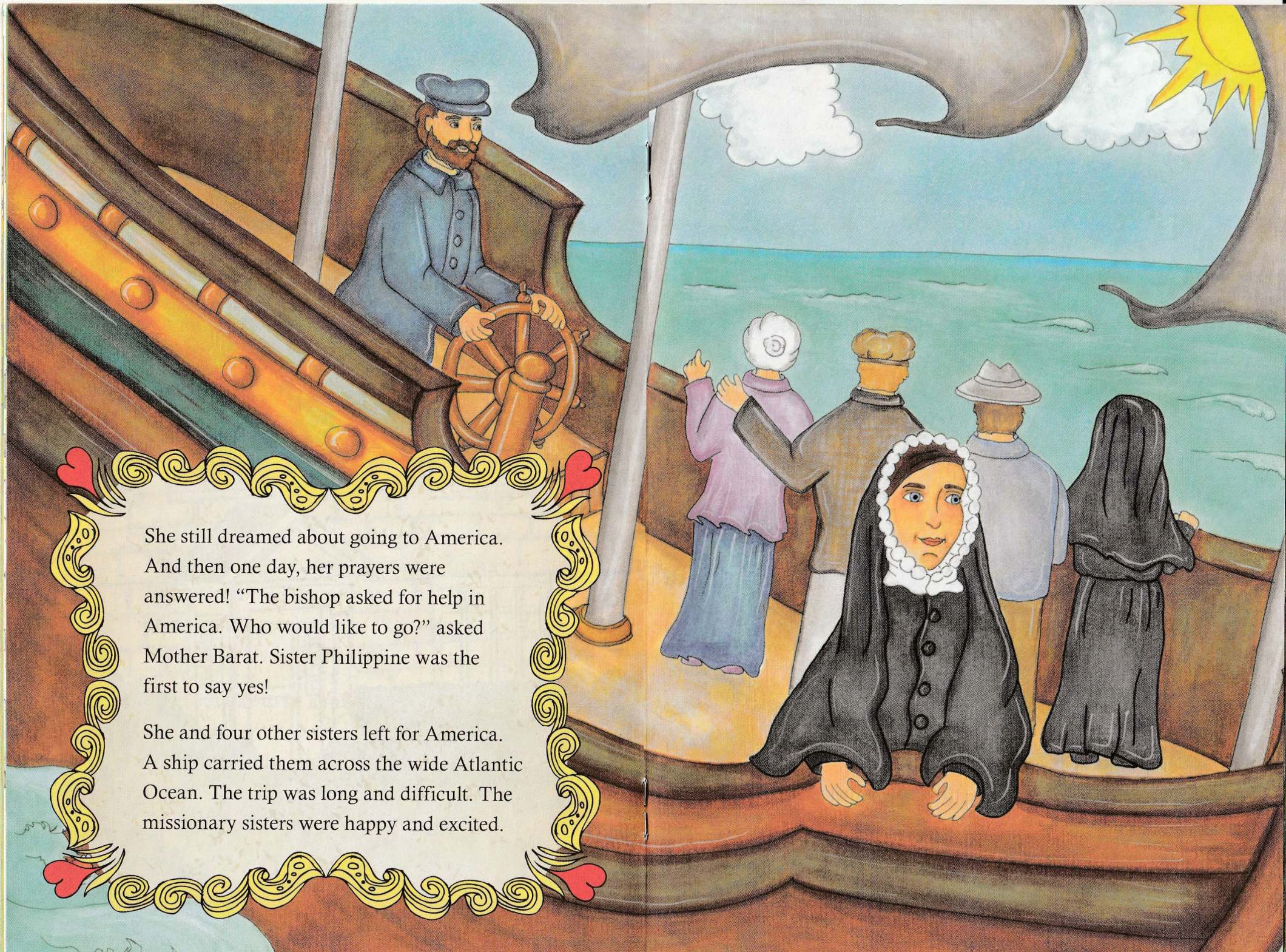




Rose heard about the Society of the Sacred Heart. She met Mother Madeleine Sophie Barat and joined her new convent. They became very good friends. Philippine was now called Sister Philippine.

"I would like to be a missionary in America. I want to work with the Native Americans," she told Mother Barat. Instead, Sister Philippine was sent to Paris, France, to work with the poor.

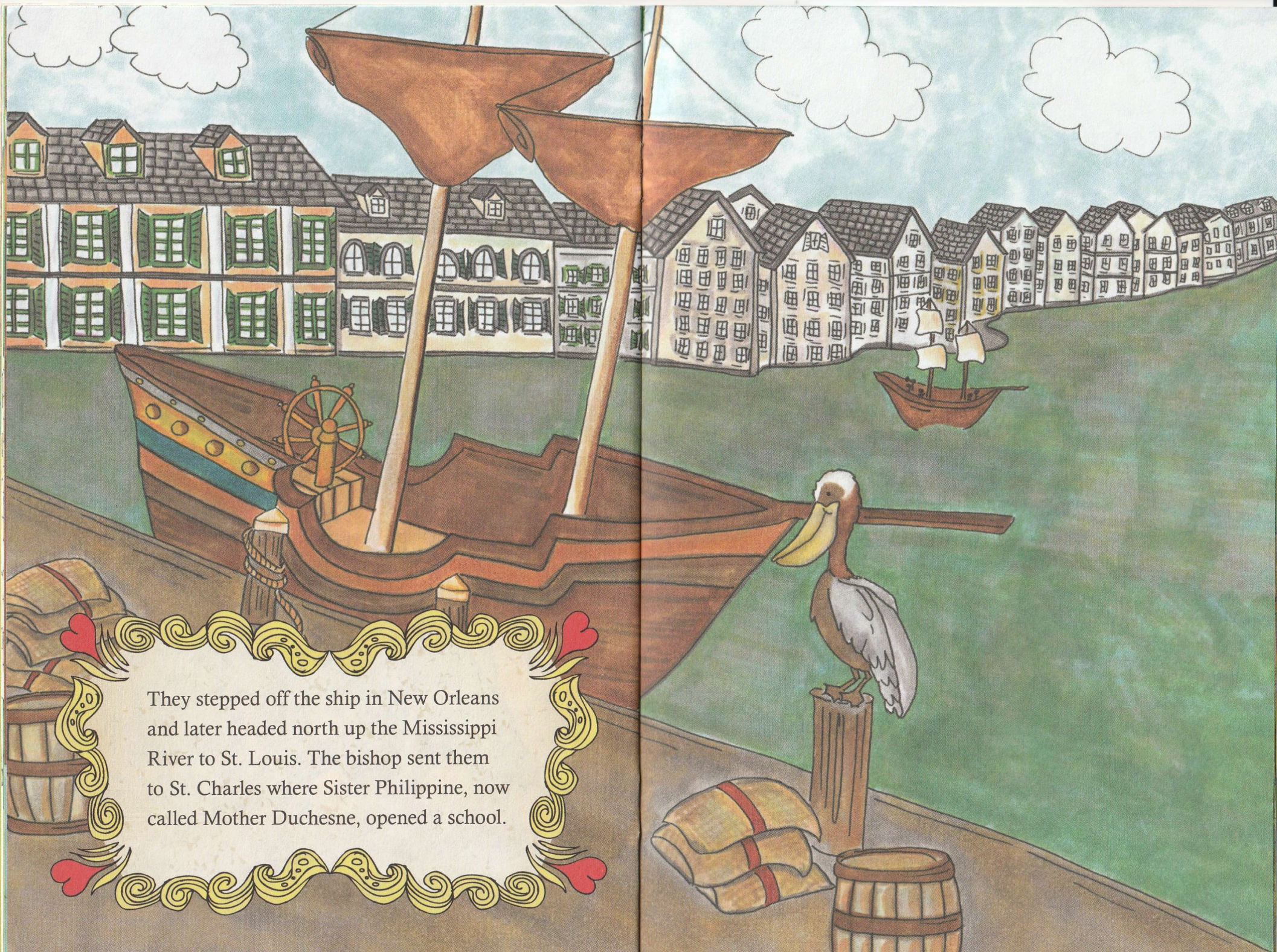




She still dreamed about going to America. And then one day, her prayers were answered! “The bishop asked for help in America. Who would like to go?” asked Mother Barat. Sister Philippine was the first to say yes!

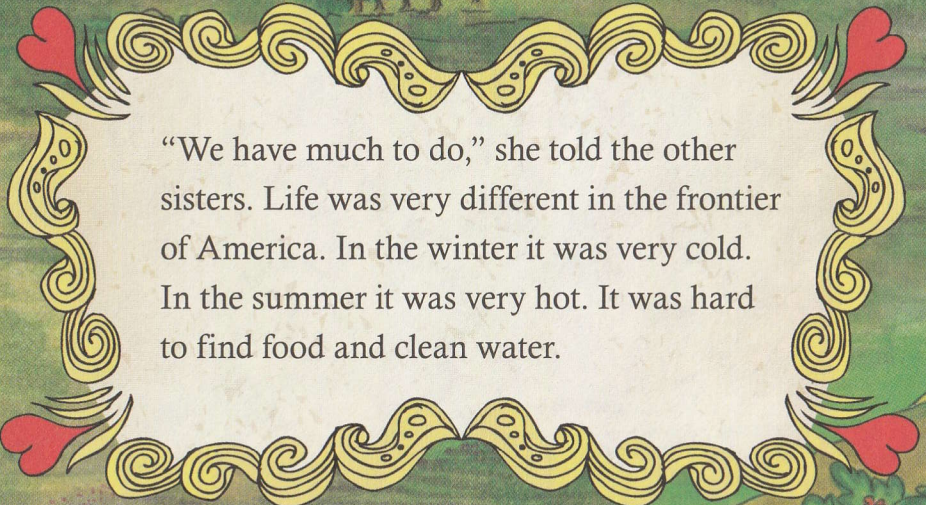
She and four other sisters left for America. A ship carried them across the wide Atlantic Ocean. The trip was long and difficult. The missionary sisters were happy and excited.



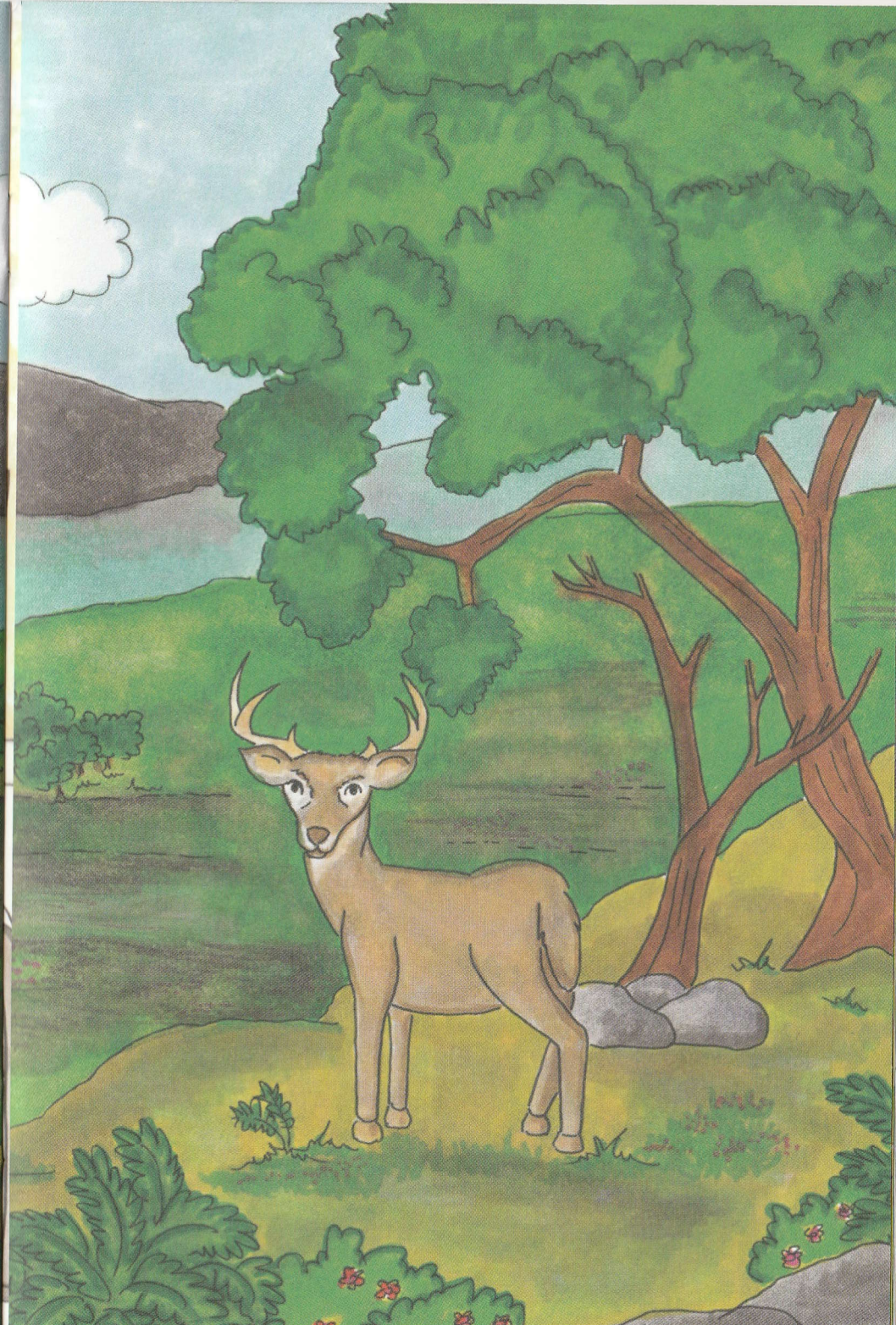


They stepped off the ship in New Orleans and later headed north up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. The bishop sent them to St. Charles where Sister Philippine, now called Mother Duchesne, opened a school.

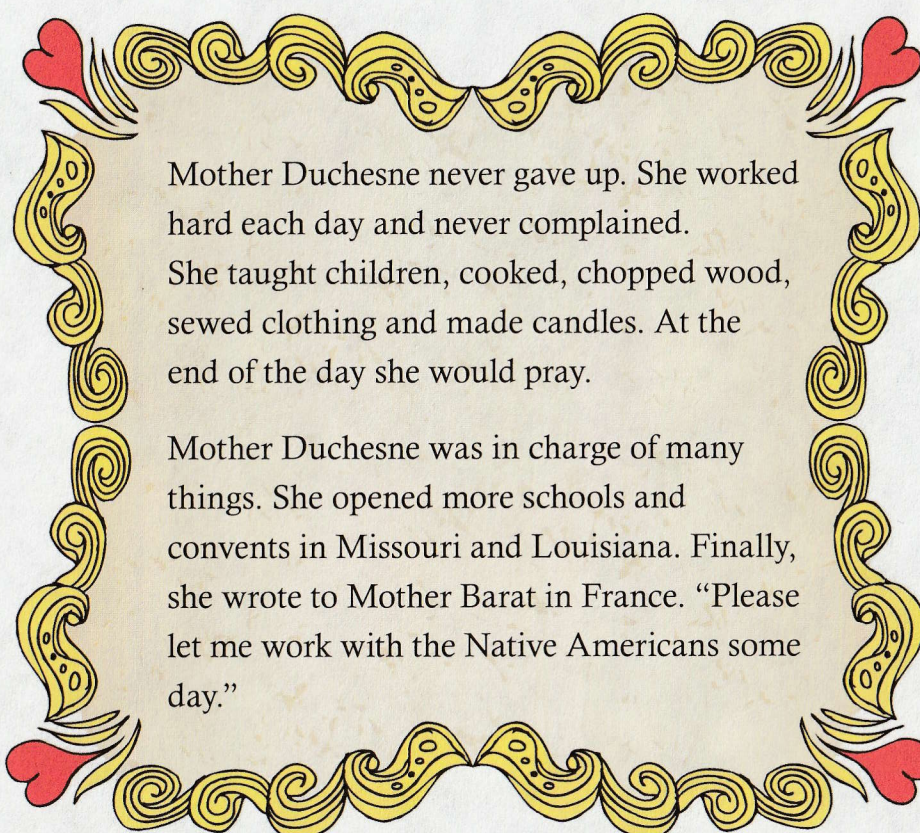




“We have much to do,” she told the other sisters. Life was very different in the frontier of America. In the winter it was very cold. In the summer it was very hot. It was hard to find food and clean water.

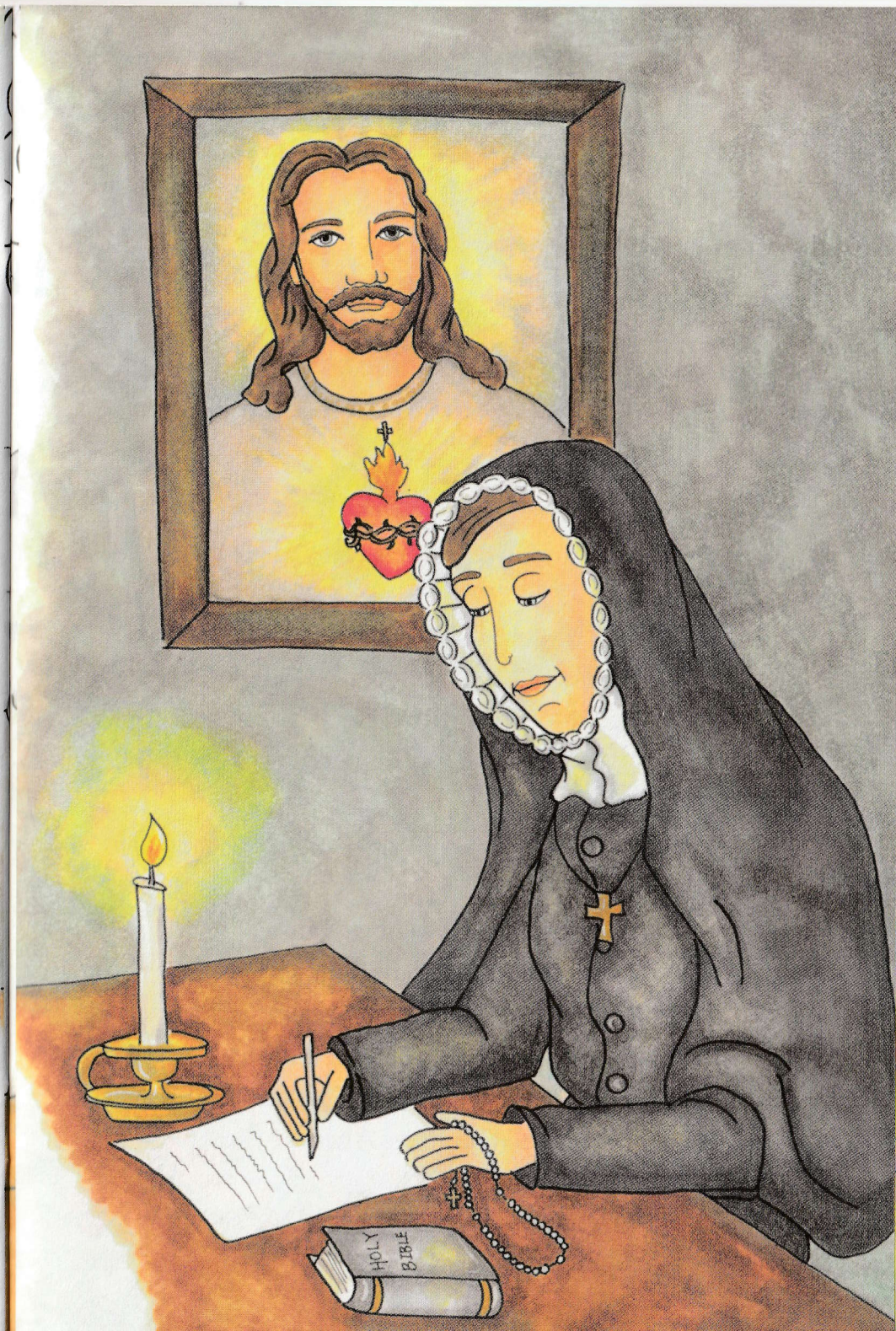




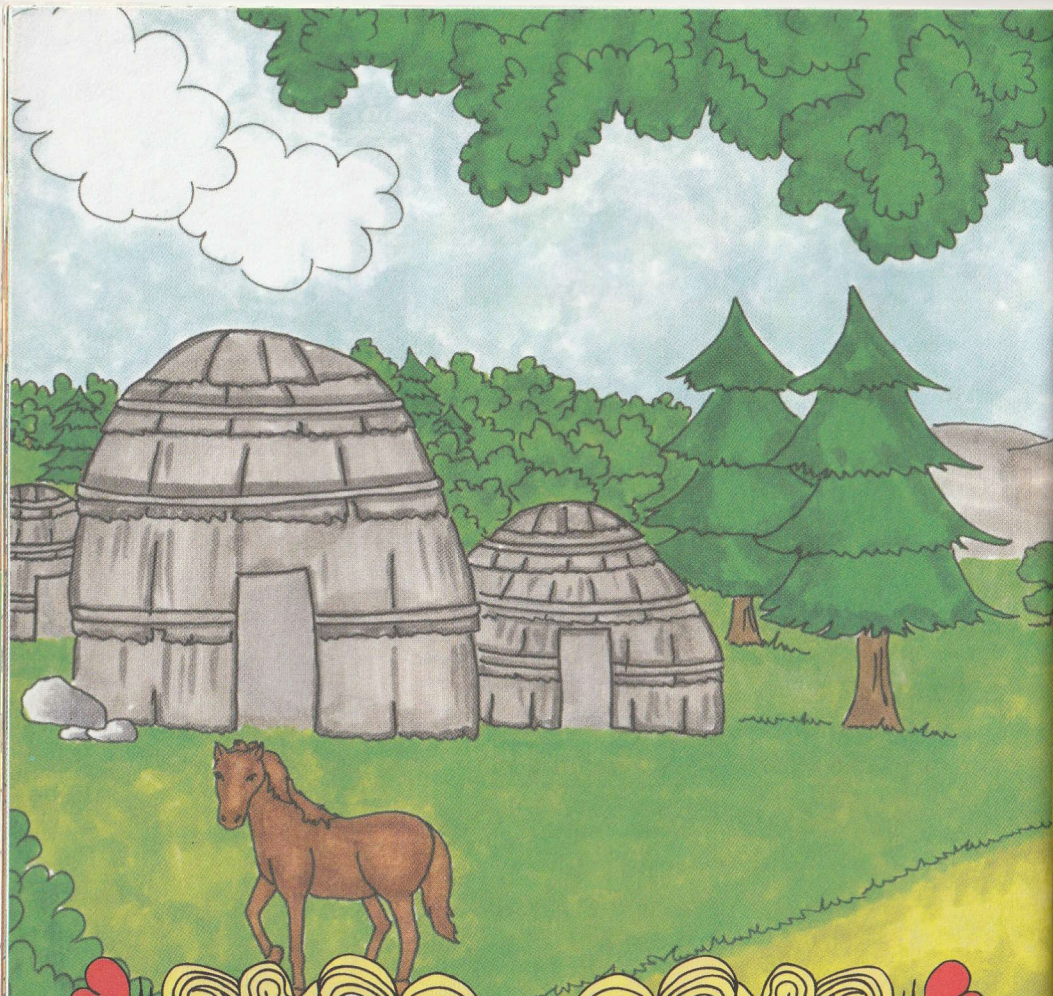


Mother Duchesne never gave up. She worked hard each day and never complained. She taught children, cooked, chopped wood, sewed clothing and made candles. At the end of the day she would pray.

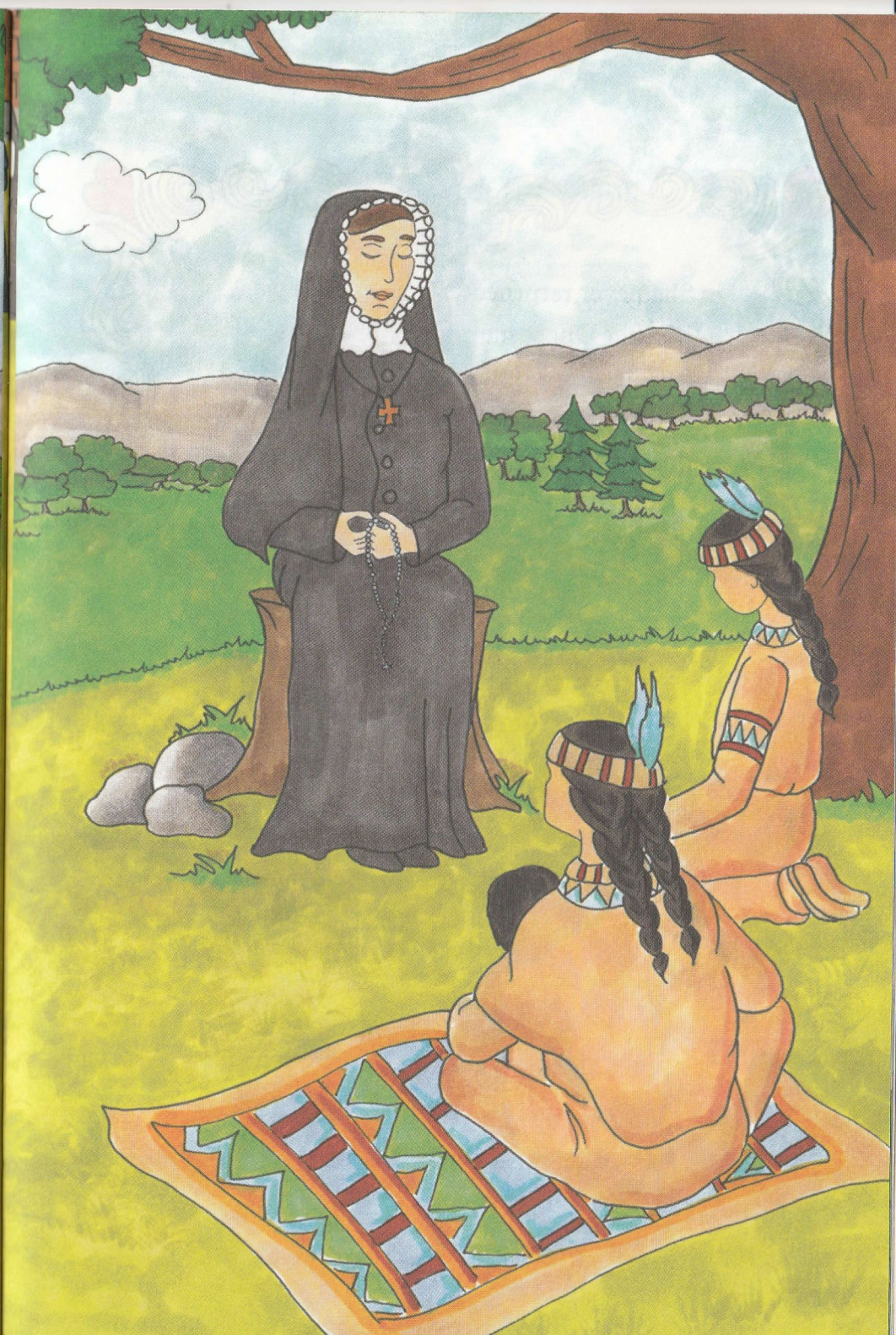
Mother Duchesne was in charge of many things. She opened more schools and convents in Missouri and Louisiana. Finally, she wrote to Mother Barat in France. "Please let me work with the Native Americans some day."



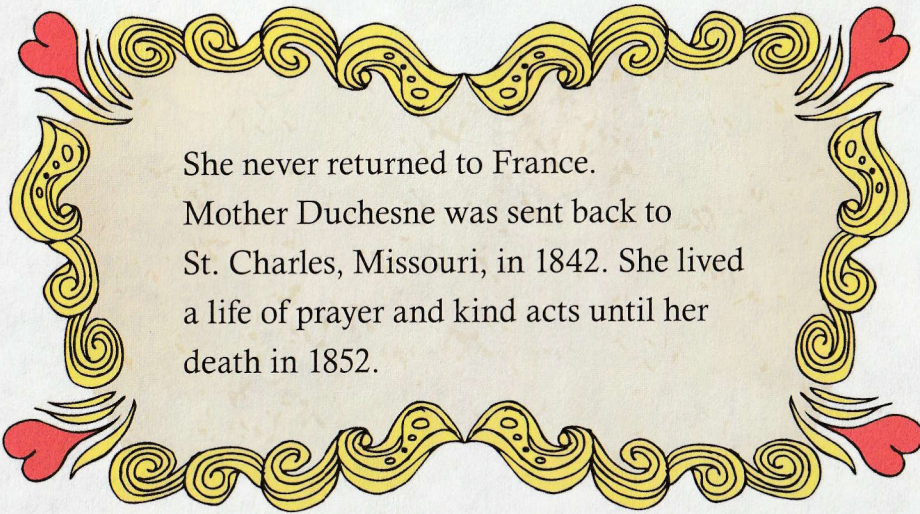




At age seventy-one, she went to Kansas to work with the Potawatomi Indians! They loved Mother Duchesne. She prayed for them day and night. She was sick and weak, but she loved being with them. They called her the "Woman Who Prays Always."







She never returned to France.  
Mother Duchesne was sent back to  
St. Charles, Missouri, in 1842. She lived  
a life of prayer and kind acts until her  
death in 1852.







Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was a hard-working missionary who always did her best. She inspires us to serve God and share our faith with others.



*Always hope and always pray.  
God will help you through the day.*



Dear God.  
I love you.  
Saint Rose Philippine  
loved you with  
all her heart.  
She liked to pray  
all the time.  
Help me to grow close  
to you when I pray.  
Amen.



## NEW WORDS (Glossary)

- Bishop:** A priest who is the leader of many churches in a certain area
- Convent:** A house where a group of women religious live
- Frontier:** An area of land that has not been explored; wilderness
- Missionary:** A person who teaches the faith or preaches the gospel in a certain place
- Mother:** The superior or leader of a group of women religious
- Potawatomi Indians:** A Native North American tribe that lived in the north central states
- Society of the Sacred Heart:** A group of women religious founded by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat in 1800
- Visitation Sisters:** A group of women religious founded by Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Jane Frances de Chantal in 1610

Rose Philippine's dream was realized as she went on mission. At the Sugar Creek Mission near Centerville, Kansas, she worked with the Potawatomi Indians, who gave her the name "Kwah-kah-kum-ad" (Woman Who Prays Always).