

*Sister Hammond:*

Nearly 200 years ago, a courageous woman, Rose Philippine Duchesne, set forth from her home in France to come to the New World to help bring the message of God's love to those in this new land who had never heard it.

With the exception of one year on the Indian missions in Kansas, she lived the rest of her life, 34 years, in the Saint Louis area. She found that she had to adapt her dreams to the realities of her new life, even in some ways that today we find difficult to understand. Her legacy lives on today in the Society of the Sacred Heart and the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, of which she was chosen as one of its patrons.

*Sister Glavin:*

One aspect of St. Philippine Duchesne's legacy lives on in the schools she founded. The Academy of the Sacred Heart in St. Charles was the first in 1818. At the time it was a humble log cabin school. What is now known as Old St. Ferdinand's, in Florissant was her second home and school, opened the following year, in 1819.

Beginning in 1821 other schools followed – in rural Louisiana and in St. Louis itself and from her foundations here, other schools were begun after her death . . . New York, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, New Orleans . . . 24 Sacred Heart Schools now educate over 10,000 students in the United States and Canada.

Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School in St. Louis County is among the 24. Sacred Heart education is now a global enterprise: schools in South America, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Africa and Asia claim Philippine as an important link in their lineage. Mother Duchesne is a globally known woman whose prayerful presence and God-filled life made St. Charles and St. Louis better places to learn and live.

*Sister Hammond:*

The Society of the Sacred Heart and the Catholic Church of Saint Louis are honored today to have her name inscribed in the Walk of Fame.