

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray as he prays. By addressing God as Father, “Jesus invites his disciples to share in the deep intimacy of his own relationship with the Father, whom elsewhere he describes as merciful, giving, attentive to human needs, and forgiving.”ⁱ

Today is the Memorial of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher. She was born in a little village near Montreal in 1811 and her parents named this 10th of 11 children ... Eulalie. At the age of 16, she wanted to become a religious sister but abandoned the idea after her weak health slowed her down from pursuing a religious vocation. Three of her brothers studied to be priests and one of her sisters became a religious. Unable to follow in their footsteps, she accepted an invitation from one brother to help him in his parish ministry.

“At 18, when her mother died, her priest brother invited Eulalie and their father to come to his parish in Beloeil, not far from Montreal.”ⁱⁱ For the next 13 years, she served as an industrious parish worker in addition to serving as a housekeeper and hostess. She was deeply concerned about the education of children in the countryside. With few teachers and fewer schools, she began to dream of a religious community that could meet the needs of the children she worried about as if they were her ownⁱⁱⁱ. Our Father, give us this day our schools and our teachers and forgive us for neglecting the young for so long.

Aware of her talents and her desire to help, her spiritual director, Oblate of Mary Immaculate Father Pierre Telmon, urged her to begin a religious order that would answer her prayers. Bishop Bourget of Montreal agreed. Eulalie worried that no one could replace her in caring for her father and brother and there was her health that still presented practical problems.

Undeterred by these objections, the bishop asked her to lay the foundation for a new religious order under the direction of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Eulalie took the religious name of Marie-Rose. On February 28th, 1844, Marie-Rose, Mélodie Dufresne, and Henriette Céré took their habits. Later that year on what we now celebrate as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Bourget received the religious vows of all three in the parish church and Marie-Rose became the religious superior of the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary for Christian education.^{iv}

“A woman of great virtue, in close communion with the Lord and a peerless educator, she gave the community an impetus that has not been lost with the passage of time. When she died on 6 Oct. 1849, on her 38th birthday, the community already had 30 teachers, 7 novices, 7 postulants, and 448 pupils in 4 convents.”^v

As we pray the Lord’s Prayer and ask for our daily bread, Jesus wants to nourish us with the Holy Eucharist to help us change and transform more and more into the image and likeness of God. With that intimate prayer to the Father is a call to change and transform the world. “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Jesus is teaching us to be merciful, giving, attentive to human needs, and forgiving. May we all follow in the footsteps of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher with a profound concern for the children in our own communities.

ⁱ Gadenz, Pablo T. The Gospel of Luke. Pg. 219.

ⁱⁱ franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/blessed-marie-rose-durocher

ⁱⁱⁱ biographi.ca/en/bio/durocher_eulalie_7E.html

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.