

but the advantages of the transfer of the community to Florissant soon became apparent in the increased number of scholars. This, in turn, led to the fond hope of establishing a novitiate, without which any considerable expansion would be vain. The Bishop was not sanguine. The American independence of character and claim to equality were, to his mind, very unpromising material for religious subordination and obedience. Vocations came, notwithstanding, and so quickly, that Mother Duchesne felt justified in acceding to the Bishop's wishes of founding new centres of education in other parts of his diocese.

Mgr. Dubourg wrote to the Venerable Mother Barat that Mother Duchesne was a true saint, but not quite enough after the style of St. Francis of Sales. The "Duchesne character" asserted itself, and the lack of natural pliability and sweetness was a source of many hard trials for her. But with deep and holy humility she acknowledged her defects and begged to be released from her position of superior and to take the lowest place. Her request remained ungranted until she was an old woman. To the Mother General she repeatedly wrote: "I am altogether out of date; this makes me the more anxious to know Jesus alone, and to seek Him in solitude."

At length, in compliance with her repeated requests, a new superior was sent from France, and this holy woman who, for two and twenty years, had borne the heat and burden of the day, knelt, as she has done thirty-six years previously, at her young superior's feet, and humbly asked her blessing, and Mother Duchesne, at seventy years, was once more a simple religious.

At this great age another very ardent desire was at last fulfilled. She was permitted to be one of a band of missionary sisters to a settlement of the Pottawotomies, called Sugar Creek, and although so old that she could only pray still she could teach her companions and the Indians what a saint's life can be when human usefulness is past. They called her the "woman who prays always." God's will was to the last the ruling passion of her life; obedience