



## Prayer to Blessed Marie Rose

Blessed Marie Rose, obtain for us today the audacity of Faith, the simplicity of Hope, the power of Love, that we may actualize the words of Jesus: I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and would that it were already kindled. We ask this in your name and in the names of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Icon: Joan Brand Landkamer  
Front cover: Jean Morningstar, snjm

Sorrow carved its way deeply into the heart of this new community with the death of Marie Rose Durocher. After months of suffering and only six years from the Congregation's beginning, Mother Marie Rose died at the age of 38. Her spirit, a legacy of hope for the future and a passionate desire for the names of Jesus and Mary to be known and loved, lives on today in the hearts of many across the globe. She was declared "Blessed" Marie Rose Durocher on May 23, 1982, an honor bestowed in recognition of how her deep faith led to a commitment to the education of youth. ☛

### Online resources:

[www.snjmusontario.org](http://www.snjmusontario.org)  
[www.holynamesheritagecenter.org](http://www.holynamesheritagecenter.org)  
[www.snjm.org](http://www.snjm.org)



*Blessed Marie Rose Durocher*

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

**October 6, 1849**  
Death of Mother Marie  
Rose, age 38

**Autumn, 1859**  
Founding of the  
first Holy Names ministry  
outside of Canada  
(Portland, Oregon)

**May 23, 1982**  
Beatification of  
Blessed Marie Rose by  
Pope John Paul II

## Taking root in her heart was the dream of living for God and witnessing to the truth of the Gospel.

**Born and raised in Quebec, Canada,** Eulalie-Melanie Durocher knew from an early age God's faithful love. She lived her younger years in St. Antoine, a peaceful village overlooking the beautiful Richelieu River. Ardent and strong-willed as a child, Eulalie was blessed with the wisdom and guidance of a loving family who carefully and patiently channeled her energies.

Circumstances changed in her teenage years with the death of her mother. Persuaded by her brother, pastor of a church in a neighboring village, she moved to Beloeil where she participated in the life of the parish. Living simply and attending to the needs of those around her, she sought to make life better for others, especially the poor. In her free time she gathered young women together in prayer and service.



Sculpture by Paula Mary  
Turnbull, snjm,  
Spokane, WA

“When her duties were over,” writes a member of the Congregation, “her charity led her to seek in the village the poor, the afflicted, the sorrowing. If prevented by work from carrying provisions herself to some destitute family, she invited a friend or acquaintance to do it.”

This time provided abundant opportunity to know the spiritual, social, and educational needs of the people. Taking root in her heart was the dream of living for God and witnessing to the truth of the Gospel.

**Eulalie was well prepared** for the next venture of her life. Time and experience deepened the gifts of the Spirit within, maturing in her a natural ability of leadership, and enriching the virtues of charity, prudence and courage. She heard God's call resounding in her heart and responded in faith, risking everything for God.

She and her two companions, Mélodie Dufresne and Henriette Céré, women of prayer and compassion, shared a similar vision and desire to dedicate their lives to God. Challenged by the Gospel to “go and teach”, they established a new community of women religious, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, who began educating the poor, especially young women in rural areas who had no opportunity for education.

With hearts of hope they devoted their energies to the poor, founding schools in the surrounding villages. Believing in the future, they devoted everything to this venture. The new congregation flourished as they faced seemingly insurmountable difficulties of poverty, hostility, and misunderstandings, even from friends and those who had given support to this endeavor. Inspired by the call to service and by the lives of the three foundresses, other women quickly joined them. Within six short years the community increased to forty-four sisters ministering in three schools.

**October 6, 1811**  
Birth and baptism of  
Eulalie-Melanie  
Durocher in  
Quebec, Canada

**1831-1843**  
Eulalie works in the  
rectory of her brother,  
a village priest

**October 28, 1843**  
Sisters of the Holy  
Names of Jesus and  
Mary founded in  
Longueuil, Canada

**December 8, 1844**  
Feast of the Immacu-  
late Conception; the  
three foundresses  
profess first vows

**August 15, 1846**  
The Congregation's  
three foundresses  
profess their  
permanent vows

**November 3, 1846**  
Foundation of the first  
mission in  
Beloeil, Quebec