



ROSE PRINCE (1915-1949)

Rose Prince of the Carrier Nation was born in 1915 to devout Catholic parents in what is now central British Columbia. She and her eight siblings attended a mission school near their home, and when it closed Rose was sent to Lejac Residential School. Rose developed a spine curvature that affected her movement. She was often in pain throughout her life, but she was known for being patient and kind even when she was struggling.

After her school years ended she asked to be allowed to remain at Lejac Residential School to continue her life of devotion, and was part of the staff there, teaching, doing beadwork, and painting. She was also able to attend Mass frequently and often remained in prayer for many hours. Although only English was officially allowed at the school, Rose translated hymns and prayers into her own language, Dakelh, and they were used by the students and sisters at the school.

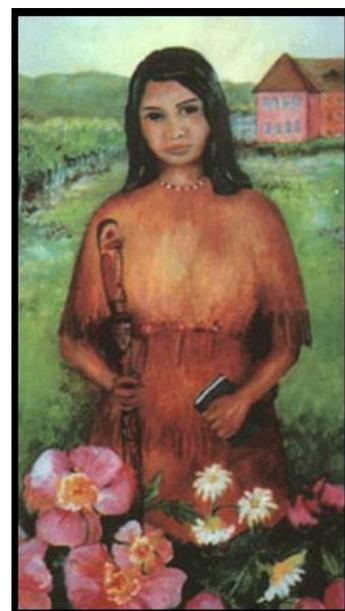


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Rose lived a simple life of prayer and work at the school. Students often sought her out for guidance and she made many people's lives brighter with her kindness, even while she herself was frequently in pain. She was hospitalized several times and eventually contracted tuberculosis, which made her very frail and weak. In 1949 she was admitted to hospital again, where she died on August 19th. She was buried a few days later in the Lejac School cemetery.

In 1951, a number of the graves in the school grounds were moved, including Rose's, and her body was found to be still perfectly preserved. Those who had seen this marveled and told Rose's childhood friends as well as the priests at the school. Everyone remembered how kind and joyful she was and how she had been devoted to God. In the surrounding area the news spread quickly, and many were moved by her humble yet extraordinary life and witness.

In 1990, former Lejac students and childhood friends of Rose organized a pilgrimage to her gravesite. Over the years this annual event has grown to include Indigenous and non-Indigenous pilgrims from across the country. She is well-known in the diocese of Prince George, and a number of miracles have been attributed to her. In the hopes of one day opening the official process for her canonization, the Diocese of Prince George continues to collect and request stories and documentation regarding these miracles.