Little Rose – Miracles and Healings

On May 20, 2017, the foundation held a presentation on Little Rose, Woonsocket’s stigmatist, at the American French Genealogical Society on Earle St. along with a talk given by President David Ethier, some of her personal belongings were on display.

Over the years there have been many healings and miracles attributed to our Little Rose and they continue today. Some in different ways—people will visit her grave and leave with a sense of well-being, others are a little more dramatic.

In 2016, a woman visiting Woonsocket on a buying trip for her store, was told about Little Rose by an antique dealer on Main St. and decided to visit the grave of Little Rose while she was here. While standing in front of the grave, she said a few prayers to her. For years, the woman had been told by doctors that she was barren and could not have children, something she and her husband wanted greatly. The woman was back in Woonsocket 4 months later, stopped by the antique store where she had learned about Little Rose and informed them that she was now 2 months pregnant.

Something that her doctors said would never happen. The woman feels deeply that her visit to the grave and her prayers had something to do with it. Miracle or not, she now believes Little Rose interceded for her.

An 87-year-old woman writes that when she was 12, during a physical exam it was discovered that she had a tumor in her chest and that a lung had collapsed. She then had surgery to have the tumor removed but her breathing remained shallow after the operation. A nun placed an image of Little Rose on her chest and she began breathing normally.

Words from the Foundation President

As President of the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, I, David P Ethier would like clarify the following: our acceptance of the decree of Pope Urban VIII. Also, the foundation will discourage the use of the word Relic and ask all devotees to refrain from using it. All belongings of Marie Rose Ferron will be referred to as mementos or souvenirs. We would appreciate your cooperation!

In obedience to the decree of Pope Urban VIII and other sovereign Pontiffs, the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island declares that the graces and other supernatural facts related in witnessing to the sanctity of Servants of God other than those canonized or beatified by the Church rest on human authority alone; and in regard thereto, as in all thing else, the foundation submits itself without reserve to the infallible judgment of the Apostolic See, which alone has the power and authority to pronounce as to whom rightly belong the Character and Title of Saint or Blessed.

Written articles from the past referring to relics will not be changed.

The Foundation was very pleased with the coverage in Sunday and Monday’s edition (May 21 and 22, 2017) of the Woonsocket Call, which clearly stated the above statement. The stories covered recent miracles and healings attributed to Little Rose. One witness was Carl LeClair from Revere, Massachusetts, who gave a first hand testimony. Also, a documented healing of Helen Peltier of N. Smithfield, RI who received a healing in 1945. The Foundation has received a number of contacts from persons who have received favors from Little Rose, which we will share.

June 2017

A special guest at the lecture was Carl LeClair of Revere, Mass. who shared his experience with Little Rose with the audience along with some of her mementos that he has. A long-term believer in Little Rose, he met her sister Flora during monthly trips to her chapel in Woonsocket with his church. He came down with a severe case of pneumonia, brought to Massachusetts General Hospital and while there, he was resuscitated 6 times and spent 4 days in a coma before waking up. He attributes his recovery to the intercession of Little Rose.

There are many cases as the above that people believe Little Rose played a part in.
The Odor of Sanctity
This is an extract from an article which appeared in the July-August, 1949 “The Scapular”

It is well known that the “odor of sanctity” has followed the relics of certain saints; especially in the case of the Little Flower has the fragrance of roses been noted. It is generally said to denote the presence of the saint at the time and place that the “fragrance” occurs. Mary Rose Ferron is evidently present in many places throughout the world today, if the scent of roses from her relics is any indication! A woman in Nanjing, who “did not believe any of that supernatural stuff,” began to tremble when she put the rosary crucifix that Father Palm had to her nose, turned pale, and exclaimed: “Roses!”

From China, Father John B. Palm, S.J., writes that several fragrances given off from the relics of Mary Rose Ferron marked “the beginning of a long series of strange, odd, weird experiences that must seem like the wild dreams of a distorted imagination.

“When six American sisters passed relics around to one another, the fragrance changed in intensity . . . Since then about 1,000 persons of both sexes, religious, priests, brothers, old and young, Chinese and foreigners, pagans and Christians, fervent and lukewarm, good and bad, skeptical and credulous, from all classes and conditions of life; all these have perceived varied fragrances from the crucifixes, relics, etc.”

Little Rose and Royalty of Siam

Upon his return to China in August 1948, Fr. Palm had His Royal Highness, the Prince of Siam, first cousin to the king as a fellow passenger on the ship that left San Francisco. Both the prince and his wife perceived a strong fragrant odor coming from two crucifixes which belonged to Mary Rose Ferron during her lifetime, which had often been lying on her bed during the Passion-ecstasies. At first, the belief was that this had its source in the imagination of the prince and his wife. But as he himself said, “I knew that this could not be true because I could not have imagined this odor all the times I opened the book or picked up the circulars.” He had been given the book “She wears a Crown of Thorns” and a series of circulars telling about other such extraordinary occurrences, and favors granted through the intercession of Mary Rose Ferron, along with a piece of the coffin that was retrieved during her exhumation in 1946. As a result, the prince had the book translated into Siamese and invited Fr. Palm to preach in Siam.

Why does not North America have more saints?

Cardinal Cushing stated two special reason: lack of interest and of devotion on the part of our clergy and laity. Matter is all that matters to us! Our heroes are to be found in Hollywood, not in Heaven, ready made. Poets are born, but not Saints. Saints are made, by labor, toil, pain, suffering, time, by God and man together cooperating to form the finished divine project, the Saint. Saints are made by God and the Servant of God cooperating, first of all. But Saints must be made by the Holy See, the NCCB, the Loci Ordinarius, the laity by their prayers to God and peti-

The Little Rose Newsletter

Donors
Ayotte Printers for producing our newsletters.
Bileau’s Flowers, Woonsocket for discount on decorations for Little Roses grave.
Leeway Hardware, N. Smithfield flowers
Helen Pelitier
Timeless Antiques, Woonsocket $125 and providing space and selling some of our items in their store.
Walmart, North Smithfield $50 gift card.

Several people wished to remain anonymous but covered the expense of advertising the May lecture in both the Woonsocket Call and three versions of the Valley Breeze and for production of some handouts provided at the lecture. Also provided refreshments at the lecture.

One of the purposes of the Foundation is to bring word of Little Rose to the public. We do this by lectures, tri-fold handouts, novena cards (in four languages), a newsletter, prayer cards, even a weekly novena insert in the local Woonsocket newspaper, all at no cost to the recipients. All of this comes at a cost for replenishment and this effort is supported solely by donations from devotees. We are coming to you for your help in supporting this, our outreach program.

While we are grateful for any size donation, for a $20 or more donation, the foundation will send you a laminated business card size memento that can be used as a bookmark in your bible, prayer book or carried in your
The Character of Rose

Defining the character of Little Rose is a very intricate problem as Rose was a mystic and mystics are not easily understood or evaluated. There major motives for their conduct are often hidden from the eyes of their admirers and seldom come to the surface. This is natural as the term mysticism implies something hidden, mysterious, and indefinable.

Rose seemed to have been fundamentally humble. But what is humility? This virtue is not easily defined because of its many semblances. The simplest definition is — humility is truth. If we are truthful in our thoughts, words and actions, we really are humble. This implies the full realization of our nothingness and our complete submission to God. Little Rose was truly humble because from her infan- cy she lived in complete submission to her Jesus.

After Jesus became her personal Teacher during her ecstasies, Rose deepened her submission to Him Who asks us all to learn from Him. All that Rose wanted in this world was to be unknown, the least of all. “I don’t want to expose myself and draw attention,” she said many times, “for I do not know what will become of me. I am diffident of myself.” She fully realized the danger of pride, since it pollutes the mystical life.

Diffident of herself and fearful of pride, Rose was prompted to ask Our Lord that her sufferings might not appear, that her stigmata would disappear. Christ finally granted her this request. Father Boyer gives a vivid and touching pen sketch of the humility of Little Rose:

Humility and generosity mingled with a sense of humor made Rose one of the most charming characters you could encounter, whose visitors are usually impressed by her great humility and simplicity. Father Leonard gives us the following interesting account:

I learned this October 23, 1930, that a man from South Carolina had visited Theresa Neumann on a Friday and without knowing him she said, ‘Why are you here? Why don’t you go and see my little sister, Rose Ferron, in your own country? Go and see her. It’s not as far as coming here.’ And she gave Rose’s address. After his arrival in New York, this man came to Woonsocket on a Friday. After explaining matters, the family called up Father X to ask if they should let him in; ---with his permission he was allowed to see her. The stranger came out in tears, saying, ‘I have seen as much here as in Konnerstreuth.’ The same fact was mentioned at the Ferron’s while I was there the following November.”

Though Little Rose never reached the fame which Theresa Neumann possesses, we may call her a true sister of Sister Neumann. Both are mystics of a high order who have accomplished much for the conversion of sinners by their prayers and sufferings.

Another visitor who understood the character of Rose better perhaps than the majority of those acquainted with her, was Sister Mary Angela. Her account of the Ferrons is also charming. She relates, “I found both Mrs. Ferron and Rose very charming, simple, and friendly. The smile of Mrs. Ferron was something that I shall never forget.”

In this respect Little Rose was a worthy companion of Theresa Neumann, whose visitors are usually impressed by her great humility and simplicity. Father Leonard gives us the following interesting account:

Another visitor who understood the character of Rose better perhaps than the majority of those acquainted with her, was Sister Mary Angela. Her account of the Ferrons is also charming. She relates, “I found both Mrs. Ferron and Rose very charming, simple, and friendly. The smile of Mrs. Ferron was something that I shall never forget.”

In this respect Little Rose was a worthy companion of Theresa Neumann, whose visitors are usually impressed by her great humility and simplicity. Father Leonard gives us the following interesting account:

I learned this October 23, 1930, that a man from South Carolina had visited Theresa Neumann on a Friday and without knowing him she said, ‘Why are you here? Why don’t you go and see my little sister, Rose Ferron, in your own country? Go and see her. It’s not as far as coming here.’ And she gave Rose’s address. After his arrival in New York, this man came to Woonsocket on a Friday. After explaining matters, the family called up Father X to ask if they should let him in; ---with his permission he was allowed to see her. The stranger came out in tears, saying, ‘I have seen as much here as in Konnerstreuth.’ The same fact was mentioned at the Ferron’s while I was there the following November.”

Thanks to a donation for flowers and containers for the grave of Little Rose, her grave was decorated for her death and birth days in May by foundation board members. Decorations will remain until the weather no longer allows the plants to survive and then they will then be replaced with Winter decorations.

Our second newsletter saw 152 mailed to those without email addresses (Dec. edition was 150) and 335 emailed (Dec. edition was 150) to people of which 64 were overseas contacts.

In addition, there have been requests totaling 350 with no email addresses that we have not been able to fill due to costs. Each newsletter sent by USPS costs the foundation $1.49 for printing and postage with overseas requests going around $2.57 each. As much as we would like to be able to cover these requests, the foundation simply cannot without more donations coming in to support it.

If you are receiving this as a hard copy and you have an email address, please think of providing it so we can continue sending the newsletter to you.

Further newsletters will only be sent out electronically due to cost.
Would you like to help the foundation bring Little Rose to the world?

There are many things we need volunteers to do. Some are only occasional such as arranging for a place for a lecture and coordinating it.

You have a talent in research and writing? The Foundation believes that everyone should have a chance to learn about her, her ties to Woonsocket and what the Foundation is doing to bring her name forward. To do so, this newsletter was created. If you think you could help produce it, it would be greatly appreciated.

We have collected much material from the past on Little Rose and need assistance in cataloguing and organizing what we hold.

While the Foundation is still young, it’s never too early to plan for the future. One of the goals is to have a permanent home for her chapel. Hopefully in time, someone will donate land or a home that can be used for it. Remember, the Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit and any donations made to it are tax deductible.

If you have ideas to bring her name and life forward, please feel free to contact the Foundation President, David Ethier by EMAIL : roseferronfri@gmail.com Calling David at 401-568-0349 or on FACEBOOK: Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island

Books Available from the Foundation

Bookstores no longer carry books on Rose Ferron’s life, to obtain such, one must go to second hand book dealers.

We have a limited supply of:

“She Wears a Crown of Thorns.”
By Rev. O. A. Boyer, S.T.L

This is a definitive work by her biographer in hard cover consisting of 364 pages published in 1951. It tells the story of her life and some testimonies from people who have obtained favors through her. They have never been read and are in perfect condition with dust covers.
The cost is $25.00 plus $5.00 P&H.

Another booklet entitled:

“My Heart Speaks to Thee,
The Life of Marie Rose Ferron—Little Rose”

Written by Wanda Sadowski first printed in 1964 by Little Rose Friends in Detroit. In 2015 the Foundation had a Third Printing produced. It is a soft cover booklet consisting of 22 pages concerning her life with many illustrations.
The cost is $4.00 plus $2.50 P&H.

Also available are novenas in English, French, Spanish and Polish as well as some tri-folds on her life with prayers. These are FREE. We do ask, if possible, for a small donation so they can be replaced.