Father John Baptist Palm, S.J.

Father Palm was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Washington on June 13, 1941 and was stationed at Our Lady of Lourdes Church outside of Washington D.C. until he entered the Society of Jesus in 1944. He went to China in 1948 and was stationed at Christ the King Church in Shanghai until his arrest by the Communists in June, 1953. He was taken to the border of Hong Kong in July, and, after hospitalization and rest, went to Taiwan where he worked in Hsinchu until 2003.

Words from the Foundation President

To the devotees of Little Rose

The Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island was founded in August of 2015. Founded with the intention of preserving the contents of a chapel built by Rose Myette, dedicated to Marie Rose Ferron of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Marie “Little Rose” Ferron instructed her cousin, to construct a chapel dedicated to the spirituality that defined her suffering during this time on earth: the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and the redeeming power of His Suffering and Precious Blood. The contents of Myette’s chapel consist of artifacts pertaining to the life of Rose Ferron as well as devotionals and objects made in her honor. These items are of historical and spiritual significance, and are extremely fragile and currently in storage.

Our goal is to reestablish the chapel within the Woonsocket area and to bring the story of Little Rose to the current generation.

We would love to hear how Marie “Little Rose” Ferron has touched your life, whether in a spiritual or physical way. These stories inspire us and provide some credibility to Rose Ferron’s name.

Contact: David Ethier for more information.

Miracles and Healings Attributed to Little Rose.

A lecture on Rose Ferron will be given at the American - French Genealogical Society located at 78 Earle St., Woonsocket, R.I. on 20 May, 2017 from 1 - 3. On display will be some items owned by her and made by her along with information on her life.

To raise funds for the work in Taiwan, he gave lectures and sermons in parishes around the USA. As a devotee to Little Rose, while in the USA, he took tape recordings of all those he met who were acquainted with Marie Rose Ferron. These testimonies he had transcribed in a large 2094 page volume entitled: Tape recorded Little Rose Testimonies, also referred to as “The Red Book”. In 1971 he sent this volume to the Holy See and to Bishops of North America, along with 2 volumes of documents entitled: False Front Case Against Rose Ferron. From the “Red Book”, he published extracts into four books that some call “The Blue Books” and several others that contain interviews.

He visited the mother of Little Rose, Rose DeLima Ferron, and was given a crucifix that had been owned by Little Rose. On several occasions he testified that people smelled the scent of roses coming from it. He also visited the chapel built by Little Roses cousin, Rose Myette in Oakland, R.I.

While in Taiwan, he propagated the story and history of Little Rose and she had a large following there among the native Christian believers. In 2004 he retired to the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, Las Gatos, California where he remained until his death at 95 years old, on September 8, 2009.

COMMUNION SPIRITUELLE DE MARIE – ROSE FERRON La “Petite Rose”

“Mon Jésus, je vous aime, je vous adore, je vous desire un million de fois, quand viendrez-vous chez mois?

Si ma langue ne put vous dire à tout moment que je vous aime, du moins je veux que mon coeur vous le répète autant de fois que je respire.

Faites-moi la grace de souffrier en Vous aimant, de vous aimer en souffrant, et en sentant que Je Vous aime.

O mon adore Jésus, je vous remercie un million de fois de Vous être donné à mois dans la Sainte Eucharistie spirituellement.

Amen
The Passing of Little Rose

On the 13th of April, 1929, when she was 26 years old, Rose asked her Jesus if her suffering were to last very long and she repeated the answer so the five witnesses present could hear it. The answer was seven years. She then counted on her fingers to know how old she would be and stopped at thirty-three. In 1936 some of her detractors said she had better die soon or she would not fulfill the prophecy and would be looked upon as a fraud. On May 11, 1936, just 15 days before her 34th birthday, she died in her home shortly after 11 a.m. She was 33 at the time, the same as her Lord.

While she was not a mayor, baseball player or anyone who would normally attract much attention in news reports, but because of her life, people from as far away as Chicago and Detroit, Michigan and the Province of Quebec attended her funeral and viewing. It is not necessary to recall this concealed and suffering life of this woman who spent two-thirds of her life fastened to a bed and never complained, who always welcomed the thousands of people who came to see her with a sweet smile and words of encouragement.

She was laid out in front of the altar in her home chapel in a white coffin. Rose's body was garbed in white and her head was attired in a white lace veil, symbolic of the first vows she took by private vows and received an affiliation to the Sisters of the Precious Blood through their Manchester, NH monastery. In 1929, two of their extern Sisters made a visit to her. The special altar had been erected a number of years before, by special permission of the Bishop of Providence and at which mass was frequently said by various priests who visited her.

Miss Sophia Daleiden, a Chicago nurse whose family owned a very well-known church supply store, and who visited Little Rose often, accommodated persons who requested that rosaries and other religious articles touch her hands in the casket. According to the Woonsocket Call, the local newspaper, more than 15,000 persons passed by her bier to view her remains.

A solemn requiem mass was held for Rose at Holy Family Church which was attended by more than 3,000 persons. As only about 1,500 could be accommodated in the knave and choir loft, the remaining stood at the door and outside.

The Little Rose Newsletter

Rev. Stephen Grenier, pastor of Holy Family Church, was the celebrant of the solemn high mass and there were masses said at the lateral altars. One of the priests saying mass at a lateral altar was Rev. Onesime Boyer, Allenburg, N.Y. A confident of Rose and who later went on to write her biography “She Wears a Crown of Thorns.”

Six bearers, all members of The Children of Mary Sodality, wearing white dresses and plain veils, each with a white lily on their left arm, were the active bearers. Four young men, nephews of Little Rose and members of the of the St. Anne guard of Fall River, made the honor guard and acted as ushers.

After the service, the long cartage of parents and friends, from all parts of New England and Canada accompanied the mortal remains to Precious Blood Cemetery on Rathbun St. in Woonsocket where she was buried. While she had many floral decorations, many were removed as souvenirs by those who attended the internment service.

Even on the day of her funeral, there was mention of beatification and canonization of “Little Rose.” Due to various reasons, even after 80 years of her death, believers are still waiting for her to be declared a saint by the church but many believe to this day that she is one, just not formally recognized.

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 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 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 momento that can be used as a bookmark in your bible or prayer book or carried in your wallet.
The Birth of a Pamphlet is a Dream Come True

This article was first published in the “Little Rose” magazine of April-May-June, 1966

After the death of Rev. Fr. O. A. Boyer, Little Rose's spiritual director, friend and author of her biography, “She Wears a Crown of Thorns,” it seemed as if there was nowhere for people to turn if they wanted to learn more about Little Rose, and it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain her book.

In 1961, one of Little Rose's devotees received so many requests for literature about Little Rose that she began to pray for help and guidance. An answer came in one of the strangest ways — through a dream. In this dream the individual was speaking to St. Therese and saying, “If only we had a pamphlet about Little Rose we could spread reparation which our Blessed Mother has been requesting, since Little Rose's life was on of reparation. Smiling, St. Therese replied with two words, Write one!” To which the Little Rose devotee, now a little frightened, said, “Me? I can't; I don't even have much education and wouldn't even know how to begin.” Saint Therese was silent for a moment and then began to speak, “Start at the beginning” and then went on to show the devotee how to begin the pamphlet. The words were so strongly impressed on the mind that when the devotee suddenly awoke, the words were able to be clearly written — word for word, the beginning of the pamphlet, “My Heart Speaks To Thee.”

The following day the Little Rose devotee told her sister of her dream, then crushed the written notes in her hand, threw them away saying, “We cannot believe in dreams.” The sister however, thought otherwise, and she picked up the crushed notes, rewrote them and put them away.

Six months later, the young man who is editor of the Little Rose magazine was discharged from the hospital and began talking to this devotee about the need for a pamphlet on Little Rose and her mission of reparation. She told him of her dream of a few months back and he asked to see the notes. She replied, “Don't believe in dreams; I threw them away.” Meanwhile her sister who was silently listening to the conversation left the room and returned with the notes which she had kept. She also believed that dreams can come true, and if this was what the good Lord wanted He would show His hand. With the introduction from St. Therese together they began page one of the pamphlet. Now she had more confidence with this labor of love because she knew the young man had the education, the desire and most of all the love for Little Rose that would inspire him to do his best.

After the pamphlet was completed and reviewed by a religious they were told, “Now, if you can get a Bishop to put an 'imprimatur' on it you're all set.” So, a handful of Rose's friends began to pray and make little sacrifices that the good Lord would again guide them. One week later one of them receive a telephone call from a very dear friend who was expecting a visit from a friend, a Bishop, who would be stopping over from the Ecumenical Council! They were invited to meet the Bishop at dinner. The friends of Rose enjoyed the wonderful and interesting company of this good Bishop and when he left he took the manuscript of the pamphlet with him. One year later the printed pamphlet proofs arrived for final corrections. When these first copies of the pamphlets were excitedly brought to the devotee's house, she took them into her hand and said: “Maybe these will help to reach many souls and be like a little key to open her cause and make Little Rose better known.” When she said these words, she experienced the beautiful fragrance of fresh roses. It filled the room so strongly that she began to cry with joy; she felt so little and grateful to God that one cannot explain the words. After a few moments, she said “I wonder if that beautiful fragrance of roses meant that the little pamphlet could be like a key to open things, even the hearts of people?” And again, the fragrance of roses filled the room!

When the first shipment of the printed pamphlets arrived, it turned out that hundreds were lost on the way and several hundreds were crushed and wrinkled – as if to discourage them at the beginning. Realizing the value and importance of these pamphlets they pressed and ironed them with a cloth, page by page, pamphlet after pamphlet. They never realized the many difficulties that would arise in putting out a little pamphlet, but they offered all their labors and disappointments for the souls who would receive them. They thought of the benefit the readers could get from reading the life of Little Rose; how they could learn the value of suffering and accept their crosses, offer them up, practice virtue, learn of reparation and receive help from privately praying to Little Rose.

If Almighty God grants the miracle of fragrance and the enemies of God try to destroy this work, we leave with the question of their importance to the reader. What do you think?

Our first newsletter was published in December and received good reviews. 150 were mailed to those without email addresses and 150 to people who we had email addresses for. Three hundred additional were published and placed in at the Woonsocket Historical Society, Woonsocket Harris Library and other locations.

The newsletter was originally conceived as a semi-annual but it was decided to put it out quarterly.

If there is any material on her life that you would like us to cover, suggestions are welcome as is any personal stories on how she has helped you.

Remember, she is still powerful and effects people lives who believe in her.
Would you like to help the cause of bringing Little Rose’s memory 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.

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Little Rose a few hours after death