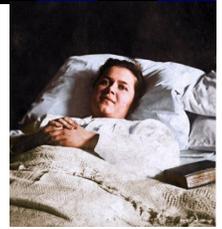




The Little Rose Newsletter

The Voice of the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island



Volume 2 Issue 4

September 2018

Little Rose's Castle

Work continues on the renovation of the complex.

In June, a portion of the private domestic chapel (Chapel of Thorns) that Rose Myette had created under direction of Little Rose was temporarily assembled in the main building for use. With completion of renovations in the Annex in the future, it will be moved to an area which will be four times larger than the temporary location.

Also in June, the Foundation participated in the first "St. Jean the Baptist Festival" held in Woonsocket since 1946. Information on the life of Little Rose was made available to the public. Also available was traditional Québécois faire—yellow pea soup, meat pies and Marguerites.



"Miraculous Medals" were also given out.

At the end of June, the Foundation greeted Paulette Nickel, formerly of York, Pennsylvania, who will assist the Foundation in her capacity as Foundation Archivist. Paulette has much knowledge, concerning Marie-Rose Ferron. For many years she was in charge of the "Little Rose Ferron Apostolate" based in

North Huntingdon, PA and has brought the archives from that Apostolate and the previous "Little Rose Friends" from the Detroit, MI area to merge with information the Foundation has.

Monetary donations to support the rehabilitation of our buildings can be made online through our secure site at:

roseferronfri.org

Remember that the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and so any donations are tax deductible.



Be Part of the Renovations

With the completion of one room in the main building, we were able to open a portion of the larger chapel to the public - a great start.

Labor was donated by local, professional volunteers with paint, carpeting and other needed items provided by the Foundation to finish the room.

We currently have a small core of donors who donate toward building fund used for maintenance. The main castle currently has a couple of rooms needing maintenance.

Renovation phase will be in turning a 4-bay garage into the new chapel, main office/archives, handicap restrooms and a multi-purpose meeting room. Donation are needed for a heating/cooling system, drywall, doors, lighting, restroom facilities and a utility room so we are asking generous hearts to consider donating so Little Rose's Castle will be realized.

Words From the Foundation President



With Summer almost over, it's time to look forward to the coming Fall.

With assistance from the Franciscan Tertiaries from Rhode Island, the Foundation members manned an information booth at the St. Jean the Baptist Festival in downtown Woonsocket. They also participated in a procession held before the outdoor Mass given in French and held in the parking lot off Railroad St. The original statue of St. Jean the Baptist that was used in the past by

L'Union St. Jean Baptiste, a benefit society founded in 1900 in Woonsocket, had been located. After some 72 years in storage the statue was offered to be used for the June procession.

The Foundation will, for the fourth year, be a presence at the downtown Woonsocket French Heritage Festival in River Island located on Bernon St. Along with books, prayer pamphlets and miscellaneous information about Little Rose, some of the articles she made and owned will be on display.

The video production of "Marie (Little Rose) Ferron" began to be worked on by two seniors at Smithfield High School in Smithfield, RI. Interviews with multiple devotees will give a wide view about Little Rose.

Work is continuing in the main building and we hope to have what was originally the kitchen area finished for use as the Foundation office and Archives. It will be good to get the multiple sources of articles that has been gathered over the years into one place.

For the time being, the Domestic Chapel is only open on the first Sunday of the month from 1 to 5pm, we hope to be able to expand the hours this coming Fall. Along with access to viewing and praying in the temporary chapel setup, members will be there to answer questions about what has been done and the future plans for the organization.

Yours with "Little Rose,"
David P. Elhier

One Little Rose

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.

I would rather have one pleasant word
In kindness said to me
Than flattery when my heart is still.
And life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true.
Than tears shed round my casket
When this world I've bid adieu.

Bring me all your flowers today
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I'm dead.

—Author unknown

Rose Myette Domestic Chapel

Rose Myette was a third cousin and caregiver to Woonsocket's Little Rose who required 24-hour care. She lived in Glendale, RI, worked as seamstress at the Little Rose Shop in Woonsocket, RI and made all of Little Rose's clothes and habit. One day she was told by Little Rose to build a 'domestic chapel' in her home and that Little Rose would give directions as to what it would look like. The chapel was begun and through bilocation, it was viewed by Little Rose while she was alive. Rose Myette would bring Little Rose detailed designs drawn on tissue paper for Little Rose to approve before work would begin and Myette continued to receive instructions after the death of Little Rose.

Flora Lemire, Rose Ferron's younger sister had inherited the original personal chapel of Rose Ferron and would make it open to the public in her home on Providence St. Rose Myette did not want to conflict with this one so the "Chapel of Thorns" as it was later called, was not open to the public until 2005; only five people knew and even kept as a secret from the public.

With the death of Flora, Myette opened her chapel to the public and prayer meetings were held once a month. In 2014, Rose Myette died and David Ethier took over the chapel and secured many historical items that had belonged to Little Rose. Myette had clothing and artifacts that belonged to Little Rose along with testimonies from people on

graces and help received through the intercession of Little Rose. The theme of the chapel is somewhat different in that 100's of thorns are represented on everything to indicate the suffering of Jesus. Myette had purchased a band saw at the direction of Little Rose and would create them. Little Rose stated to Myette that one could never have enough thorns in life. The chapel was disassembled with the death of Myette and placed into storage as the home had to be sold quickly

The Rose Ferron Foundation of RI was incorporated in July of 2015 and in September of 2017, it purchased the property at 339 Arnold St. in Woonsocket, RI to eventually house the chapel and it's many

'mementos.' While much work has to be done on the building, the chapel was taken out of storage and a portion was assembled temporarily for prayer services in June of 2018. In time, it will be relocated within the complex to an area that will be four times the current size.

The chapel is open to the public every first Sunday of the month from 1 to 5 p.m. Members will be there to answer any questions you may have and give a tour of the buildings.



Video Story of Little Rose

At a board meeting in June, the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island has approved Anthony Corticelli and Evan Fortier, seniors at Smithfield High School in Smithfield, Rhode Island, to work on a summer video production project on Marie "Little Rose" Ferron to be counted towards their career exploration hours. Both would

like to pursue a career in film (and/or advertising/marketing). Anthony is the nephew and God Child of Cathy Boisvert, who is one of the Directors of the Foundation and she says regarding the project: "The idea that they came up with is to have a documentary type film told in the Foundation members voices". Interviews began June 28th and more will be done throughout the summer.

By the printing of this September newsletter, we hope the final editing stages will be well under way. This may be the first in a series of films on the subject of Little Rose. The Foundation's hope is this project will help keep things current and continue to spread the knowledge and love of Little Rose to a whole new generation.

The Holy Cross Congregation estimates that in the 60 years of his healing ministry, some ten thousand cures can be attributed to St. Brother André. He can be termed one of the greatest healers that has been produced by the Catholic Church.

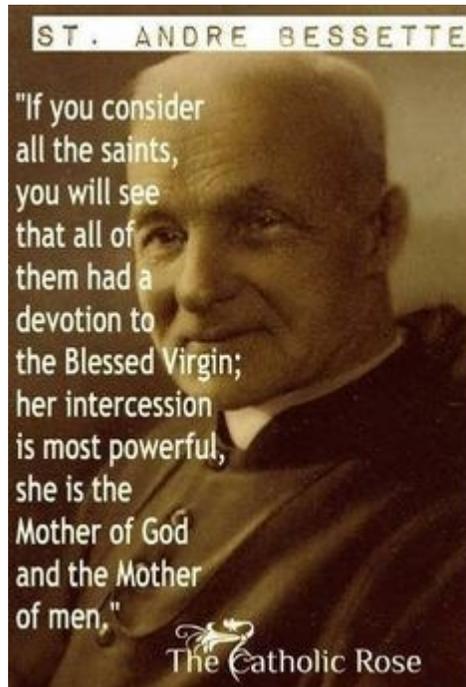
Born on 9 August 1845 in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Canada East (Québec), Alfred Bessette was the eighth of 12 children born to Isaac Bessette and Clothilde Foisy Bessette. Born extremely frail, the curé baptized him "conditionally" the following day completing an emergency ritual performed at his birth. When Alfred was nine, his father was killed by a falling tree. His mother died three years after and Alfred found himself an orphan at the age of twelve.

Alfred worked on a farm after his mother's death and in 1863, he emigrated to the United States and worked in textile mills in the Southern New England area.

In 1867 he returns to Québec, settles in Saint-Césaire where he meets Father André Provençal who introduces him to the idea of religious life.

Upon entering the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montréal in 1870 where he was given the task of porter at Notre Dame Collège in Côte-des-Neiges, Québec, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger.

In 1896 the Congregation of Holy Cross purchased the mountain property across the street from the Collège. Brother André dreamt of putting up a wayside chapel there dedicated to Saint Joseph.



Joseph inspired him to recommend this saint's devotion to all those who were afflicted in various ways. On his many visits to the sick in their homes, he would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel and recommend them in prayer to Saint Joseph. Brother André steadfastly refused to take any credit for any cures, because he wanted Saint Joseph to be honored, in 1904 Bessette began the campaign to erect a chapel to honor the saint. In 1924 construction of a basilica named Saint Joseph's Oratory began on the side of the mountain, near Bessette's chapel.

St. Brother Bessette would travel around New England soliciting funds to build his basilica and visited Woonsocket, RI several times. He had relatives there and would also visit Marie-Rose Ferron, Woonsocket's stigmatist. At one time he admired a statue of the scourged Christ that she had and she gave it to him. It can be seen on his desk at the Basilica.

tributed to him are an asthmatic on the point of death after six years of sufferings is healed instantly; likewise, a four-year-old child is held up by his father, touches the dead saint, and is instantly able to take his first steps. A young girl in a wheelchair is another who hears the saint's silent command with the ears of faith — and is healed. Eight-year-old Arthur Ducharme, in an accident five months earlier, has had the nerves and muscles of his right arm cut to the bone by shards of glass. The hospital surgeon's recommendation: amputation. That step vetoed by the mother, the arm heals as far as the wound's closing is concerned but remains inert; a sling is necessary to support it. Various treatments have been useless; there is no way to rejoin the severed muscles and nerves in 1937. Young Arthur touches the saint's body and is instantly able to use his arm.

Brother André died in 1937 at the age of 91. More than a million people filed past his bier in the seven days of his funeral.

The end of the funeral ceremonies by no means halts the cures. From January to October that year, letters testify to 6,700 favors, 933 cures. And that is only the beginning. A few years later, 1941 to 1943 for instance, the Oratory receives 10,408 letters giving thanks just for *cures*. Of these, 6,610 specifically cite Br. André as intercessor.

Brother André was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 23, 1982. On October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared his sainthood.

His Feast day is January 6 (January 7 in Canada).

His great confidence in Saint

Some examples of cures at-

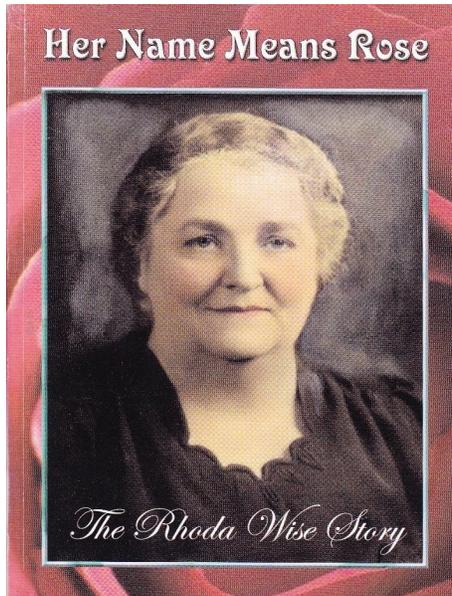
Rhoda Wise goes to Rome

Rhoda Wise was born Rhoda Greer on February 22, 1888 in Cadiz, Ohio to Eli and Anna Greer and was the sixth of eight children. At the age of two, the family moved to Wheeling, West Virginia where she was raised as a Protestant. In 1915 she married Ernest Wissmar and within six months became a widow after her husband suddenly died of a cerebral hemorrhage. In 1917 she married George Wise and lived in the Canton, Ohio area. George was an alcoholic and changed jobs frequently which resulted in hardship and embarrassment for the family.

She developed serious health problems beginning in the early 1930's which included a 39-pound ovarian cyst that had to be surgically removed and also a broken foot which failed to heal properly. She was hospitalized frequently and underwent a number of operations for abdominal and foot problems. In late 1933 she was committed to the state mental hospital by her husband where she was diagnosed with post-operative psychosis stemming from her surgeries.

Raised as a Protestant she converted to Catholicism in January 1939 after several stays in local hospitals. During a 1936 stay at a Canton hospital operated by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Wise befriended one of the sisters who taught her to pray the Rosary and told her about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Wise began to pray regularly to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In May 1939, Wise was diagnosed with incurable stomach cancer, discharged from the hospital and sent home to die. According to Wise, she expe-



rienced an apparition of Jesus Christ on May 28, 1939 at her home, during which Jesus told her that he would come again with Saint Thérèse the following month on June 28. Wise reported that Jesus and Saint Thérèse both appeared on June 28, and during their visit, cured Wise of her stomach cancer, including healing a large open wound on her abdomen caused by her multiple surgeries, from which her bowel had been protruding. Wise further reported that in August 1939, Saint Thérèse miraculously healed her injured foot, causing the heavy cast then on it to split and fall off in the process.

From 1939 to 1948, Wise said that she experienced annual apparitions of Jesus and Saint Thérèse, including a visit by Saint Thérèse on January 2, the saint's birthday, every year. Wise's reported visions totaled 28 at the time of her death in 1948. Wise was inspired by these visions to offer herself as a victim soul to save the souls of others, particularly priests and members of religious orders. Like our Little Rose, Rhoda had the stigmata. On

Good Friday, April 3, 1942, bleeding stigmata appeared on Wise's forehead and continued to appear and bleed at intervals over the next two years. In 1943, bleeding stigmata appeared on her hands and feet as well as her forehead. The bleeding stigmata were witnessed by many visitors to the Wise home. In her final apparition of Jesus, on June 28, 1948, Wise said that Jesus asked her to say the Rosary daily for the Conversion of Russia.

Miraculous healings occurred at the house, including one in 1943 when Rhoda counseled 19-year old Canton resident Rita Rizzo to pray a novena to alleviate a painful stomach ailment. Young Rita proceeded as instructed and was soon cured. Rita later entered a Franciscan order of nuns, and in time came to be known as Mother Angelica of EWTN broadcasting fame. Both Rhoda Wise and Mother Angelica had a devotion to Little Rose.

The Formal Diocesan Investigation for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Rhoda Wise closed on July 6, 2018. The Acts of the Case were presented and sealed for transport to Rome at a Mass held at St. Peter's in Canton, Ohio on July 7, 2018, the 70th anniversary of her death.

More information on her life can be found at <http://rhodawise.com/>

Hopefully some day,
the Foundation can proclaim
“Our Little Rose Goes to Rome”
Pray that it happens quickly!!



Rose and Prayer

One time somebody asked Father Boyer what kind of prayers Little Rose said, and Father answered: "Rose would say prayers to the Holy Spirit, to the Little Flower, whom she invoked and consulted. She said the whole rosary daily and made the Stations of the Cross daily. Rose most always talked to God from her heart."

LR Mag Vol 4 1968

Devotion to "Little Rose"

"Little Rose" is touching the lives of devotees and followers from nations all over the world and of many tongues, for many years.

We mailed out the June 2018 'The Little Rose Newsletter' to: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Croatia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain, United States and Vietnam.

Please share with the Foundation:

Why do you love Little Rose?

Send us your story or testimony!

GO TO: roseferronfri.org/testimonies

¿Por qué amas a La Rosita? ¡Envíenos su historia o testimonio!

Por que você ama Pequena Rosa? Envie-nos sua história!

Pourquoi aimez-vous La Petite Rose? Envoyez-nous votre histoire ou témoignage!

Warum liebst du Kleine Rose? Schick uns deine Geschichte oder ein Zeugnis!



Cathy Boisvert, Edward "Sonny" Goryl, Jennifer Bingham as Little Rose, Marie Magil and and Lise Ann Paille

The Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island had a presence at the St. Jean the Baptist Festival held in Downtown Woonsocket on June 25. An assortment of information on Little Rose was available to the public along with traditional Canadian meat pies, available by the slice, cans of yellow pea soup and Marguerites were sold. Roaming friends also handed out "Miraculous Medals" to the public. The Franciscan Tertiaries from Rhode Island assisted the Foundation in this outreach program. A good time by all was had.

"It happened that seven years after Little Rose's death, one of the physicians later commented after having become more versed in the mystical life and who attended Little Rose, said of her, "Would that I had had the preparation when I treated Rose Ferron. However, I feel honored when I think of the many phenomena I witnessed, and it is with pleasure that I now can affirm that Rose was a genuine mystic. I can see the stages she went through to the ultimate spiritual marriage and complete union with her Jesus. I now admire her complete abandonment to God and her simple humility. Her stigmata are ever fresh in my memory, as well as her great thirst for souls."

Laughter is better medicine...

"You haven't anything to worry about," a veteran air traveler told his friend, who was making his first airplane trip. "If your time has come, you can't do anything about it."

"That's all right," replied the novice traveler but what bothers me is, suppose the pilot's time has come, and mine hasn't! What happens then?

Our Foundation Supporters

Everything being done in Little Roses name comes from donation from people like you. Think about making a small sacrifice to help.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Marc & Patricia Auger | Naglaa & Milad Ibrahim |
| Richard R. Ayotte | Gertrude "Trudy" |
| Richard Bannister | Lamoureux |
| Albert & Robin Beuparlant | Carl LeClair |
| Cathy Boisvert | Marie L. Magill |
| Estelle Bubble | Elizabeth Montigny |
| John Boucher | Lise Ann Paille |
| Michael S. Casey | Helen Peltier |
| Leo R. Collard | James Ponte |
| Dan Comerford | Christine Robitaille |
| Leo Cote | Judith A. Robitaille |
| Michael Dubois | Timeless Antiques & |
| David & Denise Ethier | Collectibles |
| Adnan Fehric | In Memory of Rosanna |
| Gary Fernandes | Whitesell |
| Norbert R. Gorny, Jr. | Several wished to remain |
| Edward & Diane Gravel | Anonymous |

Our Newsletter may also be found on our website.
roseferronfri.org

If you would like a hard copy. For a donation of \$5.00 to cover costs, we will send it as a hard copy for one year. Please provide your mailing address.

Volunteers Needed

We hope that by the end of this year, all construction will have been completed and the Thorn Chapel moved into its permanent place in the Annex.

Someone is still needed to arrange and co-ordinate the occasional lecture on Little Rose that is held in other facilities.

If you like plants and flowers, there is a large courtyard that will need tending. Summer has gone plantings but new and old plantings will need tending.

Do you have a talent in research and writing? The Foundation is looking for someone who knows the grants world and can research and write them to aid in the funding of the Foundation.

Parlez-vous français? We occasionally receive correspondence in French and while we are able to read, we cannot answer back in French. Also some of the literature from the past would be nice to have translated.

Woonsocket now has a large population of Spanish speaking people and we would like to be able to provide them information on Little Rose. If you think you would be able to translate into Spanish, please contact the Foundation.

There is also the archives that need to be worked on. We have much material from the past that needs to be organized.

If you have ideas to bring her name and life forward, please feel free to contact the Foundation President, David P. Ethier by
EMAIL : roseferronfri@gmail.com
Calling David at 401-568-0349

Foundation Book Store

Bookstores no longer carry books on Rose Ferron's life and to obtain, one must go to second hand book dealers and even then they are hard to find. At present, we have an ample 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 includes 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 \$20.00 plus \$5.00 P&H.

"She Wears a Crown of Thorns"

By Rev. O. A. Boyer, S.T.L.

Published by the Rose Ferron Foundation of Rhode Island, 2017, **soft cover**, 241 Pages, a reprinting true to the last printing made in paperback of the 1958 edition with several additional photo's, includes Little Rose's story and testimonies of favors received. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$4.00 P&H.

"My Heart Speaks to Thee"

The Life of Marie Rose Ferron—Little Rose"

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

"Virtues and Glories of Marie Rose Ferron"

A reprint of the 1984 book originally printed by the "Friends of Little Rose," in Detroit, MI consisting of 130 pages of selected articles and testimonies that appeared in the "Little Rose Magazine" issues from 1965—1979. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$4.00 P&H.



Priests and Ferron Family gather at Little Rose's monument at gravesite.

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