



OPENING STATEMENT

Today, my mentor of faith – Richard Ayotte – is here, and my mentor of intellect – President of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame, Dr. Patrick T. Conley. They live 35 miles apart but Little Rose has gathered all here today. Even the fact I am here is a mystery - both parents and both sets of grandparents are interred at Precious Blood cemetery.

President of Rose Ferron Foundation, Dave Ethier, please step forward and unlock this box.

Sometime around 1990 or so, Little Rose's sister, Flora, took Rose's personal cross off her bed in fear that it was going to be stolen. Fearing of her passing around 2000, Flora summoned Richard Ayotte, a man of tremendous faith, to her bedside and gave him the cross for safe keeping. Today she is here.

[Presents cross and places it in the wreath of thorns and roses]

Someday it will find its way to her new chapel.

I told Richard I will build a special safe.

Little Rose spent a life of giving. Today, Richard Ayotte is here to hold the cross for us to touch, pray or kiss, as she still gives.

Aujourd'hui est son jour glorieux. Aujourd'hui est son jour!

Today is a glorious day. Today is her day!