

Month 16

Week 1

Rhoda Wise

Rhoda Wise lived from 1888-1948. She was an American Catholic stigmatist and mystic from Canton OH. Rhoda was one of 8 siblings. She grew up in WVA and in the First Christian Church.

Rhoda married Ernest Wissmar, a young widower and moved to canton OH. Ernest suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died six month after they were married. Rhoda then met and married George Wise soon after. The next 23 years of life were full of struggles due to issues related to her husband's drinking problem. Rhoda and George adopted a baby girl, Ruth. The baby died of the Spanish flu just before her first birthday. Later Rhoda and George adopted another girl, Anna Mae who was a loving daughter and consolation for the rest of their lives.

In 1931, Rhoda developed a 39 pound ovarian cyst. Rhoda survived surgery for this, but experienced related complications which required other surgeries. She then severely damaged her right leg after accidentally stepping into a sere drain. This resulted in months of orthopedic interventions. It was during these interventions, that Rhoda was given the first of many visions (Jesus dressed as a shepherd holding a lamb).

Rhoda had complications from her prior abdominal surgery and continued issues with her leg; she spent extended time periods in the hospital. Rhoda was consoled by the sisters at Mercy Hospital who taught her to pray the rosary. One of the sisters gave her s small shine for St. Therese of Liseux; Rhoda became especially close to the Little Flower and prayed to her constantly. Through these, Rhoda became interested in and quickly converted to Catholicism. Rhoda was not given a good prognosis regarding her health; suffered intensely, yet continued to pray. Subsequently, she was miraculously healed from her life threatening abdominal condition and then was healed from her leg injury.

During this time of suffering, Rhoda had frequent apparitions of Jesus and of St. Therese, the Little Flower; she experienced these while hospitalized and upon her return home. Rhoda was inspired by these apparitions to offer herself to save the souls of others. Many of Rhoda's family members were converted, including her husband. She became a spiritual friend to many. Rhoda showed the stigmata in the years shortly before her death. She has been associated with many sudden and unexplained healings, including that of Mother Angelica.

Rhoda's daughter kept her house open as a place of pilgrimage until her death in 1995. Then Rhoda's home was left to Mother Angelica and EWTN. The Rhoda Wise House and Grotto (in Canton) is still open to visitors. Many have credited her with miraculous cures after visiting her home. Information on visiting her home can be found at <https://rhodawise.com/>

Reference: <https://www.mysticsofthechurch.com/2010/03/rhoda-wise-american-mystic-stigmatic.html>

Women of the church Study

Month 16

Week 2

Rhoda Wise—Reflections

Rhoda Wise received physical healings for complicated and life threatening health conditions. Prior to receiving these healings, Rhoda prayed intensely and was given visions/apparitions of Jesus and St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus. She is associated with others' healings as well.

(The following link will take you to testimonials of those who received healing associated with Rhoda Wise: <https://rhodawise.com/category/testimonials/>)

--There is much to ponder and reflect upon related to divine healing. How do you feel about it?

--Have you received or know anyone who has received divine healing? What was this experience like for you or the other person?

--How did prayer/faith factor into any healings which you or someone you know experienced?

Although Rhoda's healings seem to be a result of her faith, there are many people of faith who do not receive physical healing. This can be difficult to understand.

--What about those of strong faith and prayer who do not appear to receive healing?

--Do you think these persons may receive healing in a less apparent/obvious way?

Rhoda Wise was a "common" person, managing her everyday life. She appeared to be a courageous and persistent person. Despite many hardships in her life, she never gave up and she sustained her strong faith through many trials. Yet, her story is remarkable and she has become "famous" for her faith and the miracles in her life and those associated with her family and peers.

--What does Rhoda's story tell us about how God can work?

--Can you identify with Rhoda's struggles and suffering?

--What is most striking about her prayer life?

Although Rhoda is known for her strong faith, there is little information about how she may have shared her faith with others. She appears to be a person who simply role modeled prayer and closeness to Jesus and the impact this could have on one's life

--What can we learn from her faith and devotion to Jesus?

--What does Rhoda Wise's life exemplify? What can we learn from her as a role model?

Women of the Church Study
Month 16
Week 3
Rhoda Wise—Prayers and Devotions

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you and will a lively sorrow for my sins.
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will.
Grant, good Jesus that I may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions;
give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessings on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.
Within your heart I place my every care.
In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying,
Heart of Jesus, help me. Amen
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/prayers-to-the-sacred-heart/> (Other devotions here too)

Prayer to Saint Therese

O Glorious St. Thérèse, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and inspire the human family. I implore your Miraculous Intercession. You are so powerful in obtaining every need of body and spirit from the heart of God. Holy Mother Church proclaims you “Prodigy of Miracles . . . the Greatest Saint of Modern Times.”
Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition and to carry out your promises of “spending heaven doing good upon earth . . .;” of “letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.”
Little Flower, give me your childlike faith, to see the face of God in the people and experiences of my life, and to love God with full confidence.
St. Thérèse, my Carmelite sister, I will fulfill your plea “To be made known everywhere” and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.
<http://www.devotionscatholic.com/DevotionalPrayerFolders/Saints/Prayers-ThereseOfLisieux.htm#:~:text=Little%20Flower%2C%20give%20me%20your,others%20to%20Jesus%20through%20you.>

Litany to St. Therese of the Child Jesus

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/litany-to-st-therese-of-the-child-jesus-261>

Novena for the Beatification of the Servant of God Rhoda Wise:

<https://rhodawise.com/novena/>

--Prayer requests

<https://rhodawise.com/prayer-request/>

Women of the Church Study

Month 16

Week 4

Rhoda Wise—Practical Applications

--Rhoda Wise received healing in her life for complex medical conditions. Her home has become known as a place/source of healing for many who have visited there. Healing plays a large role in Scripture and is important in the lives of Christians. In order to better understand and reflect on divine healing, try the following:

-Read Bible stories (both Old and New Testament) related to healing. (If unsure where to start, just “Google” it!)

-Think about your own life and the lives of those close to you. Make a list of all of the examples of healing you have observed or witnessed, whether these be big or small. Give God praise for these!

-Consider learning more about Rhoda Wise. Request materials from the website or consider a visit to her home. As you do these, think about an area in your life for which you would like to receive healing.

--Rhoda Wise had a courageous and relentless faith. She practice many traditional devotions in her spiritual/prayer life. She experienced visions of and received messages from Jesus.

-Think about the devotions you currently incorporate in your prayer life. Decide if there are others you would like to pursue. Gather information on one or more of these and began including it/them in your prayer life. Journal about this.

--Rhoda Wise was a common person with everyday challenges. She experienced much suffering in her life, yet became a model of courage and faith which had a profound impact on many.

-Choose one aspect of Rhoda’s life that impresses you. Decide upon a way you might be able to follow this example in your life. Do it! Journal about your experience.

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