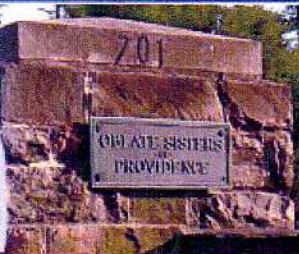




The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



August 2004

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 39

Mother Lange Symposium Scores Big

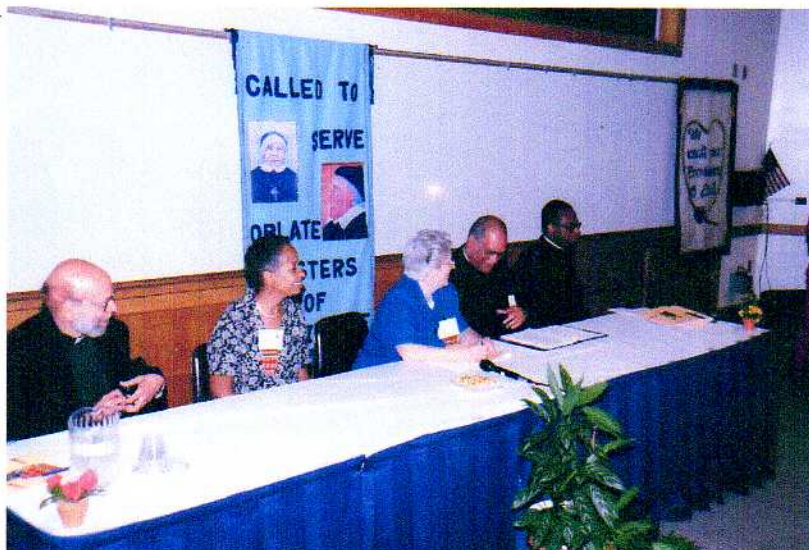
Morgan State University, Baltimore, hosted the much heralded and anticipated Symposium: **Mary Lange: Bold Legacy to Freedom...the vision yesterday, today, and tomorrow.** Sponsored by the M. M. Lange Guild, the activities of the day were brought to fruition by a dedicated committee headed by co-chairs Toni Moore Duggan (vice president) and Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM. Blessed with picture perfect weather, the day became a treasure of informative exchange as experts shared various aspects surrounding the life and times of Mother Mary Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence. William Cardinal Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore gave special remarks for the event and conducted the Recommitment Service for the Guild members, as well as Symposium attendees. It was a crowning moment in a spectacular day.

Offered as one of the major activities celebrating Oblates' 175th anniversary of foundation (1829 - 2004), the Symposium served as a forum of information. It uniquely gave recognition and testimony to the hand of Providence--God's continuing faithfulness in the establishment and preservation of the first congregation of women religious of color in the world. Speakers portrayed the antebellum setting as well as the social and religious climate wherein women, against all odds gifted (and continue to gift) the Catholic Church, the country--the world in service, primarily through education, to youth, the aged and the poor.

Board member Marlene Apollon served as the MC. Presenters and their topics were: Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, D. Hist. Sci. "Mary Lange in the Millieu of Black Catholics of Antebellum America"; Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D. "Mary Lange and the

History of the Oblate Sisters of Providence"; Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D. "Mary Lange: Extending the Vision...The IHM Connection"; Fr. Thaddeus J. Posey, OFM, Cap., Ph.D. "Mary Lange and Black Spirituality: Mother Mary Lange's Spiritual Gift to the Black Community"; and Fr. William L. Montgomery, Ph.D. "The Oblate Sisters of Providence: The Origins of their Mission to Latin America".

Other Panelists speaking of Oblates today and vision for the future were: Sr. Reginald Gerdes, OSP on "OSP Archives"; Lenwood Johnson, "The Mother Mary Lange Guild"; Toni Moore-Duggan, "M. L. Chapters Supporting the Cause"; Esther Sanders, "Oblate Associates"; Sr. Stephen Beauford, OSP "Vocations"; Sr. John Francis Schilling, OSP "St. Frances Academy"; Sr. Claudina Sanz, OSP, "The M. E. L. Home for Abused Girls"; Sr. Virginie Fish, OSP, "The Cause of Mother Mary Lange for Sainthood"; and Fr. John Bowen, SS concluded with a wrap up and closing prayer.



Symposium presenters: (left to right) Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, D. Hist. Sci.; Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D.; Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D., Fr. Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap., Ph.D. and Fr. William Montgomery, Ph.D.

These classic words spoken by Archbishop James Whitfield, Archbishop of Baltimore in 1828 sounded the clarion call for women to serve God as Oblate Sisters of Providence more than 175 years ago.

July 1st at the packed Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, several bishops, priests, sisters, students, alumni, friends, relatives, and just plain well wishers joined Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, the main celebrant, in a jubilant Mass of Thanksgiving. Bishop John Ricard, SSJ, Ordinary of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, and long time friend of Oblates, delivered the homily. *Jubilate Deo!*

The banquet at Martin's West was held July 2nd--the official closing of a year-long celebration recognizing 175 years of service to God and God's people. It had all begun with the approval and encouragement of

"The Finger of God Is in This Thing"

mission and ministries of the

Oblate Sisters of Providence - (1829 - 2004) Serving God and God's people for 175 years. Exhibit shows Co-Founders, Mother Mary Lange and Father James Hector Joubert, SS. Ministries in which the Sisters engage are listed: Prayer, Child Care, Tutorial Services, Vocations, Social Services, Education (general), Elder Care, Hispanic Ministry, and Pastoral Ministry. (Pictures depict activities of various ministries.)



Archbishop Whitfield in his letter to co-founder Rev. James H. Joubert, SS, dated June 5, 1829.

The gala affair, with attendees from around the United States and some foreign countries were enthralled by keynote speaker Dr. Camille Cosby, an alumna of an Oblate school. Throughout the evening the

Oblate Sisters of Providence's years of service were reiterated with due recognition to the power and faithfulness of Providence throughout 175 years. Of note were observations of the dedication that has kept Oblates faithful to the charism and mission envisioned by Mother Mary Lange and Father Joubert 175 years ago: to serve God's people through education ministering to youth, the aged, and the poor.

On their part, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the world's first Congregation of women religious of African descent, renew their resolve, by God's grace, "to continue their mission ...to embrace and serve others with the same compassion with which Christ embraces us, sharing with all the unconditional love of the Suffering Jesus." (Declaration of Mission)

The Cause of Mother Lange in Cuba

The call for personal commitment to promoting the cause of Mother Lange goes beyond members of the Guild, Board of Directors, and Chapter members. It also involves YOU. Everyone is needed to bring to fruition the recognition by the Church and the world that Mother Mary Lange is a saint of God enjoying the beatific vision and still "working" to help her brothers and



Daniel Ernesto with Msgr. Carlos Baladron, Bishop of Guantanamo, seek Mother Mary Lange's footsteps.

sisters on earth. African Americans especially need an African American saint. You can help.

You, too, are invited to become knowledgeable about the life, times and holiness of God's servant. You are invited help organize, educate, affirm, and

promote her holy life and heroic deeds. You are called upon to labor for the glory of God in promoting the cause of Mother Lange--a woman endowed with humility, courage and an extraordinary sense of

service to youth, the poor and the aged. You, too, are indeed called to see Christ in each person and "put on the amor of God" (Ephesians 6:11).

Mrs. Andrea Quiala Vent (holding picture of Mother Mary Lange) and Daniel Ernesto, Chairperson of French Tomb (Santiago de Cuba) formed by Haitian descendants searching for data on Mother Mary



Researching data pertaining to Elizabeth Lange's early life are: Daniel Ernesto, (center) with Deacon Ramon Carreno and Father Jose Joaquin Espino, They search parish archives of Baracoa in search of data on the Servant of God, Mother Mary Lange. Mother Lange is known to have been in Cuba for a number of years, prior to immigrating to the United States. She spoke Spanish fluently.

How can you help?

Volunteer: Pray, work and contribute. For more information contact the Mother Mary Lange Guild.

It takes a "WORLD" to Recognize a Saint

The Spirit of God is touching individuals to form cells of workers around the United States to promote the cause of Mother Lange. From a skeleton staff of volunteers and individual Guild members, to a Board of Directors, to active chapters, the vision continues. It's the work of the Chapters that help fulfill the mandate to promote the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange. Chapter One was absorbed into the Board of Directors. Then, Mother Lange Gift of Providence Chapter (St. Veronica, Baltimore) was formed. They were followed by Haitian Americans United for Mother Mary Lange (HAU; Baltimore, Washington, &



Virginia). Philadelphia came next with Mother Lange Chapter of St. Benedict. The latest group to respond to the Spirit in promoting the cause of Mother Lange is a Brooklyn, New York/ New Jersey group from St. Jerome, pastored by Msgr. Guy Sansaricq. The growth of interest in the cause of Mother Lange brings to mind the African American hymn: "The Spirit is moving...is moving...all over this world." The Mother Mary Lange Guild welcomes other groups throughout the world, that are interested in forming a chapter. For information contact The Mother Lange Guild at (410) 242-6861.

Members of the Mother Mary Lange Guild Board of Directors

Ex-Officio Members: His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, D.D.; Archbishop William D. Borders, D.D.; Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J., D.D.; Sister Mary Annette Beecham, OSP, Superior General; Father John Bowen, SS, Postulator; Sister Mary Virginie Fish, OSP, Vice Postulator; **Board of Directors:** Dr. Marcellina Brooks, President; Mrs. Toni Moore-Duggan, Vice President; Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP, Secretary; Mrs. Lillian Wainwright; Mr. Lenwood Johnson; Mrs. Idell Pugh; Mrs. V. Esther Sanders; Sister Marina Kelly, OSP; Ms. Florence Cowans; Father Donald Fest, SSJ; Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM; Mr. Robert Brown; Father Jack Podsiadlo, SJ; Mrs. Marlene Apollon **Honorary Members:** Father John Filippelli, SSJ; Mrs. Lessie Davis; Mr. John McGrain; Mrs. Teresa Royale; Dr. Phyllis Douglass; Father Andre Pierre; Father Maurice Elder Hyppolite, SDB; Sister Veronica de los Santos, OSP



Members of the Mother Mary Lange Guild Board of Directors (from left to right) **front row:** Marlene Apollon, Idell Pugh, Sr. Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP, Fr. John Bowen, SS, Sr. Virginie Fish, OSP. **back row:** Lillian Wainwright, Sr. Marina Kelly, OSP, Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, SJ, Sr. Veronica de los Santos, OSP, Fr. Donald Fest, SSJ, Sr. Madeline Swaboski, IHM, Toni Moore-Duggan, Bob Brown, Florence Cowans

(Board Members not pictured: Sr. Annette Beecham, Dr. Marcellina Brooks, Lenwood Johnson, & V. Esther Sanders)



Prayer for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange



O Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enabled her to found the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of you.

Heavenly father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favour (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen

Nihil Obstat:

Msgr. Carroll Satterfield
Censor Liborum
Archdiocese of Baltimore

Imprimatur:

Most Reverend William H. Cardinal Keeler, DD
Archdiocese of Baltimore

November 15, 1991

If favors are received, please notify the:
Lange Guild



With faith, no explanation is necessary; without faith, no explanation is possible.

FAVORS ASKED, FAVORS RECEIVED, FAVORS REPORTED

Dear Sister: This check (\$50.) came to me from a friend who had found a lost item. "My prayers were answered," she said, "because I prayed to Mother Mary Lange."

Sr. B.M.; MD

Lange Guild: A friend gave me La oration por le beatificacion su la Madre Maria Lange. I said the prayer with faith asking her to intercede before God and help my aunt, if it was his will. Thanks to God and Madre Lange my aunt is doing good and still with us.

I. P. ; _

Dear "Cousins": enclosed is the copy of my daughters marriage certificate. I will let you know when I will have a Mass said in Thanksgiving to Mother Lange.

H.M.; DC

Dear Sister: Please accept this small donation to further the cause of Mother Mary Lange's canonization. I was granted a special favor. I was diagnosed with shingles. I was given a prescription... I also [talked candidly] to Mother Lange. "Listen," I prayed, "we are looking for two miracles...I'll take one right now." Then, I apologized and told her I wasn't looking for a "miraculous" cure, just enough to endure the pain. I took one dose...I never felt any more pain no discomfort from the time I "talked" to Mother Lange.

I have received many smaller favors from Mother Lange, but this is my "special favor."

M.E.B.; MD

Dear Sister: As promised [for favors received], I am enclosing a check for \$50 to help your cause.

M.P.;MD

Dear Sister: Thanks for Mother Lange. The prayers are fortunate, helpful, and successful. I had a mammogram yesterday. It was FINE. [It's] five years [now]. I say the prayer for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange. This is the second time I received a favor from God through her intercession. My granddaughter got the job we were praying for.

D.;_ Cuba

Good Morning: Recently I moved to a retirement community and placed my house for sale. While saying the prayer, I promised to donate to the Guild when it was answered. The donation is enclosed. I shall continue to say the prayer because Mother Mary Lange should be a saint.

P.P.; NJ

I have received a favor from Mother Maria Lange. I had asked her to intercede with God for my grandson's reunion with his family in Santo Domingo. My grandson has reunited with his family and is very happy. Thank you. (Translated from Spanish)

A.M.; FL

Dear Friends of Mother Lange: Several months ago I became ill. Doctors treated me for various diseases. Finally, providentially, after about two months in the hospital, a doctor made an observation and diagnosis. I had systemic vasculitis, a life threatening condition. Assigned to a specialist, given powerful medication and fortified by prayer, I am on the road to recovery. I am grateful to all who prayed for my recovery. I am especially grateful to Guild Board members who took over my responsibilities. Prayer is power!

Sr. V.; MD

Taking a Summer Break--Or, "Come Apart and Rest Awhile..."

Even Jesus recognized the need to "come apart and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31) after his disciples had spent a grueling period of time working in ministry. So, too, members of the Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors and members of various Chapters are taking a richly deserved summer break. Meeting monthly from September through May, they dedicate many hours at great personal sacrifice to promote the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange.

During the Symposium, held in May, Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, conducted the re-commissioning ceremony. Members publicly avowed their determination to "work hand in hand with each other in efforts to **organize, educate, affirm and promote** the holy life and heroic deeds of God's

servant Mother Mary Lange." May the grace of their unselfish efforts continue to bless their lives.



Members of Mother Mary Lange Gift of Providence Chapter (St. Veronica, Baltimore) had success selling Mother Lange bags. (From left to right) Mary Ward, Frances Presberry, Theodora George Chapter Chairperson, Marie Washington, and Roberta Weems.



Prayer Power

The Community of Saints offers a powerful means of "connecting" with the Almighty. Absolutely, we can go directly to "headquarters", but wise people know the expediency (not to mention the wisdom) of having "friends in high places." We know from the doctrine of the Communion of Saints that souls who have gone on before "being more closely united to Christ...do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus...so by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped." (LG 49;cf 1 Tim. 2:5. Catechism of the Church, 249.)

History and the number of saints on the heavenly roll call attest to their power in having the "ear of God." St. Dominic reportedly reminded his hearers that he would be "more useful after ...death and shall help you." St. Therese of Lisieux (The Little Flower) gave assurances that she would "spend her life [in heaven] doing good on earth." (Her final conversation to Fr. John Clarke (Washington: ICS, 1977) 102 . And Mother Mary Lange, spending c. 98 years serving God on earth through education to youth, ministering to the aged and poor, would do no less. Her entire life prepared her for a life of continued service in Christ Jesus her Lord.

Speaker's Bureau

To engage a speaker or plan a pilgrimage
for your group call or write:

The Lange Guild
701 Gun Road
Baltimore, MD 21227-3899
Phone: (410) 242-6861
Fax: (410) 247-5172
Email: srmmel@aol.com
or Tjmduggan@aol.com

MOVING? Are you interested in receiving

The Lange Letter? Please take time to
send us your change of address.

Mother Mary Lange Web Site:
(Still under new construction)

Congratulations

Oblate Sisters of Providence
On 175 years of service

The
Community Medical Rehab Center, Inc.
Baltimore, MD

(This ad is a special printing as an apology to the
Community Medical Rehab Center
because their ad did not make it into the Symposium Booklet
due to an error on the part of the Symposium Committee.)

YOU MISSED IT? - Videos available

Not to worry. If you missed the Symposium, speakers' presentations were video taped. Videos (also DVD's) are available. The contribution of speakers on that auspicious occasion becomes a gold mine of information for historians, teachers and students of religion, black spirituality and Mother Mary Lange/Oblate enthusiasts. Presenters' papers will also be published. A video may be obtained for \$15.00 (DVD-\$20.00) The published papers will be available for a small fee (tba).



Enhance Black History--American Studies --with A/V info-material unique in its offering. Experts knowledgeable and eminently qualified offer information and insights on Black History; The Oblate Sisters of Providence, first order of Catholic sisters of



African descent; Oblates and their spiritual "cousins" the IHM's--the reality and the connection; the impact of black spirituality on Mother Lange; and the origin of Oblates in Latin American ministries. It's a win-win offering. Contact Mother Lange Guild for further information. (See order blank enclosed.)