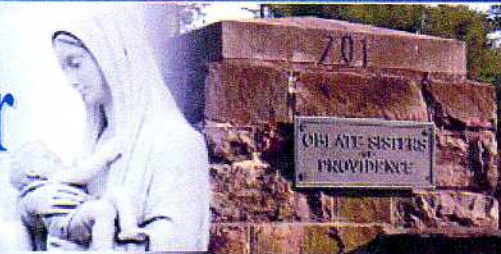




The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



December 2004

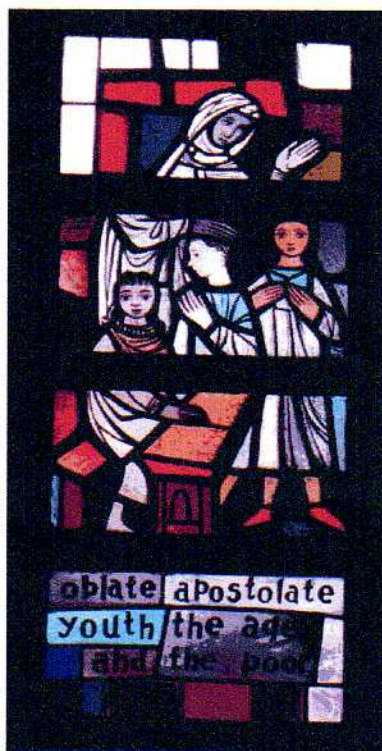
Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 40

The Year of

The Church's inauguration of the Year of the Eucharist revitalizes our faith, reminds us of our treasure and of an ever abiding Emmanuel. To a sister anxious about completing the recitation of her rosary, Mother Mary Lange replied, "Rather, hasten to the Blessed Sacrament." (Willigman copy, p.8). In these few words Mother Lange expresses her deep and consuming devotion to the Blessed Sacrament - Jesus Christ present upon our altars, Jesus Christ our spiritual food and nourishment.

"Hasten to the Blessed Sacrament" indicates Mother Mary's personal



This window in the OSP motherhouse chapel identifies the Oblate ministries.

As we near the time when the documentation for the Cause of Mother Lange can be submitted to the Roman congregation, it is a joy to recall the phases we have been

through: searching civil records like census reports, examining the long record of the annals of the Oblate Sisters (originally Father Joubert's diary), and finding Elizabeth's name (later Mother Mary Lange) on Easter duty lists and the membership of pious confraternities. Then there was a journey to Haiti, especially the northern area associated with Elizabeth's family, and experts dispatched to the French depository of Haitian records and the Cuban area of settlement of Haitian refugees.

We have examined books and articles about Mother Lange and the Oblates. We have tried to answer inquiries about her life and work. We have

the Eucharist

devotion and finds resonance through the ages. One hundred seventy five years have not diminished this spiritual legacy left to her daughters and to the world. Oblate Sisters of Providence continue to reverence, be comforted, and receive strength through daily Mass, frequent visits to the chapel, and monthly day long exposition of the Blessed Sacrament closing with Benediction: "Pange Lingua Gloriosi", the glorious Bread of Heaven. (See also "Hasten to the Blessed Sacrament", *Lange Letter*, August '93, Issue 7; *Timeless Wisdom* - Mother Lange Said, p.24)

tried to respond to misconceptions and mistakes in identity. And always we have had the careful reviews of our work by the Historical Commission and the Archdiocesan Tribunal.

The Journey Continues

by Father John Bowen, S.S.

Above all, we have enjoyed the encouragement and support of Cardinal William Keeler.

Before long we hope to shift our focus to the examination of possible cures or other unusual blessings coming through Mother Lange's intervention. In both phases we continue to enjoy the prayerful support of all Guild members.



Father John Bowen, postulator, finalizes Mother Lange documentation.

The Stay at Home Ball

Early in the fall as preparations were in full swing to manage our once-a-year fund-raiser, we heard, "Oh, is it time for that again?" We are grateful for the generous responses of all contributors. Proceeds from the "Ball" will help defray the expenses of publishing the talks of symposium presenters enjoyed last spring. Contributions support expenses of developing and maintaining educational materials pertaining to Mother Lange, paying for requirements incumbent upon her documents going to Rome and being processed, and telling the world her story - God's story.



— Celebrate —

Mark Your Calendar

Mother Mary Lange Day

Join us in prayer, praise and thanksgiving for the life and Christian social action of the Servant of God, Mother Mary Lange. The annual novena commemorating the 123rd anniversary of her death begins January 25 and ends February 2nd, the day preceeding the anniversary. Be BOLD with trust and confidence. God hears the cry of the poor. We are all mired in a poverty of body, soul, mind and/or society. We need help. God is ready to hear our prayers through the intercession of Mother Mary. Dare to be bold (confident). Ask and you shall receive. Then promise publication as prayers are answered.

You need not be physically present to participate in the novena. Join in spirit this circle of prayer. Say the prayer for beatification to Mother Mary Lange each day. If possible, mark your calendar and join us at Mount Providence Chapel, 701 Gun Road, for a special ecumenical prayer service February 3, 2005.



Mother Lange in Song

Nancy Krebs, a Catholic Christian singer-songwriter, has released six albums since 1998, all of which are receiving airplay throughout the U. S. and abroad.

In December '99, Nancy electrified her audience at her Mount Providence benefit concert to help promote the cause of Mother Lange. Sung publicly for the first time, *A Lifetime* was introduced and well received. Nancy sang it again at the Symposium last spring. Once again she received public acclamation.



Now, the CD *A Lifetime*, the musical bio of Mother Lange, and other Krebs compositions are available to the public through the Mother Mary Lange Guild Office, at 701 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD 21227. The cost for the CD is \$15.00.

Godspeed, Bishop Bennett

by Father John Bowen, S.S.



Esther Sanders greets Bishop Bennett on a recent visit to the MLG Board.

We call your attention to the plight of Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J., former Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, and an *ex officio* member of the Mother Lange Guild Board. He was to be installed in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica, on September 26.

Hurricane Ivan, however, unroofed his cathedral and damaged most of the Church buildings. So, without any formal ceremony, Bishop Bennett has undertaken the daunting task of ministering to his flock and working to restore the damaged properties of the diocese. He will need our prayerful and other support in his new responsibility.

FAVORS asked; FAVORS received; FAVORS reported

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

Dear Sister: My Correctional Educ. Association starts ...I'm receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award... Still asking Mother Mary Lange's intercession daily; so many answered prayers. Blessings. **J.J.; N.D.**

Dear Sister: I asked Mother Mary Lange for a job and I got it. I thank her for helping me. She never fails me. **C H.; DC**

Dear Sister: Thanks so much for your prayers for my sister who had heart surgery. She is improving each day. The doctors are pleased with her recovery. With God's blessing and continual prayer, we are hoping she will soon be well. **S.C.; MD**

Dear Sister: I have been sick for 28 years. At the National Basilica I prayed the Mother Lange prayer and I felt good - healed. I regularly pray the Mother Lange prayer. **J.C.; LA**

Dear Sister: Having lost my glasses, I simply said, "Mother Lange I need those glasses!" I looked and looked everywhere. For one last check I opened the passenger door of my car. There were my glasses! I won't call it a "miracle", but whatever it was, I am certainly grateful, and I told her so. She (Mother Lange) has answered so many of my private requests. Perhaps I should ask for more and more and more... **M.A.; MD**

Dear Sister: I thank God for a favor received through the intercession of Mother Mary Lange..**W.H.; NY**

Dear Madre: Praised be Jesus and Mary! I am the executive Director of the Board here that bears the name of Mother Mary Lange. We have very few members but we keep on struggling to save it from disappearing. We want more information so that we can continue to know more about Mother Lange. **A.I.; Cuba**

(Translated from the Spanish.)

Ed. Note: Information was sent to Cuba.

Mother Lange Board Leadership Changes...

New Members Appointed

Accolades to Dr. Marcellina Brooks, past president of the Mother Mary Lange Guild, who served with dedicated leadership for three years. The ML Guild is indebted to Dr. Brooks for continued growth and challenging efforts in promoting the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange.

At the October Board meeting, the following were elected to leadership: Toni Duggan, President; Lenwood Johnson, Vice President; Bob Brown, Treasurer; and Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP continues serving as Secretary.

Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM began duties as Administrative Assistant to the Vice Postulator.

New members accepting commitment to serve on the Board are:

Sister Babette Opferman, IHM, Ms. Christine Tolson, Rev. Thomasine Adams, Laverne Scruggs, and Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP.

Besides promoting the cause of Mother Lange internationally so that the world knows of God's actions through his servant, the primary goal currently is collecting data of healing. These may be submitted hopefully to raise the cause to the next level.



Toni Moore-Duggan,
president of the Mother
Lange Guild Board

Mary Lange:



Bold Legacy to Freedom

From last May's exciting symposium, DVD's and/or videos are finally available of main speakers and panelists. These inspired sharings provide an in-depth milieu from which to focus on Mary Lange. They can be enjoyed on your own or with others for discussion. (DVD – \$25.00; Video - \$20.00). Send a check or money order to the Mother Lange Office with your order. Don't miss out!

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



Vignette

Mother Mary Lange (b.circa 1784 – d. 1882) was a free woman of color in a slave state, an immigrant favoring French and Spanish languages, and had unwavering consecrated trust in God's providence. With indomitable courage, faith and compassion, Elizabeth Lange (later Mother Mary), a refugee from Haiti, began educating children of color in her home in Baltimore, Maryland, long before the Emancipation Proclamation. She founded Saint Frances Academy, and with Father James Joubert, S.S., began the first Catholic religious congregaton for women of African heritage, the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

MOVING? Are you interested in receiving *The Lange Letter*? Please take time to send us your change of address.

Mother Mary Lange Web Site:

Under new construction, or see www.oblatesisters.com, choose "Ministries".



A Pilgrimage of Faith

A pilgrimage is a prayerful excursion one takes in a spirit of presence and reflection. A pilgrimage gives honor and glory to God as one reflects upon the life lived and actions performed at places made holy by God's servants (friends). The fruit of a pilgrimage is a personal decision to make whatever change is necessary with the help of God, to become all that God intended for us at creation.

Mindful that we all journey to God the Father through Christ we are often helped along the way by some of his friends. People have come from all over to walk in the footsteps of Mother Lange and the early Oblate Sisters: local pilgrims, pilgrims from New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Chicago, and Virginia, to name just a few. They speak of being inspired by Mother Lange's vision and determination. They attest to the expansion of their own faith as they pray to God through the intercession of God's Servant. They mention the vibrations felt from her strength, and

grow through the experience of the history of her era.

On a pilgrimage, as one steps back in history and experiences God's divine Providence in the lives of his people, we are helped to become a new creation. What God has done for Mother Mary Lange, he will do for each of us.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to plan a pilgrimage. For details call or write: Mother Lange Guild, 701 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD 21227 410-242-6861. Allow two months planning time.



(From left to right)
Teresa Royale,
Florence Cowans,
Marlene Apollon,
Sr. Madeline Swaboski, IHM,
Sr. Veronica de los Santos, OSP,
Toni Duggan,
Idell Pugh,
(Seated)
Sr. Virginie Fish, OSP

A Picture worth a thousand words!
Joy, enthusiasm and determination is captured as Mother Mary Lange Guild Board members demonstrate solidarity at the OSP's 175th Anniversary Gala Banquet