



# The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence

April 2005

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

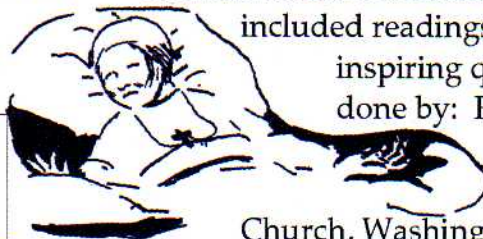
Issue No. 41

## MOTHER LANGE DAY

When Mother Mary lay dying in great pain early in the morning of February 3, 1882, she refused medication so as not to break her fast. She wanted to receive her Jesus in Holy Communion. In the chapel below, Mass was being celebrated and a young novice was pronouncing her first vows: "I promise," she prayed, "poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the constitutions of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. And I ask the help of St. Frances of Rome, St. Joseph, St. Benedict and all our blessed patrons. Amen." Upstairs, Fr. Anwander began administering the sacrament of anointing. As he touched Mother Mary's hands, he stopped and gave her the last blessing. Mother Mary died as she had lived, with hands outstretched in love and service (Lannon, p.20).

Thursday, February 3, 2005, the 123rd anniversary of Mother Mary Lange's death was

Artist sketch by Anne d'Auray Tracy



commemorated at the Oblate motherhouse. More than 100 people braved early snow showers and uncertain weather to attend the commemorative interfaith service. The event included readings and reflections on inspiring quotes of Mother Lange done by: Father Donald Fest, SSJ, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Washington, D.C. and MML Board member; Father Jack Podsiadlo, SJ, St. Ignatius, Baltimore and MML Board member; Pastor William Sewell, Interfaith Academy Church; Sister Marina Kelly, OSP, Mount Providence and MML Board member; Esther Sanders, OSP Associate Program and MML Board member. Father Donald Sterling, pastor of The New All Saints Church, Baltimore, gave the keynote address and said, "Mother Lange spoke with conviction, predicated on faith and trust in God and love for her brothers and sisters."

## DOCUMENTS IN TRANSIT

At last the documents attesting to the life of heroic virtue and deeds of the Servant of God, Mary Lange, have been sent to Rome for review and decision. If accepted, the title of Venerable will be given to this candidate for sainthood. The cause of Mother Lange, considered an "ancient" cause by the Church (Mary Lange died in 1882), requires investigation of information obliterated (or diminished) by time, physical relocation, language and a dearth of correspondence and public records. Now the cause moves to the

next phase: investigating favors (especially physical healings) received. Recipients of a healing received through the intercession of Mother Mary should be mindful of two questions Rome will ask: 1) Did you pray to anyone else? 2) To whom else did you pray for the same healing? Then, if healed only through Mother Lange's intercession, are you willing to so testify, and produce medical records attesting to the nature of one's recovery? Documents of healing will be sent from Mother Lange Office to the proper officials to determine authenticity.



Computer Man Extraordinaire: Fran (Francis) Marinaro, computer troubleshooter, volunteers time and skills on Wednesdays to the Mother Lange cause. His service is tapped throughout the Oblate Motherhouse. Other days Fran seeks fulltime employment. We pray with him through the intercession of Mother Lange.

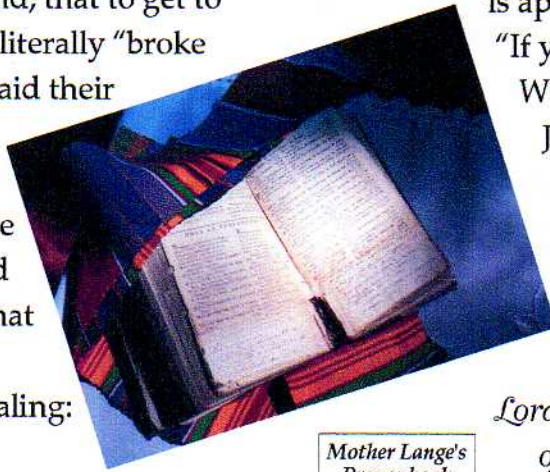


# BREAKING THROUGH THE ROOF

When you really need something, you will go to almost any length. The Gospel story of Mark 2: 1-12 tells of friends so determined and desperate to help another friend, that to get to Jesus, the Master Healer, they literally "broke through the roof". Then they laid their friend in need of healing at the feet of Jesus. Unabashed by such boldness, Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed his infirmity. "Take up your mat and walk."

Many are in need of healing: physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Friends do try to help yet they often fall short of "breaking through the roof", going to extraordinary means to meet your need. Do we dare suggest that the "break through the roof" of

our reluctance is based on fear, pride, and independence, which we need to lay at the feet of Dr. Jesus with our friend? In Luke 5:12-15, Jesus is approached by a man who said, "If you want to, you can cure me." Without hesitation, eager to help, Jesus responds, "I do want to. Be cured." Oh, yes, as with so many healed in the gospels, they went out reporting the miracle God had wrought for them.



Mother Lange's  
Prayer book

*Lord, through the intercession  
of Mother Mary Lange,  
you can make me whole.*

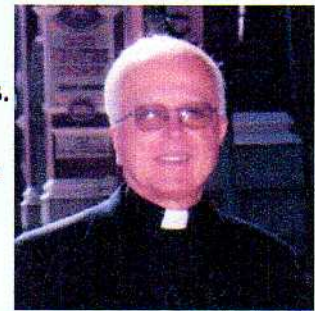
**Report your healing to the**

**Mother Lange Office for publication.**

**Write, email, or fax to report the good news!**

## MEET FATHER JOHN PODSIADLO, S.J.

Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, is a member of the Society of Jesus for forty six years. Father presently directs and coordinates the Nativity Network Program. This Jesuit sponsored program attempts to break the cycle of poverty through education. Essentially the same goal is Mother Lange's, the network seeks to achieve its goals as national independent educational centers, each with its own identity, mission and character. In addition, Fr. Jack is local superior of the St. Ignatius Community, Baltimore. In spite of a "full plate", Fr. Jack, convinced of the value to the faithful of recognizing Mother Lange's heroic life, has made the commitment to work for her canonization. Fr. Jack is an active and supportive member of the MML Guild Board of Directors.



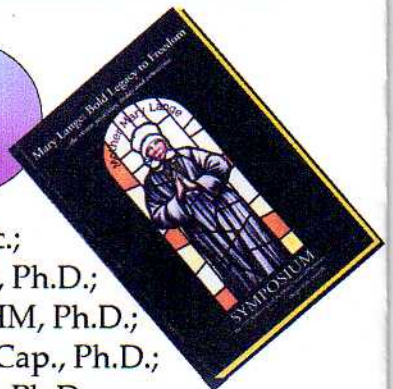
## MISSED THE SYMPOSIUM?

MISSED THE SYMPOSIUM? "not to worry"  
SYMPOSIUM PUBLISHED PAPERS...

A/V AVAILABLE

Papers presented by notable professors at the OSP 175th Anniversary Symposium sponsored by the Mother Mary Lange Guild have been published. Topics give timely and scholarly information. Each presentation is a major contribution clarifying, instructing and broadening concepts of America's antebellum social, religious, and economic milieu from which Mary Lange was called forth.

It was heard at  
the symposium; now  
read the presenters:



Cyprian Davis, OSB, D.Hist.Sc.;  
Father William Montgomery, Ph.D.;  
Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D.;  
Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap., Ph.D.;  
Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D..

Books, videos, DVDs are available through the MML Guild Office. See the order blank enclosed with this Lange Letter.





# FAVORS ASKED; FAVORS RECEIVED

*With faith, no explanation is necessary. Without faith no explanation is possible.*

In May 2004 my cousin was told she was in the 4th stage of ovarian cancer. Chemo would give her more time, but not much more than that. She and her family members began praying for the intercession of Mother Lange for healing. In January 2005, my cousin was given the P.E.T. test which indicated that she did not have a cancer cell in her body! Thanks to the intercession of Mother Lange!

D.F, D.C.

*I have asked Mother Lange in prayer for a resolution to a serious situation, a way that would demonstrate – beyond any shadow of a doubt – that the hand of God alone has made peace in this affair...An elderly relative of mine has been "miraculously" generous in supporting me financially after I lost my job and legal bills started to pile up. I am deeply grateful for that, and I certainly believe God acted privately upon his heart. Still, I am praying for a public and unambiguous act of reconciliation, or whatever way God may see fit to respond to Mother Lange's prayers in this affair.*

M.S., PA

Sharing a small Mother Lange miracle: on a Sunday rushing to Mass, I arrived, only to reach into my pocket to find I had lost my wallet with ID, credit cards, and offering money. After Mass, I retraced my steps to no avail. I prayed to Mother Lange for patience and to return my ID and cards. That night a message came saying that my wallet had been turned in to the central police station. I was grateful to God and Mother Lange. Then the plot thickens: next morning the officer told me that my wallet had been brought in to him by a homeless woman – with my ID, cards, and \$81.00 still in it!

T.D., MD

## PRAYER FOR A MIRACLE

*O Lord, we come to you knowing that you are a miracle worker, that you are a burden sharer. We ask you in faith to work a miracle in our midst. Lord, you did it for the leper who came to you. You did it for the blind man who cried out to you. You did it for the woman with the issue of blood. Lord, now we ask in faith, do it for us. Stop by the sick bed of \_\_\_\_\_. Touch (her/him) with your healing hand of power, show yourself as Doctor Jesus, and bring (her/him) to health once again. Lord, we pray for the families of the sick. We pray that you touch their hearts with hope and faith. Further, Lord, we offer this prayer through the intercession of Mother Mary Lange. We thank you, Lord Jesus, Divine Physician, for granting our prayer. We do believe, Lord, help our unbelief. Mother Mary Lange, pray for us!*

Report all favors received to the Mother Lange Guild Office.

## Speaker's Bureau / Pilgrimage

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

Mother Lange Guild Office  
701 Gun Road  
Baltimore, MD 21227-3899



## MOVING?

Are you interested in receiving

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Phone: (410) 242-6861

Fax: (410) 247-5172

Email: [srmmel@aol.com](mailto:srmmel@aol.com)

Website: [www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com)

choose "Ministries".



## STAY AT HOME BALL RESULTS

- by Catherine Hines, Development Director

The 8th Annual Stay at Home Ball proved to be a success! Your donations helped us reach just over \$14,000. Thank you to all! We learned that 50% of our donors live in Maryland; 10% in the District of Columbia, and 8% in Pennsylvania. The remainder of our contributors are spread throughout the United States and around the world. A large percentage of donors (47%) gave \$25.00.

Again, thank you for your continued support! Know that our gratitude as well as our daily prayer are for you and your loved ones. This money helps to meet the operating costs of the Mother Lange Guild and furthers her cause for beatification and canonization. Each contributor has received a published copy of the OSP 175th Anniversary Symposium papers. Contributors will be published in the August edition of the Lange Letter.

## CHAPTERS WANTED

Chapters, associated groups of the Mother Lange Guild, do what the ML Board members cannot. Chapter members reach out like growing roots of a vibrant plant into the broader community. They give personal and firsthand testimony to the timelessness of God's transforming action upon a soul. Chapter members reach out to the multitude with the gift of personal presence to tell Mother Mary Lange's inspiring and challenging story. They give vision, hope and encouragement to many. Kudos to Mother Lange Chapters: ML Gift of Providence Chapter (St. Veronica Church, Cherry Hill, Baltimore; Theodora George, Chairperson); HAU (Haitian Americans United for the Cause of Mother Lange; Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Virginia; Rose-Marie St. Jean, M.D., Chairperson); ML Chapter at St. Benedict Church (Philadelphia, PA; Dorothy Gomes, Chairperson); ML Chapter of NY (Brooklyn, NY; Paul Dorsainvil, Chairperson). For information on Chapter Formation, call or write MML Guild.

## VALIANT WOMAN

by Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP

Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Whose name spans across America and other lands?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who left her homeland Haiti amid war and strife?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who braved rough seas and perilous storms?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who fought for her right to love her God?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who with Joubert founded a congregation?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who, despite prejudice and racism, faced the  
gauntlet?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who loved to teach and to educate?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who was strong amid challenging odds?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who fought her good fight and stayed her course?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who is now in heaven to still guard her daughters?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman  
Who is singing God's praises today and forever?  
Who is this woman, this valiant woman?  
None other than Mother Mary Lange,  
Oblate Sister of Providence.



Members of the Mother Mary Lange Board of Directors at work: left to right, LaVerna Scruggs, Christine Tolson, Sr. Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP; Sr. Marina Kelly, OSP; Fr. Donald Fest, SSJ; Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP; Florence Cowans, Idell Pugh, Marlene Apollon, and Fr. John Bowen, SS.