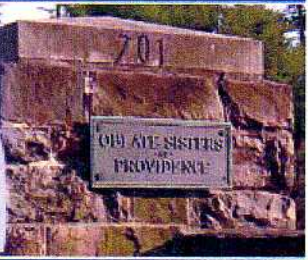




# The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



April 2006

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 44

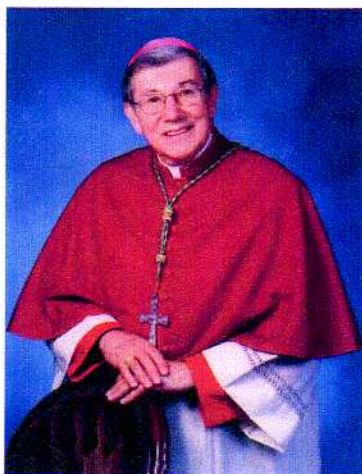
## Telling the Mother Lange Story - One Rosary at a Time

By Toni Moore-Duggan

**"We recommend this important affair to our good Mother..."**

It is well known that much of Mother Lange's spirituality is centered around her relationship with Mary, the Mother of God. Taking the name of God's mother Mary as she entered religious life came, out of her devotion and recognition that to honor Mary was to honor God. Given the perils of her journey to holiness, Mother Mary, as do her daughters today, find much solace in regularly praying the rosary. Mother Lange and her daughters know that praying the rosary is a sure way to the heart of Christ. And that through Mary they would receive graces that would hasten fulfillment.

The Board of Directors of the Mother Mary Lange Guild was inspired to share Mother Lange's Marian spirituality through the distribution of rosary packets in parishes. This project gives insights into Mother Lange's Marian spirituality and also increases devotion to Mary. **The packets contain a luminous rosary, a leaflet depicting the four sets of mysteries of the rosary and information about Mother Lange and the Mother Lange Guild.** Oblate Sisters of Providence, Board and Chapter members visit parishes, meet and greet the people of God and distribute a rosary packet.



Free will offerings cover the cost. Rosaries are freely distributed whether or not an offering can be made. The Mother Mary Lange Rosary Project offers an opportunity for individuals to receive this item of devotion—if not for themselves—then, as a spiritual gift for someone who may

learn the Mother Lange story or be in need of a stronger relationship with Mary the Mother of God.

*Parishes that would like to participate by hosting a visit from Guild members distributing rosaries, please contact the Guild Office at 410-242-6861*



## Mother Lange Day—A Good Beginning for Black History Month

By Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP

The annual service celebrating Mother Lange's death was held February 3rd at Mount Providence Convent. One of the highlights of the program was the testimonial of two individuals cured of illnesses that their doctors had indicated was terminal. Both prayed for healing through the intercession of Mother Lange. Both have survived five or more years and hope that by sharing their story, others will take intercessory prayer seriously, have increased hope and trust that God will also favor their requests. Medical records of the healings await the scrutiny of proper authorities.

Dr. Diana Hayes, guest speaker for the occasion, kept her hearers spellbound by her presentation of Lange's life. She made even well known facts come alive as she clothed them in the historical setting reflecting Dr. Hayes' rich background of study and experience. She followed the Oblate Foundress from Fells Point, the place of ship disembarkation, through the city of Baltimore to Chase Street where Mother last lived and died. She recounted the saintly life lived in spite of the suffering and indignities heaped upon her. She also had a sense of joy through the peace and confidence that was hers in the knowledge that she was doing God's will. What a fitting celebration of her going home!

Most Reverend Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop and Urban Vicar of Baltimore will officiate at the Annual Rededication Service scheduled for May 24th at Mt. Providence Chapel.



# Mother Lange, Pioneering Black Catholic Educator

(Excerpts from an article by Frere Buteau Espiegle,  
Public Relations Officer of the Brooklyn, New York  
Mother Lange Guild Chapter).

"To understand the courage and daring of Mother Lange, it is necessary...to comprehend the depths of white resistance to the education of black children in 19th century America. One strong evidence of that was a letter from Harriet Thompson, a black woman from New York to Pope Pius IX, in 1853. In her letter to the pope, she pointed out that their children were refused admission to the Catholic schools because of their race.

Lange demonstrated that she was a woman of extraordinary strength and character when she...founded the first black Catholic school in Baltimore and the first [lasting] religious congregation of women of color in the world, the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

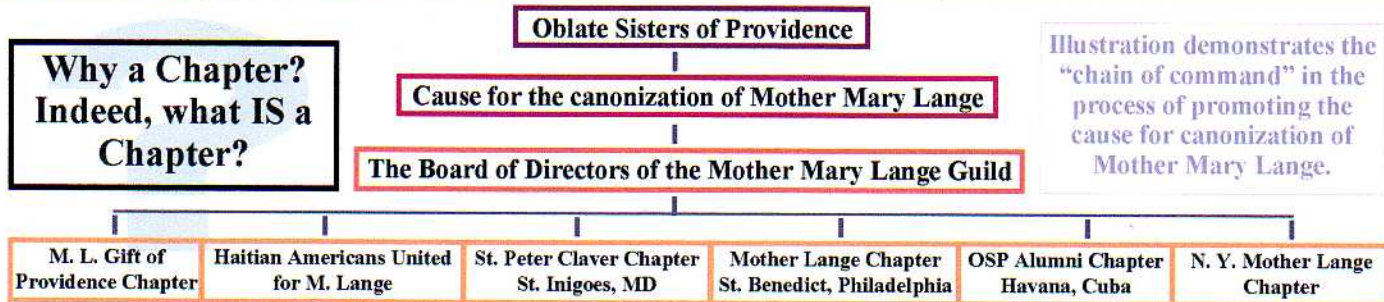
The school that began in Lange's house... [1828] still exists—St. Frances Academy. It continues today to provide quality education. It is the oldest [continuing educational] facility for children of color in the United States. Their mission was to secure the permanency of a

black Catholic school in the slave holding state of Maryland.

Msgr. Guy Sansaricq, Director of the National Center [of the Haitian Apostolate] said that Mother Lange's legacy to the black community deserves the highest recognition. Her prodigious dedication to the

education of black children sprang from her deep faith and her tremendous devotion to the Holy Eucharist... Hence, the opposition constantly directed against her never generated any form of bitterness but rather fueled her ardor to the cause she so strongly believed. It is evident that Mother Mary Lange revolutionized Catholic Education. The suffering, humiliations and perseverance

of Mother Mary Lange and the nineteenth century Oblates have contributed to the flowering in the twenty-first century of ... black bishops and ... black ... theologians... Sister Mary Virginie Fish, Director of the Mother Lange Guild for the Canonization of Mother Mary Lange said: "The Mother Mary Lange story is a story of courage and wisdom, a chronicle unique in the annals of Catholic and secular history...Mother Lange continues to speak to the world in several ways: as an immigrant, as an African American and as a Catholic.



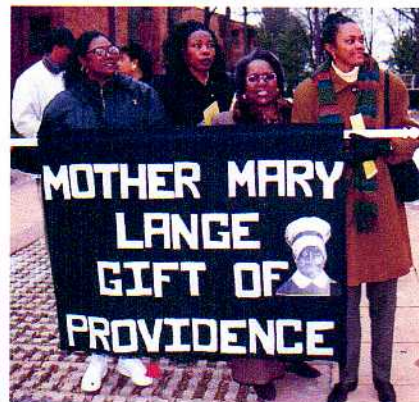
The Mother Mary Lange Guild Board of Directors, a group made up of ex-officio, official and volunteer members cannot hope to meet the demands of research, education, the development of spiritual and practical on-going activities and events required to promote the cause for canonization that has reached global dimensions.

"The principal purpose and aim of Mother Lange Chapters shall be to work alongside the Mother Lange Guild Board for the canonization of Mother Mary Lange, the foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Chapters reach people not accessible to members of the Guild. They adopt the daily philosophy of Mother Lange: "Our sole wish is to do the will of God." Chapter members tell the Mother Lange story, know and share her spiritual gifts, encourage the development of providence spirituality: trust in God,

experience deep devotion to the Eucharist and to the Mother of God (especially through the rosary). Members pray for her canonization. Chapters give service especially to the poor and marginalized, and assist the Guild through membership and an annual monetary offering to further the work of research, education, and promotional activities.

*Semper Fideles (Always faithful)*  
Mother Mary Lange Gift of Providence Chapter members join a pilgrimage procession.





## FAVORS ASKED FAVORS RECEIVED FAVORS ASKED FAVORS RECEIVED

*For those WITH FAITH, no explanation is necessary; for those WITHOUT FAITH, no explanation is possible.*

**Successful Surgery** -Dear Sister: M. asked me to let the Oblate Sisters know that she prayed to Mother Mary Lange... She carried her prayer card until she went into the operating room. Within her heart, she believes that through the intercession of Mother Lange, she survived... It is a miracle because the doctors were very concerned that she would not pull through because of her age.

**M. S.; MD**

**Sickness Alleviated** - Dear Mary Lange Guild: I got sick... Afraid that I would need the doctor, I prayed to Mother Lange and I got well... I did not need the doctor. Thanks to Mother Lange.

**P. R.; MD**

During my life of 62 years, I had 8 concussions, and work related illnesses. Pain plagued my body for 39 years. Spirits at low ebb, I entered Mt. Providence chapel for a service with the Oblate Sisters. The Mother Lange prayer was recited; I joined in. Afterward the pain was gone! Later, illness diminished. Thank you, Mother Lange for interceding to our God. Thank you, Sisters for your dedication.

**D. B.; MD**

*Dear Sister: I want to report a miracle in progress. My brother had his fifth heart attack. He has diabetes. One quarter of his heart is not functioning due to scar tissue. He weighs over 400 lbs. The defibrillator shocked him 59 times!! He's on many medications. Now [after praying to Mother Lange] he's lost 25 lbs. and he's home healing. We think it's a miracle.*

**G. M.; IL**

Sister: This is the young lady with the heart operation. Seems like your prayers have been answered. Thanks to the Oblates.

**M.V.; e-mail**

*Sister: I found out on Thursday that K.'s biopsy was negative. Thanks for the prayers to Mother Lange.*

**M.V.; e-mail**

**Sobriety** - Thanks to the intercession of Mother Mary Lange my son is not drinking. He is reading the Gospels. We have a long way to go, but thanks to prayers by a friend devoted to her [Lange's] cause, we are seeing God's way being fulfilled.

**P.G.; Quebec**

**Lost & Found** - Twice prayers to Mother Mary Lange helped to recover items that seemed hopelessly lost.

*My 89 year old mother lost her purse. I sincerely asked Mother Lange to help us... The next day my mother found her purse in a place I already checked. Another item was my canon camera. I'd used it on a trip to San Antonio, TX. I realized after my return that I couldn't find it. [After searching], I asked Mother Lange to help. I had searched the closet, but I asked Mother Lange to help. [Looking again in the closet], there was my camera waving as if suspended on the door knob. I cried. When I quietly ask Mother Lange something, she is always with me, providing strength for moments when I feel so weak and helpless.*

**M. D.; CO**

Dear Sisters of Providence: This love offering is in honor of Mother Mary Lange for a request granted. I prayed for help in obtaining my driver's license. I am 80 years old and am very blessed to be able to still drive. I passed my test and received my license.

**M. M.; CA**

## When a Healing is Reported

A brief outline of the preliminary steps to be followed when notified of a possible cure:

1. A preliminary questionnaire is sent to the person reporting the cure (petitioner).
2. The questionnaire is reviewed by the Postulator. If the cure appears viable, the petitioner is requested to forward all medical records (any costs are borne by the canonization cause).
3. Once these documents are received, the cause will enlist the services of a medical doctor whose specialty is in the field of the alleged cure. This doctor will review all records and testimony and submit his independent opinion as to whether or not there exists a natural explanation for the cure.
4. If the doctor can find no medical explanation, the material is forwarded to Rome for review by the Postulator-General and another medical expert.
5. With the approval of the Postulator-General, the formal investigatory phase of the process would then begin at the local Tribunal, where the petitioner, witnesses and doctors will be interviewed.

If you believe Servant of God Mary Lange has interceded to God through some cure/miracle on your behalf, please show your gratitude by contacting the Mother Mary Lange Guild as soon as possible by letter, fax (410 - 247 - 5172) or e-mail (srmmel@aol.com).



# Transcendent Love

A Tribute by Cecilia Alston, a loyal Oblate alumna in commemoration of the  
175th anniversary of Oblate foundation:



Oblate novices in Costa Rica, C. A.

His will embraced through divine inspiration  
Desire for "the least of these", a healing aspiration;  
Trusting His Divine Care, the great women believed  
Their noble mission in 1828 could be achieved.  
Visionary émigrés, the encounters they would find  
Hostile rejection from the spiritually blind  
Opposed for being neither white nor fraternal;  
For an unrealized dream, "hope springs eternal".  
Lo, exceptional dedication, founded a religious order;

Discouragement for them was given no quarter.

Advocates and benefactors were not remiss

Realizing "The finger of God is in this"

Consecrated themselves as the twelve in that upper room;

Every fiber of their being, their apostolate consumed.

Education was the corner-stone of the valiant pioneers,  
Service and sacrifice to the Church marked their careers.

No task too menial, no challenge too great,

Exemplary kindness, love conquered hate.

Major contributions as teacher, mentor, friend--

Influence is legion, though worldly cares contend.

Over 175 years of ministry in His essence

Love personifies the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

(Ms. Alston attended St. Frances Home for Girls in St. Louis MO).



Oblates at prayer: l. to r.

Sr. Katharine Brent, Sr. Concetta Melton,  
Sr. Trinita Baeza, Sr. Celestine Johnson,  
and Sr. Veronica de los Santos

Copyrighted © 2006 Designs PRINTING All Rights Reserved

## Rest Without Arrest

By Timothy A. McCarthy

This is a testimonial of power: the power of intercessory prayer; the power through perseverance; and the power of trust and faith. The writer has long been a devotee of Servant of God Mary Lange.

In my early years as a State Parole Agent one of my parolees relapsed into drug use and ran off. I got the required warrant. Later he telephoned and asked if he could straighten things out. My only permitted answer was, "Turn your self in to the police." He didn't do that and he was found a few months later floating dead in a molasses tanker car.

The next time I got such a phone call I told the client to enter a free drug rehab like the Salvation Army and call me from there. Once inpatient status was confirmed I wrote to the judge and asked that my warrant be changed to a summons--just a letter in the mail. In 100 such requests in subsequent years no judge ever refused me.

I ask Mother Lange daily to help me institutionalize this procedure. On November 21, 2005 my article explaining Rest Without Arrest was published in the *Baltimore Sun*. Since then the president of a large grant foundation has offered financial assistance. If my program emerges in Baltimore it is only because Mother Lange interceded in heaven for me.

## 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



Email: [srmme@aol.com](mailto:srmme@aol.com) N.B. Please use M. Lange in subject line  
Website: [www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com) then choose "Ministries".

**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