



The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence

December 2006

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 46

Archdiocesan Investigation of Documents accepted and validated

By Sr. Annette Beecham, OSP

The following is a summary and update on the status of documents sent to Rome.

The documentation representing the Diocesan investigation was submitted and the Cause for Mother Lange was officially opened. The Copia Publica was prepared by the clerk of the Congregation [of the Saints] based on the submitted documentation. The documentation was accepted and the decree of validity of the Diocesan investigation was given.

The request to appoint the relatore (the Congregation for the Causes of Saints clerk serving as a director while the Positio on the life and heroic virtues is being written) has been approved. A Monsignor Gutierrez will serve as our relatore. Father Spiewak met with him and they decided the Positio will be prepared and presented in English.

Our Postulator, Father Spiewak, requested that the miracle or miracles we have be sent to him.

Editor's note: Sister Annette Beecham, OSP, Superior General, returned from Rome in May, 2006.

Mother Lange Leads the Challenge:

Uncommon Faithfulness!

Discovery made through a pilgrimage

By Toni Moore Duggan

As our National Board of Directors continues a new season, we will continually reflect on the Strategic Planning retreat of last season. We remain steadfast in promoting the charism of Mother Lange and her daughters, the Oblate Sisters of Providence. An immigrant woman of color who said yes to God when all the cultural differences said otherwise offers us a proven way to help others: that is to walk her walk in the form of a pilgrimage. This sacred odyssey offers an opportunity to nurture our history with spiritual regeneration. This great woman and her daughters chose the pearl of great price relying solely on the Providence of God. This uncommon faithfulness is her legacy. Her trust in what is not seen is the faith that so many souls living in quiet desperation need today. Her tolerance and dignity will forever serve as models for healing the frequent transgressions that have penetrated the lives of so many in our day.

A pilgrimage is an opportunity to walk where she walked, kneel where she knelt and pray where she prayed. This is an opportunity to risk equating your feelings and experience with the energy and the light that guided and fortified these consecrated women of color.

The Mother Lange Pilgrimage takes you to the Oblates' Motherhouse which serves as a self contained historical journey in and of itself. You will enter the convent and sacred space where Mother Mary Lange laid her head for eternal rest and surrendered her spirit to God. You will experience the vibrant energy that permeates the walls of St. Frances Academy then and now. There is a

layer of primordial grace that is experienced in the space of Chapelle Basse where so many consecrated lives were fortified for the journey of saying yes to God in very special and individual ways. These portals of sacred history offer healing, illumination and opportunity to explore the call to the kingdom in the life of each pilgrim who chooses to walk this sacred path. Join us. Walk this sacred path and be open to the grace of spiritual regeneration.

For more information on planning a pilgrimage call the Guild office at 410-242-6861.



Catherine Hagan (left) an Oblate alumna from St. Louis, Mo., spends vacation at Mt. Providence as a volunteer, poses with Sr. Madeline Swaboski, IHM, Administrative Assistant of the M. L. Guild Office.

Mark Your Calendars!!

2006

October 15th. through November 15th.

- Responses due to the "Stay at Home Ball."
- In November a Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of deceased Board, Chapter, and Guild members.

November 23rd. THANKSGIVING

- A Mass of thanksgiving was offered for all contributors to the 10th Annual Stay at Home Ball. Intentions will be placed on the altar.

2007

January 25th. – February 2nd.

A novena of Masses will be offered for the

- Canonization of Mother Mary Lange,
- Intentions of those who request prayers through her intercession,
- Approval of further study of Mother Lange documents forwarded to Rome, and
- Approval of healing(s) sent to Rome.

February 3rd.

- Commemoration of the 125th. anniversary of the death of Mother Mary Lange.

The Commemorative Service (tentatively) will be held Saturday, February 3rd, 2007 at Mt. Providence Chapel, 701 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD 21227 at 7:30 p.m.

Followed by light refreshments.

Admission is free; a free will offered is suggested. Church members, groups, and all interested persons are cordially invited. Guest speaker to be announced.

Groups at out-of-state locales are encouraged to hold services commemorating the life of Mother Mary Lange.

REMEMBER, CHRISTMAS GIFTS CAN BE VERY MEANINGFUL with a Mother Lange book or memorabilia piece...

Right: In Celebration of Service
Some of Immaculate Conception's Senior Volunteers join Oblate Sisters with Bishop Denis Madden and Father John Bowen, SS.
Seated left to right: Cleota Kelly, Eula Anderson and Cleo Conway (R.I.P.) and Sr. Sharon Young
Standing: Sr. Dorthy Yancey.



Everyone Loves a "Ball"

Did you decide to simply kick off your shoes, put your feet up and enjoy a good book? Or, maybe you enjoyed a bit of quality time with the family? Either way, the Mother Lange Guild's "Stay at Home Ball" continues in high swing.

To borrow from commercial advertising on how much you "save" when buying in quantity, the "Ball" offered outstanding savings in several areas: parking, dressing, time, and even foregoing a less than exciting menu.

On the other hand, you were offered the opportunity to share through monetary effort the on-going activities promoting the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange and its related activities. You also, in one way or another, followed the admonition of St. James 2: 14 – 18. Intentions were placed on the altar at Thanksgiving. Contributors will be listed in the August, 2007 edition of *The Lange Letter*.

OOPS!! Sister Carmen Deschapelles, OSP's name was inadvertently omitted from the 2005 thank you listing of "Ball" donations. Sorry.



Above: Winners of the 2006 Haitian Writing Contest:
Middle school: Elizabeth Jean; High School: Anna Charles



Favors Asked Favors Received Favors Asked Favors Received

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

Educational Assist

I've been praying to Mother Lange each morning for a young woman, the first in her family to attend college. First semester she got 3 A's and a B. Thank you, Mother Lange. **G.B.; IL**

Financial Footage

I thank Mother Lange for financial aid received while out of work after disabling foot surgery. **A.C.; MD**

Welcome. Refugee

God be praised! I got my United States asylum through the intercession of Mother Mary Lange on Monday, 9/11/2006. Several years ago, I arrived in this country, my life threatened, from an African nation in turmoil. I found a leaflet with Mother Lange's story and prayer at the first African Eucharistic Congress. Soon after I met an Oblate Sister, so I was led to pray for Mother Lange's aid. At my next visit to Immigration Court, after 4 years of seeking asylum, it was granted to me only 20 minutes later! Thank you, Mother Lange! **F.R.M.; MD**

Seeing after Believing

I had an aneurysm in my left brain. Instant death if it burst! The doctors had a procedure to repair it, but it was very delicate and risky with possible complications. I prayed for guidance, faithfully said the Mother Lange prayer, deciding to put my life in God's hands and go through the surgery. Before the anesthetist began, I asked to have a minute to pray: "I love you, God. Jesus and Holy Spirit, ... my Lady in blue, I love you." Then, about to fall asleep, I saw Mother Lange!!! She reassured me, "Rest, my dear, you will be all right." I woke up from a successful surgery, with so much gratitude to God, Blessed Mother, and Mother Mary Lange! I continue to ask for full recovery.

P.K.S.; MD

Haitian Writing Contest

An On-Line Interview with Father Parick Aris

Father Patrick Aris is the director of the Office for Haitian Affairs in Washington, DC. The interviewer is Sister Virginie Fish, director of the M. L. Guild for the canonization of Mother Mary Lange.

The Mother Mary Lange Guild enjoys a supportive satellite group known as the HAU Chapter (Haitian Americans United for Mother Lange). Members gather from Washington, Baltimore and Virginia in solidarity of their Haitian heritage and give of their time, skills and means to support the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange.

This summer the general Haitian community, under the direction of Father Aris held their Fifth Annual Writing Contest. Sister Virginie "caught up" with Father to get more information.

Sister Virginie: *Father, what is the purpose of the Writing Contest?*

Father Aris: *The Haitian Writing Contest is an independent educational activity sponsored by the Mission Notre Dame du Perpetuel Secours*

(MNDPS). It was established for the first time by Father Andre Pierre to help the young of our community have a strong knowledge about Mother Lange and to keep them busy during vacation time.

Sister Virginie: *Are other educational activities offered?*

Father Aris: *The Haitian community sponsors a summer academic program for youth. Our goals are to continue to improve the knowledge of the young about Mother Lange; other experiences offered are to visit a black museum, choose a role model among black celebrities and heroes, and write a prayer asking, through Mother Lange's intercession, the end of world hunger, help for orphans, war victims, soldiers, Haiti, etc.*

Sister Virginie: *Why is this activity so important?*

Father Aris: *It is important that Haitian youth maintain the literacy and culture of their heritage. It is an open door to the whole Haitian community and a way to promote the Cause of Mother Lange.*



Mother Lange Joins Pierre Toussaint

By Max A. Auguste



The "Pierre Toussaint Information Center" has changed its name to "Pierre Toussaint and Mother Mary Lange Information Center."

The main purpose of the Center [is to] better make known the life and achievements of these two flowers of Haiti who blossomed in the U. S. A. In this respect, we are only supporting the works of the Pierre Toussaint Guild and the Mother Lange Guild of whom we are members. We distribute free prayer cards, brochures etc. We encourage people to become members of the Guilds and organize prayer meetings from time to time. We presently have some mini projects in planning such as a free course on writing and reading the Creole, and another for adults who wish to learn computer but have no time or possibility to go to school.

We do not ask for dues and we do not collect funds (except upon formal request by one of the guilds). Our services are free. But we encourage people to make donations directly to the Guilds.

Editor's notes: Max Auguste is the Director of the Pierre Toussaint and Mother Mary Lange Information and Services Center. The Center is located at 1921 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07305-2117 (E-mail: augustemax@aol.com) Phone/fax: (201) 332-1914

Meet Sister Veronica

By Sister Virginie Fish, OSP

Without much encouragement, Sister Veronica de los Santos, OSP will quickly identify her nation of origin—the Dominican Republic. However, Sister is totally fascinated with the American political and democratic processes. She assiduously studies candidates, their party platforms and voting records. Now an American citizen, Sister practically opens the polls anxious to cast her vote.

Sister Veronica entered the Oblate community in 1960. She brought with her a great love for service. Through the years her ministry has been primarily in the area of early childhood. Sister has served in St. Louis, MO; Philadelphia, PA; Montgomery, AL and Mt. Providence Child Development Center, Baltimore, MD.

Since the year 2000, Sister Veronica has formally served in the Mother Lange Office to promote the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange. Sister's "signature gift" is transmitting Mother Lange's virtue of hospitality. She could, without a doubt, be dubbed "Sister Hospitality".

The Mother Mary Lange Guild office is blessed to include her as a member of our dedicated staff.



Last Rites for Mother Mary: Administered by the "Second Founder"

By Father John Bowen, SS

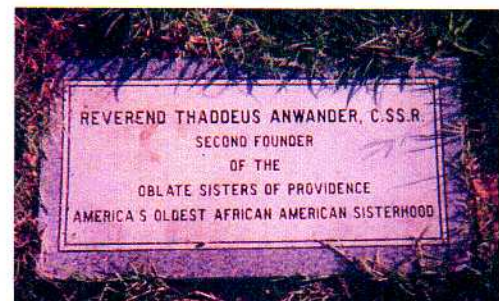
When Father Joubert died in November, 1843, no other priest was willing or able to take over the task as Director of the Oblate community. For nearly four years the Sisters were left on their own. Then Providence inspired the Superior of the Redemptorist community, Father John N. Neumann, CSsR (now a canonized Saint) to recommend the task to newly ordained Father Thaddeus Anwander, CSsR. The young priest was able to get a reluctant permission from Archbishop Eccleston. ("Cui Bono," he had said, "To what purpose?")

For more than seven years the new Director worked to attract vocations, strengthen the program at St. Frances



Academy, beg money and become truly a "second founder". Even after his transfer to New Orleans in 1855 and through further assignments he visited the convent and Mother Lange.

So it was that during a visit he had just said an early Mass for the Sisters on February 3, 1882 when he was called to assist Mother Lange on her deathbed. Father Anwander did so much for the Oblates he is lovingly considered "the second founder". He died November 1, 1893. He is buried in a cemetery in the community of Dundalk in Baltimore, MD. Oblates still conduct pilgrimages to his grave on a high hill overlooking Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery.



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



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