



# The Lange Letter

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Oblate Sisters of Providence



Summer/Fall 2009

Mother Mary [Elizabeth] Lange Guild News

Issue No. 54

## ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

By Marie-Alberte Boursiquot,  
M.D., F.A.C.P.



In 2007, as the  
sole physician

member of the Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors, I was invited by Sr. Mary Virginie Fish, OSP (then guild Director) to review a few medical cases to see if they might be worthy of submission to the Vatican Office for the cause of saints towards advancing the canonization of Mother Mary Lange. I enlisted the aid of a colleague and requested that he independently review the two cases that I was asked to review. After arriving at the independent conclusion that one of the two cases was considered worthy, we submitted our case for submission to Rome.

In an effort to better organize this process for future reviews, and with the approval of the board, a *Medical Investigation Committee* (MIC) was formed naming me Chair. The committee is currently composed of the following members: Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, Rev. John Bowen, S.S., Toni Moore-Duggan, Sr. Alexis Fisher, OSP, and yours truly.

Rev. Wes Spiewak (Roman Postulator) is currently assembling an historical review of Mother Lange's life for approval in Rome. Once this is accomplished the medical case deemed worthy of review by us will be reviewed by him and then sent to the Tribunal office in Baltimore for approval. This case will then be re-examined in Rome by the "*Consulta Medica*" which is a panel of physicians appointed by the Vatican to give the final declaration that a medical recovery is deemed inexplicable by current medical standards.

(see Road page 2)

*Mother Mary Lange, OSP (1784-1882): Haitian immigrant educator, a free woman of color in a slave state who had courage, faith, compassion, unwavering trust in God's providence; founded St. Frances Academy, Baltimore, MD, 1828; foundress of Oblate Sisters of Providence the first religious community for women of color, 1829; candidate for sainthood.*

## RECOMMITMENT MATTERS

By Christine M. Tolson  
OSP Associate

Being a Guild member is highly supportive to the cause for canonization of the OSP

foundress, Mother Mary Lange; as seen by the many representatives at the yearly renewal ceremony at Mt. Providence, Baltimore, MD, USA. It is a celebration by the available Guild board members, chapters, members, Oblate Sisters, and friends to renew the spirit and also honor those providing exceptional service to the cause of Mother Lange.

A look back at the installation of the Guild board in 1991 sees the initiators, Sr. Alice Chineworth, OSP, Sr. Marina Kelly, OSP, Sr. Virginie



Recommitment award recipients: Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM, Toni Moore Duggan, ML Board President, Daniel Medinger, Board Member, receive commendations for effective, dedicated service to Mother Lange cause.

Fish, OSP and Fr. John W. Bowen, SS. Two are yet active on the Board – Fr. Bowen and Sr. Marina. Of lay board members, two still attend the monthly meetings – Toni Moore Duggan and Lenwood Johnson. Being a newly installed member, I am

impressed with the ideas and ingenuity provided for projects to promote the cause. The most recent honorees included Mr. Daniel Medinger, former editor of the Catholic Review. His diligence with the support by committee members, provided the recent website ([www.motherlange.org](http://www.motherlange.org)), observed inter-ationally. Mrs. Toni Moore Duggan was also honored and respected for two consecutive terms

(see Recommitment page 3)



# Oblates Celebrate 180 Years of Foundation

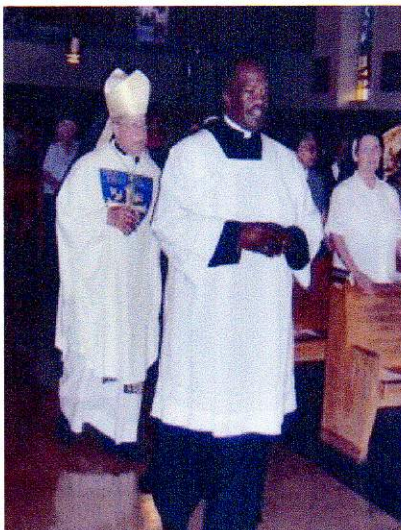
By Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP

The Second of a series of events to celebrate the 180th Anniversary of the Oblate Sisters of Providence was a special evening liturgy on July 2, 2009.

Bishop Olivier, (Washington, DC, retired) was the main celebrant of the special liturgy which began at 6:30 p.m. Concelebrants were our chaplain, Father John W. Bowen, SS, and eight priests and deacons from the Baltimore area. The theme of the liturgy was "Walking in the Light of Faith."

Deacon Paul Shelton, homilist, gave a truly rousing homily, lauding the work and the spirit of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. There was rapt attention as he spoke of the hardships endured by the Sisters throughout their long history. He spoke movingly of the unfinished wing of the Mother House, a building sorely needed for the care of the sick and elderly Sisters.

General Intercessions were in Spanish, English, French and Ebo to honor the languages of the membership. Sisters Dora Fernandez, Julia Apolonio, Helene Therese Stanislaus, and Anthonia C. Ugwu gave the intercessions



in that order. These four Sisters, coming from Costa Rica, Belize, the United States and Nigeria represent some of the diversity of Oblate membership.

Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, was the facilitator of the Liturgy, with the help of her committee: Sisters Julia Apolonio, Stephen Beauford, Marcia Hall, Bernadette Montenegro and Mrs. Theresa Favors. Music was furnished by the Church Choir of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington, DC under the able leadership of Mr. Kenneth Louis.

Other events to be held in the year of the celebration of the 180th Anniversary are the re-dedication by Archbishop O'Brien of the Chapel at St. Frances Chase Street, September 18, 2009. This will be followed by a banquet at St. Frances Academy Community Center at which there will be an auction of aprons decorated by celebrities.

(Above Photo) Celebrating the 180th Anniversary of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, was Bishop Leonard Oliver of Washington, DC with Brother Marx Tyree, SSJ attending  
(Below) Oblate Sisters of Providence in entrance procession marking the foundation of the congregation on July 2, 1829.

## ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

(Road from page 1)

Mother Lange is currently named a *Servant of God*. Once the historical documents on her life of sanctity are approved she will assume the title of *Venerable*. Upon acceptance and approval of an inexplicable medical recovery she will be named *Blessed*. Thereafter the process begins again where a new medical recovery deemed inexplicable will require review and approval. Thereafter, please God, she will rightfully be declared a *Saint*.

Now more than ever your prayers for the success of this effort are needed. From the standpoint of the MIC, if you or someone you know is the recipient of a medical recovery felt to occur exclusively through the intercession of Mother Lange, please submit your story to the MLG office for review by the committee.

Rest assured that our labors are not in vain and, God willing, many of us will live to celebrate what is already known in the Father's kingdom and that is that Mother Mary Lange lives eternally in the company of her fellow Saints.



For more information about these and other events please call 410-242-8500 or check the website:

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

***DID YOU KNOW*** that we mail Lange Letter issues every state of the USA except six: Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Vermont. Perhaps you know someone in these states, or in another country, who would like to hear about Mother Mary Lange and her admirable life of faith, and would like to receive this newsletter. Let us know! God bless.



## ***Favors Asked; Favors Received; Favors Asked; Favors Received; Favors Asked***

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

*I recently underwent back surgery. I was unable to stand on my feet and had publicly collapsed this for a period of thirteen months. My surgery lasted ten hours. My age is 92 years! I prayed daily to Mother Mary Lange for two things: Postulants and continued thriving of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, secondly for a healing for myself. Suffice to say I am free of all pain, do not use a cane or walker and drives my own car. I am completely independent. All are impressed and I credit, of course, all to Mother Mary Lange.*

**M.C., MI.**

I began to read the Prayer for the Beautification of Mary Mother Lange, and the sentence, 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. I was feeling much prejudice because my son is an addict and had several legal encounters. I felt isolated and looked-down upon and ashamed. Comments to me included: You are nice person what happen to your son; why is your son like this, what did you do?" Listening to stories of successful children was always a knife in my heart. I was failure as a mother and as a person. This sentence from the prayer helped me to have strength and continue to pray for my son and beg for his recovery. For the past 4 years the pain was so great and my sobs so deep. So many times I just wanted to abandon my prayers and the green card with the prayer to Mother Mary Lange would find its way into my heart giving me the desire to pray and stay close to Jesus. My son still struggles with addiction; however, my comfort is in prayer especially to Mother Lange.

Now Mother Mary Lange is close to me and helps in day-to-day activities. Examples included reapplying for certification and I was 25 hours short. I said a prayer to Mother Lange and immediately she showed where the misplaced papers were located. I wanted to visit Mother Mary Lange's place in Baltimore. The day June 6<sup>th</sup> was cleared for me, no obligations of work or family responsibilities. I looked on the Internet and pleased to find that a prayer service would be held at 2 pm. I called, however I did not leave a message. My GPS could not find it and map quest was not clear. I asked Mother Lange to help me find her. Sister called me, and gave me perfect directions and I found my way to a beautiful celebration

**K.S., PA.**

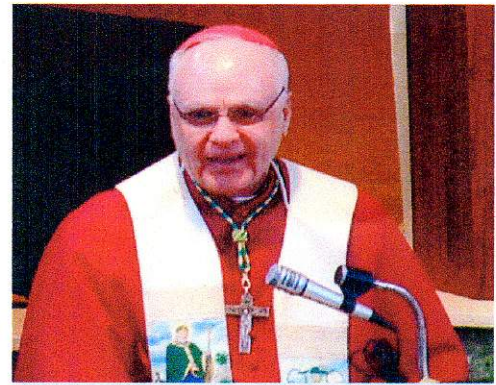
### ***WE COUNT ON YOU...***

It was noted that the youngest signing for Mother Lange to be named a saint were kindergarten children of Mt. Providence Child Development Center, Baltimore, MD. They printed, of course! Now the oldest?

Well, no one was for telling. We continue the signatures project and all the geographic areas which have shown the desires of the people, and their devotion to Mother Lange: *Pennsylvania:* Danville, Columbia, McSherrystown, Tunkhannock, Bethlehem, Richboro, Wyoming, Shrewsbury, Bethel Park, Huntingdon, Williamsport, Sayre, E. Stroudsburg, Swoyersville, Reading, Downingtown, Bensalem, E. Lansdowne, Coatesville. *South Carolina:* Rock Hill, Columbia, Greenville, Charleston, Sumter, Charlotte, Hopkins. *Virginia:* Richmond, Stafford, Alexandria,

Manassas. *Washington, D.C.* *Wisconsin:* Port Edwards, Milwaukee. Have you found your state or country mentioned since our issue a year ago? Between 4000-5000 signatures were sent in! What a wonderful showing of support for our Mother Lange! Perhaps you haven't had a chance to send in?

All you need do is sign your name and city/state/country (no address) and say you believe she's a saint, then mail it to the address on this publication. Ask friends to sign your paper. We know Mother Lange is a saint, but we want the world to know....to know of this brave, dedicated, compassionate, determined, faithful and faith-filled woman. She has helped you somehow: won't you help her, our saint-in-the-making? Do it today! Thank you! Mother Lange, pray for us!



**Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien inspires and supports attendees of Recommitment Service**

### ***(Recommitment from page 1)***

as president of the Guild, and her ongoing dedication since the start. Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM can be described as the glue that keeps our Guild office efficient by attention to detail, courteous organization, timely managed report skills, and mostly, unstinting dedication to the cause of Mother Mary Lange.

This year's Recommitment Service was celebrated on Saturday June 6, 2009 and officiated by the Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, with words of continued support and encouragement. Knights of Columbus sent their honor guards. Chapter activities were proclaimed, and fellowship followed.

*"And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."*

**ROMANS 8:28**



# Mother Mary Lange's Festival of Sacred Song

By Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP

The Mother Mary Lange Guild's first Festival of Sacred Song on April 26, 2009 coordinated and chaired by Janice Greene Curtis was *fantabulous!* This event was so grace-filled! Janice did a fantastic job coordinating the event



along with her committee, Tony Moore-Duggan, Siegfried Presberry, Theresa Wilson Favors and Carole Depestre. All of their effort really brought forth a spiritual day.

Choirs involved were Mrs. Catherine Thomas' Women Choir Plus One, St. Cecilia, Director Mr. Herbert Mills, St. Joseph from Alexandria, Virginia, Director, Mr. Eugene Harper and St. Matthew, Director, Ms. Wannetta Thompson. Each choir was superb, all adhered to their schedule and everything went extremely well.

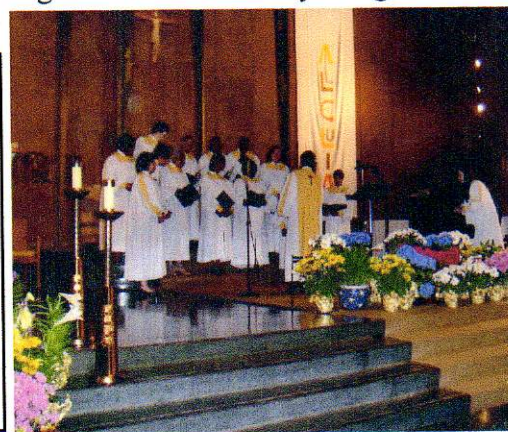


All the renditions by the individual choir left its own spirit of worship and charism. Each echoed the grace and mercy of God as the people in the pew were drenched with the power of the Holy Spirit. Janice, as Emcee, was better than any radio or TV Celebrity. She was great.

We look forward to our next Annual Festival of Sacred Songs. The time of the event was great and from the comments expressed after the festival, we can look forward to a better attendance next year. The last week in April seems ideal for a second showing of the Mother Mary Lange Festival of Sacred Songs.

(Top Left Photo)

Janice Greene, excellent emcee and chairperson of first annual Festival of Sacred Song, pauses in awe and enjoyment along with the Oblate of Providence Sisters who attended the joyous event.



Illustrious music from Choirs of:

St. Joseph, Alexandria, VA directed by Eugene Harper (Below right), St. Matthew directed by Wannetta Thompson (Above right), St. Cecilia directed by Herbert Mills (Middle left), and St. Bernardine directed by Catherine Neale Thomas (Below left), all of Baltimore.



*Inspirational Musings:*

*Reflective moments*

A book by

Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP

On sale at the following sites:

[www.amixon.com](http://www.amixon.com),

[www.bn.comand](http://www.bn.comand)

[www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com)

or call

888-795-4274 ext. 7876

Next month look for

*Adventures in Poetry:*

*A Collection of Poems*

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To engage a speaker or plan a pilgrimage  
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Mother Lange Guild Office  
701 Gun Road  
Baltimore, MD 21227-3899



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# 2008 ~ ANNUAL STAY AT HOME BALL ~ 2009

Alexander, Dr. Guy/Joslyn  
 Alston, Cecilia  
 Alvarez, Luis  
 Ames, Deacon Jack/Chris  
 Ancrum, Eileen V.  
 Anderson, Lucy  
 Anonymous  
 Araujo, Jorge G.  
 Arnold, Francis E.  
 Baker, Sr. Alice Eudora, IHM  
 Baeza, Sr. Trinita, OSP  
 Baird, Sr. Anita, DHM  
 Barksdale, Sharon  
 Barr, Joseph F.  
 Beauford, Sr. M. Stephen, OSP  
 Beecham, Sr. Annette, OSP  
 Belinic, David  
 Benovil, Marie.  
 Billinger, Iris  
 Birch, Brenda.  
 Boland, Most Rev. J. Kevin, Sav, GA  
 Bowen, Fr. John W., SS  
 Brent, OSP, Sr. Katharine  
 Brice, Helen W.  
 Brooks, James & Patricia  
 Brown, Robert F.  
 Brown, Dolores E.  
 Bryan, A. Bertille  
 Burk, Sr. Emily, OSP  
 Campbell, Mary & Bill  
 Carmon, Bishop Dominic  
 Carmona, Marie  
 Carroll, Mary V.  
 Casden, Leslie Anne  
 Cutchember, Viola T.  
 Davis, Lessie  
 Davis, Lessie  
 Case, Geraldine C..  
 Case, Fr. Lowell D., SSJ,  
 Castellano, Barbara  
 Ceballos, Benny  
 Cerge, Joell  
 Chiffriller, SSJ, V. Rev. Edw.  
 Chineworth, Sr. Mary Alice OSP  
 Chizea, OSP, Sr. Philomena  
 Churchill, Mr. John/Genevieve  
 Clinton, Pauline  
 Cohen, Lucy M.

Collins, Marcella C.  
 Collins, Fr. William  
 Connolly, Nancy  
 Cook, Msgr Paul  
 Cooper, Beverly A.  
 Cooper, Joyce L.  
 Coverdale, Ruth  
 Cowans, Florence M.  
 Crowley, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd  
 Curry, Louise T.  
 Davis, Lessie  
 Davis, Mrs. Lillie  
 Davis, Sr. M. Rose, IHM  
 Deschappelles, Sr. Carmen, OSP,  
 Dilworth, Mary Yvonne  
 Dixon, Dorothy C.  
 Dorsey, Agnes  
 Dorsey, Danise Ann Jones-  
 Douglass, Dr. Phyllis B.  
 Duncan, Donna C. Eckert, Kathryn...  
 Ellison, Hazel Pitchford  
 Eiland, Ann...  
 Ennett, Doris A.  
 Fabilli, Mary  
 Farina, Msgr. Michael diTeccia  
 Fenwick, OSP, Sr. Constance  
 Fernandez, OSP, Sr. Hortensia  
 Ferrier, Caridad  
 Fest, Fr. Donald, SSJ  
 Figgs, Dr. Keith C.  
 Filippelli, SSJ, Rev. John  
 Fish, OSP, Sr. M. Virginie  
 Fleming, Jacqueline  
 Fleming, Charles  
 Fleming, Pauline  
 Ford, Mrs. Alberta  
 Ford, Theresa D.  
 Friend, Margaret  
 Gadarowski, Catherine V.  
 Gallagher, Sr. Mary Jo, IHM  
 George, Ms. Theodora E.  
 Gilbert, Sr. Magdala Marie, OSP  
 Gomes, Dorothy T.  
 Gordon, Barbara  
 Graeb, JoAnn  
 Green, Joan P.  
 Greene, Janice  
 Griffin, James D.

Guerin, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
 Guerrero, Sr. Esther, MCDP'S  
 Guthrie, Alkeisha  
 Guttierrez, OSP, Sr. M. Soledad  
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 Halley, John & Maryalice  
 Handy, Ruby  
 Handley, Gaile  
 Hagen, Catherine  
 Harris, Mary Louise  
 Harris, Rev. Raymond  
 Harvin, Mr. & Mrs. Lee/marie  
 Herroh, Lady Anita, KPCLA #124  
 Hester, Sr. Melissa, IHM  
 Hodges, Clifford A.  
 Hodges, Tidi  
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 Hook, Mary  
 Holt, Carol  
 Hughes, Most Rev. Alfred-New Orlens  
 Hulbert, Inez N.  
 Johnson, OSP, Sr. Celestina  
 Johnson, Deacon & Mrs. William  
 Johnson, Yvette  
 Jones, Francine Haig  
 Jones, Lenora B.  
 Joyner, Mrs. Annamaria  
 Kane, Nadine  
 Keaton, Barbara D.  
 Keeler, Cardinal William H.  
 Keeler, Preston  
 Kelly, Anne T.  
 Kemper, Rev. John, SS.  
 Kimber, Jimmie  
 King, Deborah L.  
 King, Rev. Michael  
 Knecht, Mrs. Sharon  
 Koegler, Bruce  
 Kolodziej, Rev. Michael, OFM Conv  
 Kosar, Mr. & Mrs. James  
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 LaVina, Kathleen K.  
 Lavicka, Marcella F.  
 Lawrence, Mrs. Elsie C.  
 Lawson, Vimara  
 Lee, Stephen Xavier



# 2008 ~ ANNUAL STAY AT HOME BALL ~ 2009

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 Lindsay, Gwendolyn A.  
 Longhenry, Frederick D.  
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 Luten, Nina  
 Mann, Constance  
 March, Erich  
 McCarthy, Timothy L.  
 McCormisk, Rita A.  
 McMurry, Rev. John  
 Marino, Sr. Eileen  
 Marinaro, Fran & Sandy  
 Markmann, Margaret, M.T.  
 Marshburn, Mrs. Norma  
 Martin, Brenda C  
 Martin, Marylah C.  
 Martin Vonulrick  
 Mattingly, SS, Fr. John  
 Mattos, Belinda J.  
 Maurer George & Virginia  
 Messina, Joseph  
 Mello, Dorothy M.  
 =Mello, Regina F.  
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 Merrick, Ms. Michelly B.  
 Merez, Ms. Hannah  
 Michaux, Joyce Winston  
 Modras, Ronald  
 Mosley, Mary  
 Motte, Sister Brenda, OSP  
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 Murphy, Mr. Daniel  
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 Neal, Geraldine M.  
 Neale, Dorothy M.  
 Neale, OSP, Sr. Majella  
 Newman, Most Rev. William C.  
 Nolan, Derek/Anna  
 Nolan, Patrick  
 Norris, Mrs. Luz Valdes  
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 O'Connor, Rev. Francis M, SJ  
 Olivier, SVD, Most Rev. Leonard J.  
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 O'Rourke, SSJ, Matthew  
 Padgett, Ms. Patricia

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 Saylor, Audrey  
 Schieler, Brother Robert, FSC  
 Scruggs, LaVerna  
 Seabrook, Bradley M.  
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 Sheehan, Sr. Mary, IHM  
 Sister Helen, OSF  
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 Swint, Mrs. Virginia A  
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 Talley, Lucille  
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 Tyson, Joseph, SSJ  
 Tyree, Bro. Marx, SSJ  
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 Vitale, Michael L.  
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 Wallace, Margaret  
 Washington, Marie  
 Washington, Velma  
 Watts, Lorraine  
 Weiss, Sandy  
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 Wilson, Arabella  
 Wilson, Carmelita  
 Wilson, Ernest  
 Wilson, Ruth J.  
 Winston, Phyllis  
 Wiseman, Rose S.