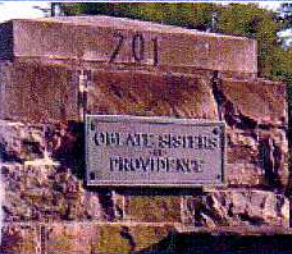




The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



August 2004

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 39

Mother Lange Symposium Scores Big

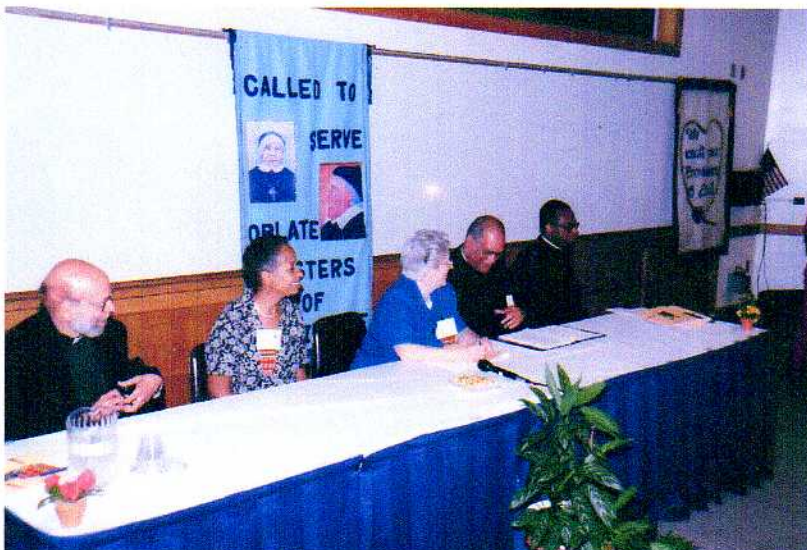
Morgan State University, Baltimore, hosted the much heralded and anticipated Symposium: **Mary Lange: Bold Legacy to Freedom...the vision yesterday, today, and tomorrow.** Sponsored by the M. M. Lange Guild, the activities of the day were brought to fruition by a dedicated committee headed by co-chairs Toni Moore Duggan (vice president) and Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM. Blessed with picture perfect weather, the day became a treasure of informative exchange as experts shared various aspects surrounding the life and times of Mother Mary Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence. William Cardinal Keeler of the Archdiocese of Baltimore gave special remarks for the event and conducted the Recommitment Service for the Guild members, as well as Symposium attendees. It was a crowning moment in a spectacular day.

Offered as one of the major activities celebrating Oblates' 175th anniversary of foundation (1829 - 2004), the Symposium served as a forum of information. It uniquely gave recognition and testimony to the hand of Providence--God's continuing faithfulness in the establishment and preservation of the first congregation of women religious of color in the world. Speakers portrayed the antebellum setting as well as the social and religious climate wherein women, against all odds gifted (and continue to gift) the Catholic Church, the country--the world in service, primarily through education, to youth, the aged and the poor.

Board member Marlene Apollon served as the MC. Presenters and their topics were: Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, D. Hist. Sci. "Mary Lange in the Millieu of Black Catholics of Antebellum America"; Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D "Mary Lange and the

History of the Oblate Sisters of Providence"; Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D. "Mary Lange: Extending the Vision...The IHM Connection"; Fr. Thaddeus J. Posey, OFM, Cap., Ph.D. "Mary Lange and Black Spirituality: Mother Mary Lange's Spiritual Gift to the Black Community"; and Fr. William L. Montgomery, Ph.D. "The Oblate Sisters of Providence: The Origins of their Mission to Latin America".

Other Panelists speaking of Oblates today and vision for the future were: Sr. Reginald Gerdes, OSP on "OSP Archives"; Lenwood Johnson, "The Mother Mary Lange Guild"; Toni Moore-Duggan, "M. L. Chapters Supporting the Cause"; Esther Sanders, "Oblate Associates"; Sr. Stephen Beauford, OSP "Vocations"; Sr. John Francis Schilling, OSP "St. Frances Academy"; Sr. Claudina Sanz, OSP, "The M. E. L. Home for Abused Girls"; Sr. Virginie Fish, OSP, "The Cause of Mother Mary Lange for Sainthood"; and Fr. John Bowen, SS concluded with a wrap up and closing prayer.



Symposium presenters: (left to right) Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, D. Hist. Sci.; Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D.; Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D., Fr. Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap, Ph.D. and Fr. William Montgomery, Ph.D.

