



The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



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Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

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The REAL Miracle

Fr. Borbely, SJ challenges members of the Guild to "think outside the box." In an all day Strategic Planning Retreat/Workshop

By Sister Virginie Fish, OSP

We've been so intent on getting Mother Lange canonized, we've become almost myopic. The thrust and interest has become "Where is the cause NOW?" What has ROME said? Do we have a HEALING yet?" Has it passed "muster?" (been approved as a miraculous healing?)

Father James Borbely, Jesuit consultant and spiritual director gave a retreat/workshop to members of the Mother Lange Guild Board and Chapter reps Saturday, April 24, '06.



Father James Borbely, S.J., directed a Retreat/Workshop for members of the M. L. Guild Board and Chapter Reps.

virtues of this woman of God, one gleans evidence of the power wrought through connectedness with Christ.

Mother Lange was patient when she could have been arrogant and demanding. She was generous, selfless and forgiving when she could have been self-centered, angry, and disenchanted with the unspeakable indignities vented by Church and society. (Long before the Emancipation Proclamation, Mother Lange, a woman of color, immigrated about 1812 to Maryland, a slave state. Mother Lange had forbearance and perseverance when it could have been so easy to quit. Mother Lange shared her gift of education with the "have nots" of her day. She sought out the marginalized, the aged and youth. And God used her to work the

miracle of founding the first congregation of women religious in the world, the congregation whose fruit continues beyond 177 years.

The virtues of Mother Lange must be key to promoting her canonization leading to the hope of changing lives. Fr. Borbely challenged his hearers to simply GO OUT and DO IT-leaving the results to God.



Retreat/Workshop participants show various expressions of attentiveness. To the left Toni Moore Duggan, Guild president and LaVerna Scruggs. Above l. to r. Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM; Lenwood Johnson; Sister Katharine Brent, OSP

Attendees were reminded that the greatest miracle is the transformation of lives. If lives are changed, good is accomplished. If Mother Lange's life of virtue is known, emulated or practiced, THAT would even surpass physical healing. (Problem: it can not be documented. Rome requires documentation.) Consequently, too much emphasis is placed on a physical healing.

Father emphasized the need to promote the virtues of Mother Mary. Through the knowledge and



Retreat/Workshop participants take a break: l. to r. Sister Babette Opferman, IHM; Carol Depestre; Lenwood Johnson; (seated) Sister Marina Kelly. OSP

All photos this page by: Christine Tolson

