



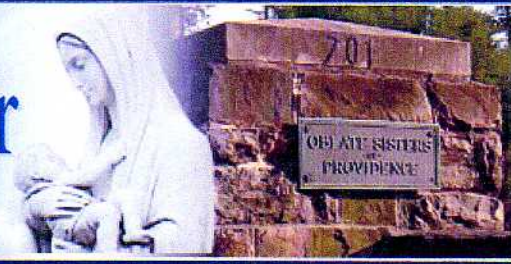
# The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence

April 2005

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 41

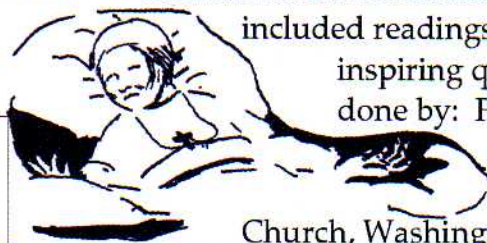


## MOTHER LANGE DAY

When Mother Mary lay dying in great pain early in the morning of February 3, 1882, she refused medication so as not to break her fast. She wanted to receive her Jesus in Holy Communion. In the chapel below, Mass was being celebrated and a young novice was pronouncing her first vows: "I promise," she prayed, "poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the constitutions of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. And I ask the help of St. Frances of Rome, St. Joseph, St. Benedict and all our blessed patrons. Amen." Upstairs, Fr. Anwander began administering the sacrament of anointing. As he touched Mother Mary's hands, he stopped and gave her the last blessing. Mother Mary died as she had lived, with hands outstretched in love and service (Lannon, p.20).

Thursday, February 3, 2005, the 123rd anniversary of Mother Mary Lange's death was

Artist sketch by Anne d'Auray Tracy



commemorated at the Oblate motherhouse. More than 100 people braved early snow showers and uncertain weather to attend the commemorative interfaith service. The event

included readings and reflections on inspiring quotes of Mother Lange done by: Father Donald Fest, SSJ,

pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Washington, D.C. and MML Board member; Father Jack Podsiadlo, SJ, St. Ignatius, Baltimore and MML Board member; Pastor William Sewell, Interfaith Academy Church; Sister Marina Kelly, OSP, Mount Providence and MML Board member; Esther Sanders, OSP Associate Program and MML Board member. Father Donald Sterling, pastor of The New All Saints Church, Baltimore, gave the keynote address and said, "Mother Lange spoke with conviction, predicated on faith and trust in God and love for her brothers and sisters."

## DOCUMENTS IN TRANSIT

At last the documents attesting to the life of heroic virtue and deeds of the Servant of God, Mary Lange, have been sent to Rome for review and decision. If accepted, the title of Venerable will be given to this candidate for sainthood. The cause of Mother Lange, considered an "ancient" cause by the Church (Mary Lange died in 1882), requires investigation of information obliterated (or diminished) by time, physical relocation, language and a dearth of correspondence and public records. Now the cause moves to the

next phase: investigating favors (especially physical healings) received. Recipients of a healing received through the intercession of Mother Mary should be mindful of two questions Rome will ask: 1) Did you pray to anyone else? 2) To whom else did you pray for the same healing? Then, if healed only through Mother Lange's intercession, are you willing to so testify, and produce medical records attesting to the nature of one's recovery? Documents of healing will be sent from Mother Lange Office to the proper officials to determine authenticity.



Computer Man Extraordinaire: Fran (Francis) Marinaro, computer troubleshooter, volunteers time and skills on Wednesdays to the Mother Lange cause. His service is tapped throughout the Oblate Motherhouse. Other days Fran seeks fulltime employment. We pray with him through the intercession of Mother Lange.

# BREAKING THROUGH THE ROOF

When you really need something, you will go to almost any length. The Gospel story of Mark 2: 1-12 tells of friends so determined and desperate to help another friend, that to get to Jesus, the Master Healer, they literally "broke through the roof". Then they laid their friend in need of healing at the feet of Jesus. Unabashed by such boldness, Jesus forgave the man's sins and then healed his infirmity. "Take up your mat and walk."

Many are in need of healing: physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Friends do try to help yet they often fall short of "breaking through the roof", going to extraordinary means to meet your need. Do we dare suggest that the "break through the roof" of

our reluctance is based on fear, pride, and independence, which we need to lay at the feet of Dr. Jesus with our friend? In Luke 5:12-15, Jesus is approached by a man who said, "If you want to, you can cure me." Without hesitation, eager to help, Jesus responds, "I do want to. Be cured." Oh, yes, as with so many healed in the gospels, they went out reporting the miracle God had wrought for them.



Mother Lange's  
Prayer book

*Lord, through the intercession  
of Mother Mary Lange,  
you can make me whole.*

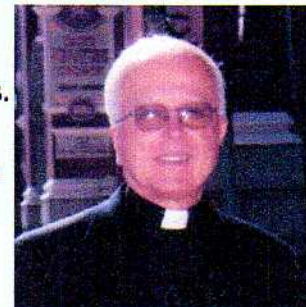
**Report your healing to the**

**Mother Lange Office for publication.**

**Write, email, or fax to report the good news!**

## MEET FATHER JOHN PODSIADLO, S.J.

Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, is a member of the Society of Jesus for forty six years. Father presently directs and coordinates the Nativity Network Program. This Jesuit sponsored program attempts to break the cycle of poverty through education. Essentially the same goal is Mother Lange's, the network seeks to achieve its goals as national independent educational centers, each with its own identity, mission and character. In addition, Fr. Jack is local superior of the St. Ignatius Community, Baltimore. In spite of a "full plate", Fr. Jack, convinced of the value to the faithful of recognizing Mother Lange's heroic life, has made the commitment to work for her canonization. Fr. Jack is an active and supportive member of the MML Guild Board of Directors.



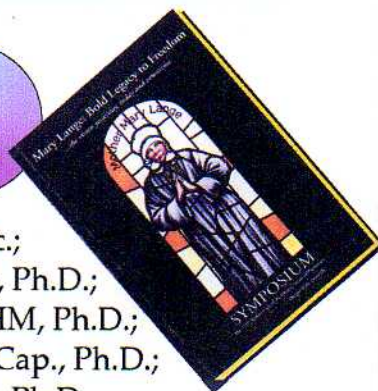
## MISSED THE SYMPOSIUM?

MISSED THE SYMPOSIUM? "not to worry"  
SYMPOSIUM PUBLISHED PAPERS...

A/V AVAILABLE

Papers presented by notable professors at the OSP 175th Anniversary Symposium sponsored by the Mother Mary Lange Guild have been published. Topics give timely and scholarly information. Each presentation is a major contribution clarifying, instructing and broadening concepts of America's antebellum social, religious, and economic milieu from which Mary Lange was called forth.

It was heard at  
the symposium; now  
read the presenters:



Cyprian Davis, OSB, D.Hist.Sc.;  
Father William Montgomery, Ph.D.;  
Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D.;  
Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap., Ph.D.;  
Diane Batts Morrow, Ph.D..

Books, videos, DVDs are available through the MML Guild Office. See the order blank enclosed with this Lange Letter.

