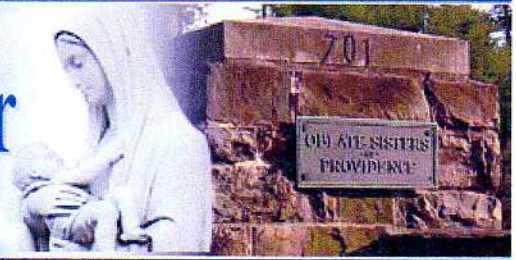




The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



April 2006

Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

Issue No. 44

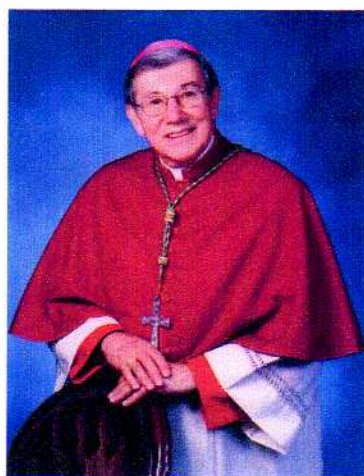
Telling the Mother Lange Story - One Rosary at a Time

By Toni Moore-Duggan

“We recommend this important affair to our good Mother...”

It is well known that much of Mother Lange’s spirituality is centered around her relationship with Mary, the Mother of God. Taking the name of God’s mother Mary as she entered religious life came, out of her devotion and recognition that to honor Mary was to honor God. Given the perils of her journey to holiness, Mother Mary, as do her daughters today, find much solace in regularly praying the rosary. Mother Lange and her daughters know that praying the rosary is a sure way to the heart of Christ. And that through Mary they would receive graces that would hasten fulfillment.

The Board of Directors of the Mother Mary Lange Guild was inspired to share Mother Lange’s Marian spirituality through the distribution of rosary packets in parishes. This project gives insights into Mother Lange’s Marian spirituality and also increases devotion to Mary. **The packets contain a luminous rosary, a leaflet depicting the four sets of mysteries of the rosary and information about Mother Lange and the Mother Lange Guild.** Oblate Sisters of Providence, Board and Chapter members visit parishes, meet and greet the people of God and distribute a rosary packet.



Free will offerings cover the cost. Rosaries are freely distributed whether or not an offering can be made. The Mother Mary Lange Rosary Project offers an opportunity for individuals to receive this item of devotion—if not for themselves—then, as a spiritual gift for someone who may

learn the Mother Lange story or be in need of a stronger relationship with Mary the Mother of God.

Parishes that would like to participate by hosting a visit from Guild members distributing rosaries, please contact the Guild Office at 410-242-6861



Mother Lange Day—A Good Beginning for Black History Month

By Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP

The annual service celebrating Mother Lange’s death was held February 3rd at Mount Providence Convent. One of the highlights of the program was the testimonial of two individuals cured of illnesses that their doctors had indicated was terminal. Both prayed for healing through the intercession of Mother Lange. Both have survived five or more years and hope that by sharing their story, others will take intercessory prayer seriously, have increased hope and trust that God will also favor their requests. Medical records of the healings await the scrutiny of proper authorities.

Dr. Diana Hayes, guest speaker for the occasion, kept her hearers spellbound by her presentation of Lange’s life. She made even well known facts come alive as she clothed them in the historical setting reflecting Dr. Hayes’ rich background of study and experience. She followed the Oblate Foundress from Fells Point, the place of ship disembarkation, through the city of Baltimore to Chase Street where Mother last lived and died. She recounted the saintly life lived in spite of the suffering and indignities heaped upon her. She also had a sense of joy through the peace and confidence that was hers in the knowledge that she was doing God’s will. What a fitting celebration of her going home!

Most Reverend Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop and Urban Vicar of Baltimore will officiate at the Annual Rededication Service scheduled for May 24th at Mt. Providence Chapel.

Mother Lange, Pioneering Black Catholic Educator

(Excerpts from an article by Frere Buteau Espiegle, Public Relations Officer of the Brooklyn, New York Mother Lange Guild Chapter).

“To understand the courage and daring of Mother Lange, it is necessary... to comprehend the depths of white resistance to the education of black children in 19th century America. One strong evidence of that was a letter from Harriet Thompson, a black woman from New York to Pope Pius IX, in 1853. In her letter to the pope, she pointed out that their children were refused admission to the Catholic schools because of their race.

Lange demonstrated that she was a woman of extraordinary strength and character when she... founded the first black Catholic school in Baltimore and the first [lasting] religious congregation of women of color in the world, the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

The school that began in Lange’s house... [1828] still exists—St. Frances Academy. It continues today to provide quality education. It is the oldest [continuing educational] facility for children of color in the United States. Their mission was to secure the permanency of a

black Catholic school in the slave holding state of Maryland.

Msgr. Guy Sansaricq, Director of the National Center [of the Haitian Apostolate] said that Mother Lange’s legacy to the black community deserves the highest recognition. Her prodigious dedication to the

education of black children sprang from her deep faith and her tremendous devotion to the Holy Eucharist... Hence, the opposition constantly directed against her never generated any form of bitterness but rather fueled her ardor to the cause she so strongly believed.

It is evident that Mother Mary Lange revolutionized Catholic Education. The suffering, humiliations and perseverance

of Mother Mary Lange and the nineteenth century Oblates have contributed to the flowering in the twenty-first century of ... black bishops and ... black ... theologians...

Sister Mary Virginie Fish, Director of the Mother Lange Guild for the Canonization of Mother Mary Lange said:

“The Mother Mary Lange story is a story of courage and wisdom, a chronicle unique in the annals of Catholic and secular history... Mother Lange continues to speak to the world in several ways: as an immigrant, as an African American and as a Catholic.



“Let the little ones come to me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 19:14). Oblates with a few of their charges: l. to r. Sister Soledad Gutierrez, Sister Annunciata Fernandez, and Sister Claudina Sanz.

**Why a Chapter?
Indeed, what IS a
Chapter?**

Oblate Sisters of Providence

Cause for the canonization of Mother Mary Lange

The Board of Directors of the Mother Mary Lange Guild

Illustration demonstrates the “chain of command” in the process of promoting the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange.

M. L. Gift of Providence Chapter

Haitian Americans United for M. Lange

St. Peter Claver Chapter St. Inigoes, MD

Mother Lange Chapter St. Benedict, Philadelphia

OSP Alumni Chapter Havana, Cuba

N. Y. Mother Lange Chapter

The Mother Mary Lange Guild Board of Directors, a group made up of ex-officio, official and volunteer members cannot hope to meet the demands of research, education, the development of spiritual and practical on-going activities and events required to promote the cause for canonization that has reached global dimensions.

“The principal purpose and aim of Mother Lange Chapters shall be to *work alongside the Mother Lange Guild Board for the canonization of Mother Mary Lange*, the foundress of the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Chapters reach people not accessible to members of the Guild. They adopt the daily philosophy of Mother Lange: “Our sole wish is to do the will of God.” Chapter members tell the Mother Lange story, know and share her spiritual gifts, encourage the development of providence spirituality: trust in God,

experience deep devotion to the Eucharist and to the Mother of God (especially through the rosary). Members pray for her canonization. Chapters give service especially to the poor and marginalized, and assist the Guild through membership and an annual monetary offering to further the work of research, education, and promotional activities.

Semper Fideles (Always faithful)
Mother Mary Lange Gift of Providence Chapter members join a pilgrimage procession.

