



# The Lange Letter

Oblate Sisters of Providence



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Mother Mary {Elizabeth} Lange Guild News

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## Devotees Continue to Say, "Yes"

Committed to Mother Lange's Sainthood

By Sister Virginia Fish, OSP

The silent cry of conviction--"Make Mother Lange a Saint!" was almost palpable among Mother Lange devotees as they gathered for the Commissioning Service Saturday, June 2nd at Mt. Providence. Msgr. Damien Nalepa, pastor of St. Gregory-the-Great, presided at the Eucharistic liturgy. Concelebrating was Fr. John Bowen, SS, also serving as Deacon Seigfried Presberry.

Before accepting their voiced commitment, Msgr. Damien Nalepa spoke of the example of Mother Mary as worthy of emulation and the rightness of pursuing her cause for canonization.

Members of the Board, Chapters and Volunteers were asked if they desired to "renew the commitment made to work hand in hand with the National Board...to promote the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange?" Accepting the challenge, the response was a resounding affirmation. They chorused: "I am willing to continue the challenging course to have one of our own recognized by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church and declared a Saint of God..."

As the liturgy concluded, a member of each chapter spoke briefly of their group's efforts to promote the cause. At the offertory, a monetary offering was given to assist the Board in the many related activities toward the canonization process. An agape followed the liturgy.

**Board Members present were:** Sr. Annette Beecham, OSP, Superior General who gave the occasion and welcome. Others present were Marie-Alberte Boursiquot, M.D.; Rev. John Bowen, SS; Florence Cowans; Sr. Veronica de los Santos, OSP; Carole Depestre; Toni Duggan, President; Therese Wilson Favors; Sr. Virginia Fish, OSP, Guild Director; Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP; Janice Curtis Greene; Lenwood Johnson; Sr. Marina Kelly, OSP; Daniel Medinger; Sr. Babette Opferman, IHM; Deacon Seigfried Presberry; LaVerna Scruggs; Sr. Madeline Swaboski, IHM; and Christine Tolson.

**Chapters represented were:**

Gift of Providence (St. Veronica, Baltimore) represented by Deacon and Frances Presberry; HAU (Washington, Baltimore) co-chaired by Dr. Rose Marie Sylla St. Jean & Carole Depestre; St. Peter Claver (St. Inigoes, MD) chaired by Lorretta Ann Dove; Mother Lange Chapter (Santiago & Havana, Cuba) chaired by Daniel Ernesto Luaces (Represented by Sr. Elsa Maria Lopez, OSP).

**Joining Oblate Sisters were Volunteers**

Lillian Wainwright, Pat Stewart, Teresa Royale Catherine Thomas and St. Bernardine Choir.



## Your Story "Rocks"

By Sr. Virginia Fish, OSP

Your story "Rocks."

This was the comment in

a thank you note from a first grader at St. Joseph's religious education class in Hanover, PA.

Visiting classes of religious instruction, five sisters descended on a group of youngsters whose familiarity with women religious has, for most, if not all their young lives, been minimal. The younger ones, wide eyed and open eared were attentive and awed. The more mature, grades 5 - 8, seemed a bit removed yet their rapt attention and reflective questions were indicative of active interest.

In a large multi-purpose hall, Sister Aracelly (OSP) fashioned the Mother Lange head dress--the "bonnet," and with Sr. Katharine (OSP) distributed hand-outs. Sisters Virginia (OSP) and Madeline (IHM) told the younger children of Mother Mary by means of a "big chart" presentation. Sister Reginald (OSP), with appropriate commentary, presented Mary Lange to the

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## A Little Child Will Lead Them

By Stacey R. White

My son, Garrett White, is six years old and is very "prayerful." He is always praying and seems to have Jesus on his mind all the time. This morning, as we were all getting ready for school and work (for me), my oldest son, Scott, let our two big golden retrievers outside to run around, as we do each morning. We ... let the dogs run, feed them and put them back inside...

This morning, I went to call the dogs to eat and they did not come. My oldest son and I were calling the dogs from each corner of the house, becoming increasingly worried. Garrett said, "Mom, don't worry. All you have to do is pray." I said, "Okay, Garrett." But I still couldn't stop myself from the worry of what I would do.

Then Garrett slowly put on his shoes, went outside and began calling our dog's names (Balto and Bailey). I heard him call them one time. Then, I heard him call them with excitement and elation and knew

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## Out off the Mouth of Babes...

Art Linkletter expressed it thus: "Children ask the darnest things."

Charles Dickens simply called it "The Childrens' Hour"

Through the years the story of Mother Mary Lange has been offered to children in various settings: classroom instructional units, study groups, retreats, pilgrimages and classroom buzz sessions. The attentiveness and grasp of children of all ages to the faith and spirituality demonstrated in the Mother Lange story speaks of the relevance of grace then and now. Could it be an innate gift given by God that resonates in the simplicity of heart found only in children? No matter how you "cut it" children have something to say. And their faith and understanding belies their tender years.

Following a presentation on Mother Lange and the Oblate Sisters of Providence, questions were broached by students of a seventh grade social studies class at Cardinal Shehan Catholic School, Baltimore.

(Questions and responses are summarized for brevity.)

**Why did M. Lange come to Baltimore?** After running from war in Haiti, Jason, her family first went to Cuba, but left to find a better life in America. God led her to Baltimore. There was work God wanted her to begin here.

**Why didn't she get discouraged when people put her down?** She surely must have felt disappointed and upset; maybe even discouraged, Shanir, but she believed that God was keeping his promise to be with her always.

**Was it hard sacrificing one's whole life?** Yes, it was hard, Erica, but that's what Christians expect. They know that God will give them strength to do what he wants.

**Did she ever think that the sisterhood would one day fail?** She could not see the future, Allena, so she had to take one day at a time and try to do her very best.

Many more questions were forthcoming, but the bell ended the session. Attentiveness seemed the benchmark for the inner workings of the Spirit upon God's children.



