



# The Lange Letter



## Oblate Sisters of Providence

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Mother Mary [Elizabeth] Lange Guild News

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### From the Director

Hello! My name is Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP. I am the new Lange Guild Director for the Canonization of

Mother Mary Lange. It is a great pleasure to be able to walk with all of you as we work toward the next phase of the cause. I will do my best to do all I can. Know that you are in my prayers through the intercession of Mother Mary Lange.

### New Director of Lange Guild

by Sister Mary  
Alice Chineworth

When Sister Virginie Fish, OSP, director of Lange Guild from its inception, offered her resignation to Sister Annette, we knew that her replacement would be someone who could fill her shoes, and the fit would be perfect.

With the Holy Spirit at work, a wonderful thing happened! Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, a member of the Executive Board of Lange Guild, responded affirmatively to Sister Annette's request that she become the new director.

Sister Magdala Marie sees her new role as a challenge, because she has another ministry at Historic St. Francis Xavier Parish in the city of Baltimore, MD, where  
*(see Director page 2)*

**Mother Mary Lange, OSP (1784-1882): Haitian immigrant educator, a free woman of color in a slave state, who had courage, faith, compassion, unwavering trust in God's providence; founded St. Frances Academy, Baltimore, MD, 1828; foundress of Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious community for women of color, 1829; candidate for sainthood.**

### PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE

by Father John W. Bowen, S.S.

As Vice-Postulator of the cause of Mother Mary Lange, one of the most frequent questions I receive is about progress of the cause in Rome. The most positive part of the answer is the fact that Father Wes Spiewak, C.R., the Roman Postulator, is back in Rome working on the final form of the *Positio*, official documentation to be submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The only real worry is about the acceptance of the possible miracle to be submitted to the same Congregation. Because of advances in medical knowledge, the process is stricter than it has ever been. The Postulator has been sent the evidence of a possible miracle, but he has expressed the need for even more precise medical testimony. A recent article in a diocesan newspaper indicates that the cause of Cardinal Newman of  
*(see Cause page 2)*

*Dear Friend of Mother Mary Lange:*

*For years each Lange Letter carried a personal message in which I shared thoughts and observations about the cause for canonization of Mother Mary Lange. I'd like to revisit that practice one more time to express thoughts of my heart as I try to move on to other services and ministries to which I have been called.*



*Isaiah 43:19 ("See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?") it speaks loudly to me as God calls me to switch gears and change course in ministry. I have served to the best of my ability since being appointed to promote the cause in 1989. It has been a service of love, learning and reaping of rich spiritual rewards. I have been enriched through the many relationships that, through the years, have deepened into enduring friendships. I thank God for you. Through your interest, dedication, sacrifices and generous support you lightened the task and, by God's grace, made possible the impossible. My heart is filled with gratitude. The heroic virtues and charitable deeds of Mother Mary Lange have been made known to people across the U.S. and several foreign countries. People have testified to being inspired, encouraged, and the recipient of graces (even miracles). They are determined to press on to achieve the goal of seeing this woman of African Haitian ancestry raised to the highest honors of the altar. To God be the Glory! Continue, please, to be a part of this movement. May the world see in you the tremendous workings of the Spirit because, like Mother Lange, for you the "sole wish is to do the will of God".*

*Wherever God leads me, whatever I do, know that my interest and commitment to the cause of Mother Lange remains constant. Remain in peace, joy and love.*

*In God's providential care,*

*Sister M. Virginie Fish, OSP*

*P.S. Now that I am called to other ministries, I trust that you will pray for me as I continue to do for you. My only desire is that God, in all things will be glorified.*

