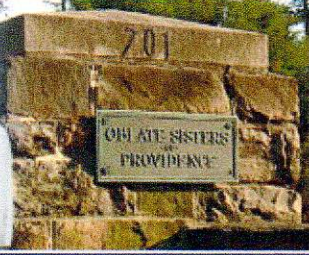




# The Lange Letter

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Oblate Sisters of Providence



Summer/Fall 2009

Mother Mary [Elizabeth] Lange Guild News

Issue No. 54

## ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

By Marie-Alberte Boursiquot, M.D., F.A.C.P.



In 2007, as the sole physician

member of the Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors, I was invited by Sr. Mary Virginie Fish, OSP (then guild Director) to review a few medical cases to see if they might be worthy of submission to the Vatican Office for the cause of saints towards advancing the canonization of Mother Mary Lange. I enlisted the aid of a colleague and requested that he independently review the two cases that I was asked to review. After arriving at the independent conclusion that one of the two cases was considered worthy, we submitted our case for submission to Rome.

In an effort to better organize this process for future reviews, and with the approval of the board, a *Medical Investigation Committee* (MIC) was formed naming me Chair. The committee is currently composed of the following members: Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, Rev. John Bowen, S.S., Toni Moore-Duggan, Sr. Alexis Fisher, OSP, and yours truly.

Rev. Wes Spiewak (Roman Postulator) is currently assembling an historical review of Mother Lange's life for approval in Rome. Once this is accomplished the medical case deemed worthy of review by us will be reviewed by him and then sent to the Tribunal office in Baltimore for approval. This case will then be re-examined in Rome by the "Consulta Medica" which is a panel of physicians appointed by the Vatican to give the final declaration that a medical recovery is deemed inexplicable by current medical standards.

(see Road 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.*

## RECOMMITMENT MATTERS

By Christine M. Tolson  
OSP Associate

Being a Guild member is highly supportive to the cause for canonization of the OSP foundress, Mother Mary Lange; as seen by the many representatives at the yearly renewal ceremony at Mt. Providence, Baltimore, MD, USA. It is a celebration by the available Guild board members, chapters, members, Oblate Sisters, and friends to renew the spirit and also honor those providing exceptional service to the cause of Mother Lange.

A look back at the installation of the Guild board in 1991 sees the initiators, Sr. Alice Chineworth, OSP, Sr. Marina Kelly, OSP, Sr. Virginie



Recommitment award recipients: Sister Madeline Swaboski, IHM, Toni Moore Duggan, ML Board President, Daniel Medinger, Board Member, receive commendations for effective, dedicated service to Mother Lange cause.

Fish, OSP and Fr. John W. Bowen, SS. Two are yet active on the Board – Fr. Bowen and Sr. Marina. Of lay board members, two still attend the monthly meetings – Toni Moore Duggan and Lenwood Johnson. Being a newly installed member, I am

impressed with the ideas and ingenuity provided for projects to promote the cause. The most recent honorees included Mr. Daniel Medinger, former editor of the Catholic Review. His diligence with the support by committee members, provided the recent website ([www.motherlange.org](http://www.motherlange.org)), observed internationally. Mrs. Toni Moore Duggan was also honored and respected for two consecutive terms

(see Recommitment page 3)

# Oblates Celebrate 180 Years of Foundation

By Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, OSP

The Second of a series of events to celebrate the 180th Anniversary of the Oblate Sisters of Providence was a special evening liturgy on July 2, 2009.

Bishop Olivier, (Washington, DC, retired) was the main celebrant of the special liturgy which began at 6:30 p.m. Concelebrants were our chaplain, Father John W. Bowen, SS, and eight priests and deacons from the Baltimore area. The theme of the liturgy was "Walking in the Light of Faith."

Deacon Paul Shelton, homilist, gave a truly rousing homily, lauding the work and the spirit of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. There was rapt attention as he spoke of the hardships endured by the Sisters throughout their long history. He spoke movingly of the unfinished wing of the Mother House, a building sorely needed for the care of the sick and elderly Sisters.

General Intercessions were in Spanish, English, French and Ebo to honor the languages of the membership. Sisters Dora Fernandez, Julia Apolonio, Helene Therese Stanislaus, and Anthonia C. Ugwu gave the intercessions



in that order. These four Sisters, coming from Costa Rica, Belize, the United States and Nigeria represent some of the diversity of Oblate membership.

Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP, was the facilitator of the Liturgy, with the help of her committee: Sisters Julia Apolonio, Stephen Beauford, Marcia Hall, Bernadette Montenegro and Mrs. Theresa Favors. Music was furnished by the Church Choir of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington, DC under the able leadership of Mr. Kenneth Louis.

Other events to be held in the year of celebration of the 180th Anniversary are the re-dedication by Archbishop O'Brien of the Chapel at St. Frances Chase Street, September 18, 2009. This will be followed by a banquet at St. Frances Academy Community Center at which there will be an auction of aprons decorated by celebrities.

(Above Photo) Celebrating the 180th Anniversary of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, was Bishop Leonard Oliver of Washington, DC with Brother Marx Tyree, SSJ attending  
(Below) Oblate Sisters of Providence in entrance procession marking the foundation of the congregation on July 2, 1829.

## ROAD TO SAINTHOOD

(Road from page 1)

Mother Lange is currently named a *Servant of God*. Once the historical documents on her life of sanctity are approved she will assume the title of *Venerable*. Upon acceptance and approval of an inexplicable medical recovery she will be named *Blessed*. Thereafter the process begins again where a new medical recovery deemed inexplicable will require review and approval. Thereafter, please God, she will rightfully be declared a *Saint*.

Now more than ever your prayers for the success of this effort are needed. From the standpoint of the MIC, if you or someone you know is the recipient of a medical recovery felt to occur exclusively through the intercession of Mother Lange, please submit your story to the MLG office for review by the committee.

Rest assured that our labors are not in vain and, God willing, many of us will live to celebrate what is already known in the Father's kingdom and that is that Mother Mary Lange lives eternally in the company of her fellow Saints.



For more information about these and other events please call 410-242-8500 or check the website:

[www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com).

***DID YOU KNOW*** that we mail Lange Letter issues every state of the USA except six: Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Vermont. Perhaps you know someone in these states, or in another country, who would like to hear about Mother Mary Lange and her admirable life of faith, and would like to receive this newsletter. Let us know! God bless.

