



*Servant of God Mary Lange*  
*Foundress, Oblate Sisters of Providence*

*Date of Birth: 1794*

*Date of Death: February 3, 1882*

*Date of Profession: July 2, 1829*

-Born in Santiago, Cuba where she lived in a primarily French speaking community.

-She received an excellent education and in the early 1800s moved to the United States.

-By 1813, Providence lead her to Baltimore, Maryland where a large community of French speaking Catholics from Haiti was gathered.

-As an educated person, independent thinker and a doer it didn't take her long to recognize that the immigrant children needed an education. There was no free public education for African American children in Maryland until 1868.

-She and Marie Magdalene Balas opened a school in her home in the Fells Point area of Maryland. They operated the school for over ten years.

-Providence then intervened again, sending Reverend Father James Joubert, SS, to encourage Mother Lange to found a religious congregation for the education of African American girls. Father Joubert provided spiritual direction, financial assistance and helped to recruit young women to join the community.

-For years Lange felt God's call to consecrate herself and her works entirely to Him. But at this time black men and women could not aspire to the religious life. Yet, God provided a way.

-On July 2, 1829, she and three other women professed their vows and became the Oblates Sisters of Providence.

-Mother Lange became the foundress and first superior general of the congregation. She served as superior from 1829 to 1832 and again from 1835 to 1841.

-The community educated and evangelized African Americans. However, she was always open to meeting the needs of the time. Which lead the community to care for youth, provide a home for orphans, educate freed slaves and admit them into the congregation and care for the terminally ill.

-After Fr. Joubert died in 1843 there was a sense of abandonment. However, Mother Lange never lost faith in Divine Providence.

-Mother Mary Lange practiced faith to an extraordinary degree. In fact, it was her deep faith which enabled her to persevere against all odds. To her black brothers and sisters she gave herself and her material possessions until she was empty of all but Jesus, whom she shared generously with all by witnessing to His teaching.

-In close union with Him, she lived through disappointment and opposition until God called her home, February 3, 1882 at Saint Frances Convent in Baltimore, Maryland.

(Adapted from the Oblate Sisters of Providence Website)