

# Monument dedicated to Mother Mary Lange, Oblate Sisters of Providence unveiled



*From left to right, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, Sister Alexis Fisher, Assistant Superior, Oblate Sisters of Providence; Charles Tildon, William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore; Sister Claudina Sanz, Superior, Oblate Sisters of Providence and Dr. Hilbert Stanley, director, National Black Catholic Congress assembled last Sunday in Baltimore for the unveiling of the monument honoring Mother Mary Lange, an African American nun who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1829, the first Catholic order for African American nuns and the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Mother Mary Lange is credited with founding the St. Francis Academy.*

*The unveiling was held at founding site of the Oblate Sisters, 610 George Street.  
(Photo: Mark Fosler)*

Baltimore Times, Feb 18-24, 2000 p.2

## The Oblate Sisters Of Providence July 2, 1829

At this site, 610 George Street, under the leadership of foundress, Mother Mary Lange, four women took vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty, and religious obedience. Thus began the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first Congregation of women of African ancestry in the United States to serve primarily "children of colour" through education. However, the Sisters would not refuse their ministrations to anyone.

Begun in 1828, Saint Frances Academy, the oldest continuing educational facility for black children in the United States, was moved to this site under the direction of Mother Mary Lange and the Oblate Sisters.

Dedicated by Mayor Martin O'Malley and the Citizens of Baltimore  
February 13, 2000