



# The Oratorio



March 2022 • Volume 14, Issue 1

**Special Youth Services (SYS)** models the embrace of Christ through pastoral care, advocacy, and faith sharing in local juvenile justice centers, facilities, and programs including the promotion and coordination of restorative services to at-risk youth and their families. Our ministry encompasses all counties within our local Archdiocese, working with youth from ages 10-17.

**The Oratorio** is a quarterly newsletter published with the purpose of sharing the voices of our youth and volunteers, activities of SYS, and information that may be beneficial to the spiritual life of the reader.

**Special Youth Services (SYS)** modela el abrazo de Cristo por medio de cuidado pastoral, apoyo, y compartir la fe en centros locales de justicia juvenil, instalaciones, y programas incluyendo la promoción y coordinación de servicios restaurativos a jóvenes en situación de riesgo y sus familias. Nuestro ministerio abarca cada condado entre nuestra arquidiócesis local, trabajando con jóvenes de edades de 10 a 17.

**The Oratorio** es un boletín informativo trimestral publicado con el propósito de compartir las voces de nuestros jóvenes y voluntarios, actividades de SYS, e información que pueda ser útil para la vida espiritual del lector.

## St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort me  
and restore me.  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



## Director's Corner

Volunteers, friends, and community partners are invited to join Special youth Services for an upcoming event: Synod on Synodality discussions!



Pope Francis is inviting all the People of God to participate in this synod process to discover where the Spirit is working in individual hearts and in the Church as a whole. We invite all who serve and support our at-risk juvenile youth to be a part of these discussions. We will be holding four (4) listening sessions. The listening sessions will be held virtually on:

Tuesday, March 15 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Thursday, March 17 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

I welcome each of you to register for one session but you are welcome to register for more than one. Come share your thoughts on how the Church has journeyed with you, how the ministry has journeyed with you, or maybe how you've journeyed with SYS youth! There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. We will be sending out registration links soon, so please be on the lookout. If you are excited about this life-giving opportunity and can't wait, you are free to call us today.

God bless you all,

*Franchella*

<a href="#">Director's Corner</a>	1
<a href="#">A Youth's Perspective</a>	2
<a href="#">Hope Bags</a>	2
<a href="#">A Volunteer's Perspective</a>	3
<a href="#">Volunteer Retreat Invitation</a>	3
<a href="#">Clergy Corner</a>	4
<a href="#">SYS Angels</a>	5
<a href="#">Black History Month</a>	5
<a href="#">Ministry Spotlight</a>	5
<a href="#">La perspectiva de un joven</a>	6
<a href="#">Bolsitas de Esperanza</a>	6
<a href="#">La perspectiva de un voluntario</a>	7
<a href="#">Enfoque en ministerio</a>	7
<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>	8
<a href="#">Servant of God Mother Mary Lange</a>	9
<a href="#">Prayer Requests</a>	9
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	9

Click [here](#) for a free digital Lenten Calendar with daily micro-challenges from [bustedhalo.com](#)



# A YOUTH'S PERSPECTIVE

## A Conversation between Sister Symphonie and a young brother in Christ, 16 Year-Old C.C.

**Sister Symphonie:** How long have you been in detention?

**C:** About 9-12 months. I have two weeks left.

**SS:** What was your relationship like with God before coming here?

**C:** I prayed to God and went to a Baptist church with my grandmother.

**SS:** What about now?

**C:** I grew stronger in faith. I prayed to Him more and He helped me.

**SS:** What has changed?

**C:** In good or bad, God is with you.

**SS:** How has Special Youth Services and meeting with Deacon Fernando helped you?

**C:** SYS has strengthened my faith and helped me believe more in God.

**SS:** Do you have any advice for youth who are beginning to get in trouble?

**C:** God is going to be with you. Talk to Him. Use prayers.

**SS:** What about advice for parents of kids who are acting out?

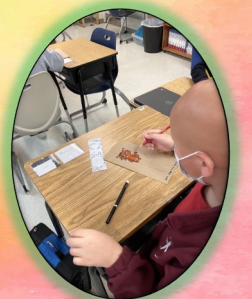
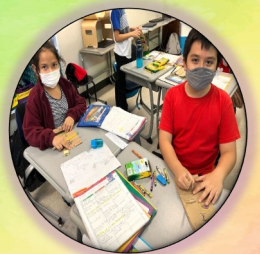
**C:** God is going to be there for parents as well.

**SS:** What do you look forward to now and how will God be part of this?

**C:** I am looking forward to seeing my son soon. I pray for him every night. I also pray for God to be more present in my life and my son's life.

## Love from Little Ones

SYS was so glad to hear that Our Lady of Guadalupe School wanted to reach out to our youth once again for their annual service project. On February 2, Sr. Symphonie, Deacon Fernando, and Alejandra visited the students on their service project day to share what our ministry does and more about who would receive the goodies. The students decorated Hope Bags and wrote letters with sweet, encouraging messages. They were very attentive to the presentations and asked wonderful questions, showing their concern for the youth. Thank you to Mrs. Watso for organizing this project and for all the students and teachers, grades Pre-K to 8th, who participated.





# A Volunteer's Perspective

Sr. Symphonie Ngo

My name is Symphonie Giao-Huong Ngo, originally from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. In 2007, I came to the U.S. to continue my studies in music. After graduating from the University of Houston, I joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston. Through God's love and grace, I joyfully made the Perpetual Profession of Vows on January 1, 2022.

My first official ministry was teaching music for Pre-K 3 to 8th Grade at St. Theresa Catholic School in Memorial Park. I found my passion for teaching music and how to bring young people close to the love of God. I was blessed to have supportive administration, friendly colleagues, and loving students. After three years of teaching, it was time for me to go back to school to finish my degree in Theology at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, MO. It was bittersweet to leave St. Theresa's school; however, I was ready to take the next step to fulfill another responsibility of being a religious sister.

Through years of learning music, I thought there was nothing else I could do better than teaching music. However, through my encounters with children and youth, my desire to bring God's love and mercy to them grew stronger each day. Like Mother Mary, I was struggling with the question: "How can this be?" (Lk. 1:34) Furthermore, during my thirty-day retreat in September 2021, besides reflecting on the Life of Christ and falling in love with Him more and more each day, I kept Him busy with my list of questions: "What do You want of me, Lord? Where do You want me to serve You? Where can I sing Your praises? I am Your song." (Servant Song - McGargill) The answers were *silent*. It never fails.

On the day I left the retreat house, I opened the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston employment page and went through the list with no expectation. The title Special Youth Services caught my attention, and the moment I read through the description of the ministry, my heart was pounding with joy. After interviewing for the pastoral minister position, I was wondering whether I have the "right" gifts to serve in this capacity. The experience in the Downtown facility washed away my fears and doubts. Not that I found my special talents, but God showed me a new way to love. My new way of loving these young people is to learn to separate the persons and their wrongdoings. Most of all, I desire to bring the fountain of mercy and love of God to the young whom, like Russell Barkley says, "the children who need love the most will always ask for it in the most unloving ways."

It is still a long way for me to learn about this new ministry, but through the grace of God and with the help of Franchelle, Alejandra, Elizabeth, Deacon Fernando and each individual SYS volunteer, I will strive to become a supportive member. Let us "journey together" in a synodal Church and commit to bring the message of hope and encouragement to the young. In this, may we lead one another closer to Jesus and the Church.

Praised be the Incarnate Word. Forever!

Sr. Symphonie, CCVI



## BROKEN AND BLESSED

Special Youth Services invites you to attend a Lenten Day of Reflection guided by Deacon Fernando and Sister Symphonie.

Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Saturday, April 2  
9:00 am-12:45 pm

Cameron Retreat Center  
2403 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77021

Please RSVP to Elizabeth by March 18  
ewade@archgh.org or (713) 741-8739





# Clergy Corner

For the past two years, Harris County Youth Village (HCYV) has been undergoing building renovations, so the youth and staff were moved to the BBRC. On January 18, they all moved back to the Clear Lake facility. To make the move special, HCYV invited Deacon Fernando to bless the new facility. He was not available on the date requested, so we pulled our dear friend Deacon Dan Gilbert out of retirement and he stepped in to shower the building with blessings. This was Deacon Dan's fifth time participating in the opening of a new facility. He held a short prayer service with the staff, walked to the dorms to pray with the youth and pass out prayer cards, and sprinkled the areas with holy water.

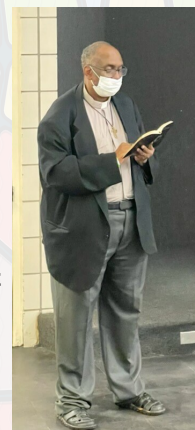


Deacon Dan, Facility Administrator- Mrs. Carter, Deputy Director- Dr. Shelton, Operations Manager for Residential Services-Aaron Beasley, and Assistant Facility Administrator-Mr. Rheams

HCYV has updated their building and has added a barn for horses and a picnic deck. New courses offered at the facility include woodworking and print shop. They have also been able to start Family Fun Day again twice a month, where families are able to visit their kids for a few hours. SYS staff continue to have group for both the boys and the girls on a weekly basis.



Deacon Dan and HCYV staff praying



Deacon Dan giving a blessing

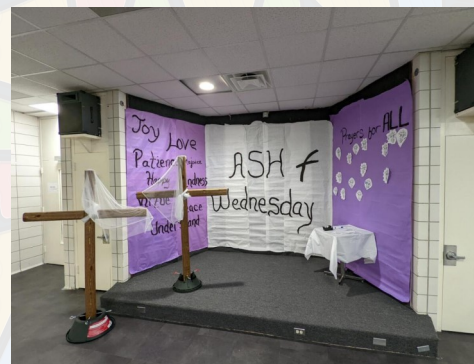


Sr. Symphonie with St. Ambrose students

SYS staff made visits to special groups of kids this month. On February 2, Deacon Fernando visited a CCE class at St. Edith Stein to talk about our ministry and our youth. This group had previously made Hope Bags for the Harris County Christmas party. Multiple grade levels participated in preparing the whole bag and all were gathered together to learn about how their gifts were received. Deacon Fernando was able to share not only about our youth's experience of the Christmas party, but also how they were gifted on Christmas day with the Hope Bags the students helped create.

On February 3, Sr. Symphonie gave two vocational talks to students in grades 2-5 and 6-8 at St. Ambrose School. She talked about how God loves each and every one of us unconditionally and what should we do to respond to that love. She also mentioned our ministry at the end of each talk and asked the students to pray for our youth.

We were so glad to be able to celebrate Ash Wednesday with our youth this year after COVID restricted us from doing so last year. The facilities allowed a few SYS staff and volunteers to hold a prayer service and distribute ashes on March 2. At the Brazoria County Juvenile Detention Center, diaconate candidate John Kyle spent the morning with the facility. At Leadership Academy, Deacon Daniel Ruvalcaba held the prayer service in the evening. At Youth village, Alejandra distributed ashes to both boys and girls. At JJC, Sr. Symphonie, Deacon Fernando, and diaconate candidates David Van Horn and Paul Nguyen visited the six floors of kids to make sure everyone who wanted ashes received them. At all the prayer services, facility staff also attended to receive ashes. Please keep the youth and staff in your prayers during this Lenten season: may they all be showered with the grace to come to know Jesus and strengthen their relationship with Him.



Caseworker González decorated the stage at HCYV





Special Youth Services would like to thank a group of angels that have blessed us these past few months. We thank them for strengthening the ministry and for extending their kindness to the youth we serve: Rubén Vázquez; Harris County Commissioner Jack Cagle and other Texas elected officials; and students at TSU and Doris Barrow, Director and Campus Minister at TSU Newman Center.

Would your group like to reach out to SYS youth? Please contact us at [sys@archgh.org](mailto:sys@archgh.org) or (713) 741-8739.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Sr. Symphonie and Deacon Fernando were able to attend the Harris County Leadership Academy Black History Month program on February 24. It was delightful to see the entire event emceed by one of the youth who, dressed up in shirt and tie, masterfully led them through the different presentations, calling the audience to a round of applause after each one. Through the variety of poetry, singing, and an evolution of dance routine, youth also

introduced different impactful figures in Black history with a short bio and followed by a movie clip of their accomplishments.

On February 25, Sr. Symphonie, Deacon Fernando, and Alejandra attended the Black History Month program at Youth Village. The boys, girls, and staff put on an educational and entertaining show that included asking the audience to guess who they were describing in “Short Talk” bios throughout the day. Other performances featured poetry, praise dancing, a guest speaker, and a guest step performance by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The youth were very supportive of each other and each performance showed the hard work they put into preparing a special day for their audience.

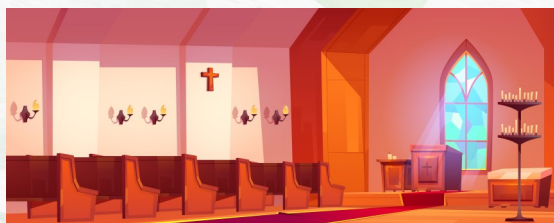
Both facility shows were attended by staff administrators, youth development coaches, therapists, and teachers. The events were a great time for the youth to display their gifts while helping celebrate Black history.

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The ministry of Worship seeks to make liturgy the source of spiritual growth and development of the Church in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

A multi-faceted ministry, it includes:

- the promotion of divine worship and liturgical music as vital to our prayer in full accord with the directives of the Church;
- discovering art and architecture which help create good environments for worship and spirituality;
- assistance in the preparation of good liturgical celebrations with an eye to nurturing faith in all those participating.



The Office of Worship serves as a resource center for liturgical ministry materials, ministry formation, and consultation. Click [here](#) for more information and resources from the Office of Worship.

<https://www.archgh.org/offices-ministries/pastoral-educational-ministries/office-of-worship/>



# LA PERSPECTIVA DE UN JOVEN

Una conversación entre la hermana Symphonie y un hermanito en Cristo, C.C. de 17 años

**Hermana Symphonie:** ¿Cuánto tiempo llevas en detención?

**C:** Como 9 a 12 meses. Me faltan dos semanas.

**HS:** ¿Cómo era tu relación con Dios antes de llegar aquí?

**C:** Yo le rezaba a Dios e iba a una iglesia bautista con mi abuela.

**HS:** ¿Y ahora?

**C:** Crecí más fuerte en mi fe. Le recé más y Él me ayudó.

**SS:** ¿Qué ha cambiado?

**C:** En lo bueno o en lo malo, Dios está contigo.

**HS:** ¿Cómo te han ayudado Special Youth Services y las juntas con el diácono Fernando?

**C:** SYS ha fortalecido mi fe y me ha ayudado a creer más en Dios.

**HS:** ¿Tienes algún consejo para jóvenes que empiezan a meterse en problemas?

**C:** Dios va a estar contigo. Habla con Él. Usa las oraciones.

**HS:** ¿Y para padres de hijos que no se están portando bien?

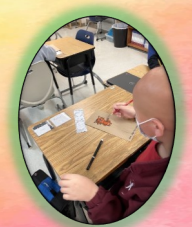
**C:** Dios va a estar con los padres también.

**HS:** ¿Qué deseas en estos momentos y cómo participará Dios en esto?

**C:** Espero pronto poder ver a mi hijo. Rezo por él cada noche. También le pido a Dios que esté más presente en la vida mía y de mi hijo.

## Amor de los pequeños

Nos dio mucho gusto en SYS que el Colegio de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe quisiera acercarse a nuestros jóvenes otra vez por medio de su proyecto de servicio anual. La hermana Symphonie, el diácono Fernando y Alejandra visitaron los estudiantes el 2 de febrero, el día de su proyecto de servicio, para compartir sobre lo que hace nuestro ministerio y más sobre quiénes recibirán los regalitos. Los estudiantes decoraron Bolsitas de Esperanza y escribieron cartas con mensajes dulces y alentadores. Estuvieron atentos a las presentaciones e hicieron preguntas maravillosas, enseñando su preocupación por los jóvenes. Gracias a la Sra. Watso por organizar este proyecto y a todos los estudiantes y maestros, años Pre-K a 8°, que participaron.





# La perspectiva de un voluntario

Hna. Symphonie Ngo

Mi nombre es Symphonie Giao-Huong Ngo, originalmente de Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. En el 2007, vine a los Estados Unidos para continuar mis estudios en la música. Después de graduarme de la Universidad de Houston, me ingresé a la Congregación de las Hermanas de la Caridad del Verbo Encarnado, Houston. Por medio del amor y la gracia de Dios, alegremente hice los Votos de Profesión Perpetuas el 1 de enero, 2022.

Mi primer ministerio oficial era enseñar música para los años Pre-K al 8° en el Colegio Católico de Sta. Teresa en el Parque Memorial. Encontré mi pasión por enseñar música y cómo llevar a los jóvenes cerca al amor de Dios. Estuve bendecida con administración que me apoyaba, colegas amigables y estudiantes cariñosos. Después de enseñar por tres años, era tiempo que regresara a estudiar para terminar mi licenciatura en Teología en el Instituto Agustino en St. Louis, MO. Era agri dulce dejar el colegio de Sta. Teresa; sin embargo, estaba lista para tomar el próximo paso para realizar otra responsabilidad de ser una hermana religiosa.

Entre años de aprender música, pensé que no había nada más que podía hacer mejor que enseñar música. Sin embargo, por medio de mis encuentros con niños y jóvenes, mi deseo de llevar el amor y la misericordia de Dios a ellos crecía cada día. Como la Madre María, estaba yo luchando con la pregunta: “¿Cómo puede ser esto?” (Lc. 1, 34) Es más, durante mi retiro de treinta días en septiembre de 2021, además de reflexionar sobre la vida de Cristo y enamorarme más y más de Él cada día, Lo mantuve ocupado con mi lista de preguntas: “¿Qué quieres de mí, Señor? ¿Dónde quieres que Te sirva? ¿Dónde puedo cantar Tus alabanzas? Yo soy Tu canción.” (Servant Song-McGargill) Las respuestas eran *silenciosas*. Nunca falla.

El día que me salí de la casa de retiro, abrí la página de empleo de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston y revisé la lista sin ninguna expectativa. El título de Special Youth Services me llamó la atención y el momento que leí la descripción del ministerio, mi corazón latía con gozo. Después de entrevistar para la posición del ministro pastoral, me preguntaba si tenía los regalos “correctos” para servir en esta capacidad. La experiencia en la instalación del centro eliminó mis preocupaciones y dudas. No que encontré talentos especiales, sino que Dios me enseñó una forma nueva de amar. Mi nueva manera de amar a estos jóvenes es aprender a separar a las personas de sus delitos. Más que nada, deseo llevar la fuente de misericordia y amor de Dios a los jóvenes quienes como dice Russell Barkley: “los niños que más necesitan amor siempre lo pedirán en las maneras menos amorosas.”

Todavía hay un largo camino para aprender más de este nuevo ministerio, pero con la gracia de Dios y con la ayuda de Franchelle, Alejandra, Elizabeth, el diácono Fernando y cada voluntario individuo de SYS, me esforzaré a convertirme en un miembro de apoyo. “Caminemos juntos” en una Iglesia sinodal y comprometámonos a llevar el mensaje de esperanza y ánimo a los jóvenes. En esto, que nos guíemos el uno al otro a estar más cerca a Jesús ya a la Iglesia.

Alabado sea el Verbo Encarnado. ¡Para siempre!

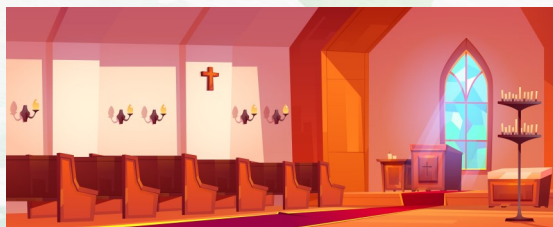
Sr. Symphonie, CCVI

## ENFOQUE EN MINISTERIO

El ministerio de Culto Divino busca hacer la liturgia la fuente de crecimiento y desarrollo espiritual de la Iglesia de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston.

Como ministerio multifacético, incluye:

- la promoción del culto divino y la música litúrgica como vital a nuestra oración en acuerdo completo con las directivas de la Iglesia;
- el descubrimiento de arte y arquitectura que ayudan a crear buenos ambientes para el culto y la espiritualidad;
- la ayuda en la preparación de buenas celebraciones litúrgicas con un enfoque en apoyar la fe de todos los participantes.



La Oficina de Culto Divino sirve como un centro de recurso para materiales de ministerio litúrgicas, formación de ministerio y consulta. Haz clic [aquí](https://www.archgh.org/offices-ministries/pastoral-educational-ministries/office-of-worship/) para más información y recursos de la Oficina de Culto Divino.

<https://www.archgh.org/offices-ministries/pastoral-educational-ministries/office-of-worship/>





Have you liked our  
Facebook page yet?  
Visit us at [www.facebook.com/  
specialyouthservicesarchgh](http://www.facebook.com/specialyouthservicesarchgh) or click  
the icon to the left!

## Celebration of Catholic Youth of African Descent

The annual event will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on Saturday, April 2. This event began in 1995 under the title of African-American Youth Day. This day is developed to serve the specific needs of middle and high school youth of African descent. Mark your calendars NOW. Visit the Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization's [website](#) for more details and more events.

## A week with St. Joseph

What would it be like to attend a school run by St. Joseph? A retreat for men seeking to imitate the virtues of the Head of the Holy Family in their daily lives.



March 13- 19, 2022 | \$20  
Register at [houstonvocations.com/events/](http://houstonvocations.com/events/)



## A week with Mary

A RETREAT FOR YOUNG WOMEN  
SEEKING TO IMITATE THE VIRTUES  
OF MARY ON A DAILY BASIS.

MARCH 20 - 25, 2022 | \$20

In-Person and Virtual

Register at [houstonvocations.com/events/](http://houstonvocations.com/events/)

## Café Catholica LITE Presents...



**Digital Evangelization:  
Sharing the Faith in New Contexts**  
with Sean O'Driscoll, Office of Communications

Thursday, March 10 | 7:00-8:45 pm  
St. Edward Church, 2601 Spring Stuebner Rd, Spring  
[www.archgh.org/cafecatholica](http://www.archgh.org/cafecatholica)

## #IamChurch Campaign

Voices of our brothers and sisters with disabilities

Pope Francis, in his message to persons with disabilities on the occasion of the International Day dedicated to them, wrote, "Baptism makes each one of us a fully-fledged member of the ecclesial community and gives each one, without exclusion or discrimination, the possibility of exclaiming, 'I am Church!' The Church, indeed, is your home! We, all together, are Church because Jesus has chosen to be our friend". Echoing these words, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life-Vatican City has launched the #IamChurch campaign: 5 videos in which persons with disabilities, from different parts of the world, recount their experience of faith and affirm, "I am Church!" Videos are available on the YouTube channels of Vatican News and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and will be published weekly.

The campaign trailer is available [here](#).

First Video available [here](#).

Second Video available [here](#).

Third Video available [here](#).

Fourth video: [#IamChurch: "We" not "they" - disability in the life of the Church - Vatican News](#).

Pope Francis complete message is available [here](#).



**Amoris Laetitia  
Family**  
Year 2021 - 2022

## Junior High Youth Rally

The Archdiocesan Junior High Youth Rally has moved to April 30 at Sts. Simon and Jude from 10:30 am to 9:00 pm. Please email [eskrehor@archgh.org](mailto:eskrehor@archgh.org) if you are interested in registering the young people from your parish for this wonderful event.







# Servant of God Mother Mary Lange

"We do not know very much about Elizabeth Lange's early life. Recent research points to Santiago de Cuba as her birthplace. Most likely she grew up in the French speaking area of the city. Because she was well educated, we believe that she came from a family of some means and social standing. In the early 1800's young Elizabeth left Cuba to seek peace and security in the United States. Providence directed her to Baltimore, Maryland where great influxes of French-speaking Catholic refugees from the Haitian Revolution were settling.

By 1813, Elizabeth Lange was living in Baltimore. She was a courageous, loving and deeply spiritual woman. She came as a strong, independent thinker and doer. It did not take Lange long to recognize that the children of her fellow Caribbean immigrants needed education. She was determined to respond to that need in spite of being a black woman in a slave state long before the Emancipation Proclamation. She used her own money and home to educate children of color. Elizabeth, with a friend, Marie Magdelaine Balas, offered free education to children in their home in the Fells Point area of the city.

Early in 1828, Providence intervened through the person of Reverend James Hector Joubert, S.S. who, encouraged by Archbishop James Whitfield, presented Elizabeth Lange with the challenge to start a school for girls of color. While Elizabeth talked to Father Joubert she confessed that for over ten years she had wanted to commit her life to God and was waiting for His call. She then asked Father Joubert if they should start a women religious order too. He thought it over and decided it was a very worthwhile idea. Fr. Joubert would provide the direction, solicit financial assistance and encourage other 'women of color' to become members of this, the first congregation of women of African heritage. Elizabeth joyously acquiesced. But how was this to be? Black men and women could not aspire to religious life at that time. But now God was providing a way! On July 2, 1829, Elizabeth and three other women pronounced promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience to Archbishop Whitfield and the chosen superior.

Elizabeth, founder and first superior of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, henceforth was known as Sister Mary. She served the Oblates in many ways. She was superior general from 1829 to 1832, and again from 1835 to 1841. She helped to nurse the sick during the Cholera Epidemic in the early 1830s and in the mid 1840s, when Sister Frances died, she took her place working as a domestic at Saint Mary's Seminary, and from 1850-1860 she was the novice mistress for the fledgling Oblate order.

Mother Mary's early life had prepared her well for the turbulence that followed the death of Fr. Joubert. She suffered violence of soul as she was buffeted by poverty and racial injustice. There was a sense of abandonment at the dwindling number of pupils and defections of her closest companions and co-workers. Yet, through it all Mother Mary never lost faith in 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 of herself and her material possessions until she was empty of all but Jesus, whom she shared generously with all by being a living witness to His teaching. Mother Lange's life was a long one. She lived to celebrate the golden anniversary of the order. Mother Mary Lange practiced faith to an extraordinary degree. In fact, it was her deep faith which enabled her to persevere against all odds. She is an example of how we may all aspire to be. In close union with her God, she lived through disappointment and opposition until God called her to Himself February 3, 1882.

In 1991, William Cardinal Keeler, the then Archbishop of Baltimore, with the approval of Rome, officially opened formal investigation into her life of union with God and works of charity which could lead to her canonization as saint in the Catholic Church." She is titled "Servant of God", meaning her case is still under investigation, prior to being declared Venerable.

<https://www.motherlange.org/mother-lange>



**Please pray for: peace in the world; good health and safety for all; a safe and fun Spring Break; and for this Lenten season: that we may all be led to a conversion of heart through the love, grace, and mercy of our Father.**

## Contact us:

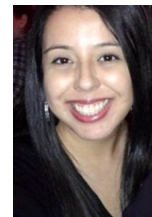


Franchelle Lee Stewart

Director

(713) 741-8739

[flee@archgh.org](mailto:flee@archgh.org)



Alejandra Maya Garza

Associate Director

(713) 741-8779

[amaya@archgh.org](mailto:amaya@archgh.org)

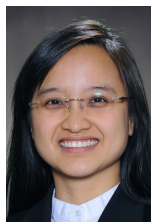


Deacon Fernando Garcia

Pastoral Minister

(281) 804-2800

[fgarcia@archgh.org](mailto:fgarcia@archgh.org)



Sr. Symphonie Giao-Huong Ngo

Pastoral Minister

(713) 805-8397

[sngo@archgh.org](mailto:sngo@archgh.org)



Elizabeth Wade

Administrative Assistant

(713) 741-8739

[ewade@archgh.org](mailto:ewade@archgh.org)



## "The harvest is plentiful, laborers are few" Luke 10:2

SYS would like to thank you all for your continued support to this ministry. We welcome all to share this newsletter with anyone who might have an interest and to share with us if you would like to see something in the Oratorio. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer with SYS, please contact our office at: [sys@archgh.org](mailto:sys@archgh.org) or (713) 741-8739.