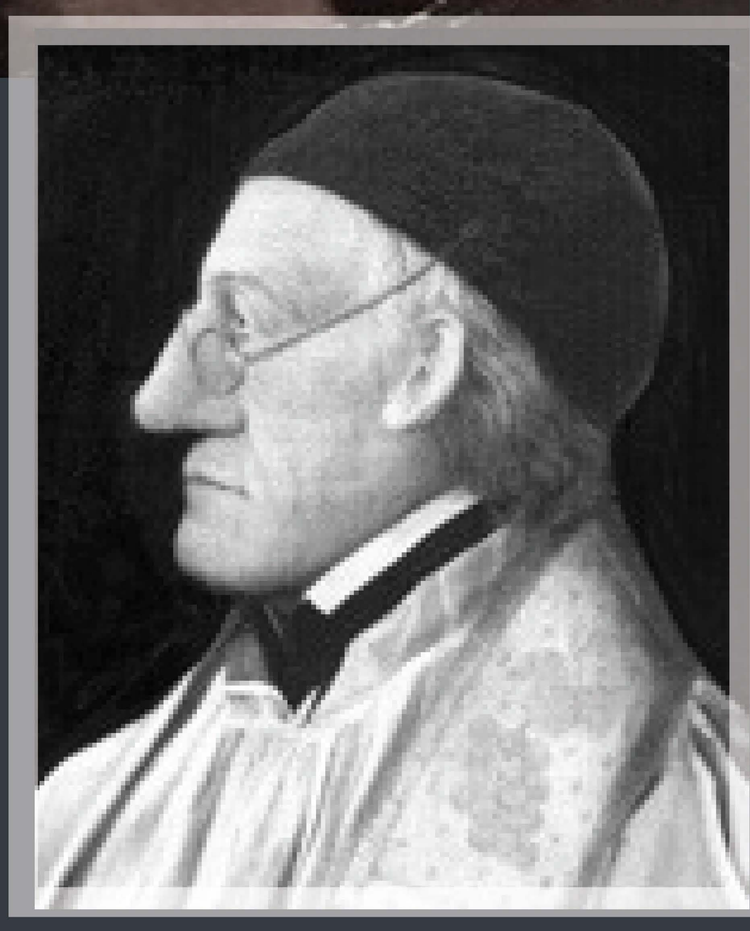
MOTHER MARY LANGE

c. 1784-1882

FOUNDER AND FIRST SUPERIOR - OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

Born Elizabeth Clarisse Lange in Cuba, her family spent many years in Haiti before emigrating to America in the early 1800s. After settling in Baltimore, Maryland, Elizabeth recognized that the children of her fellow immigrants needed an education.

- Elizabeth opened a school in her home with her friend Marie Magdaleine Balas.
- Reverend James Hector Joubert, encouraged by the Archbishop of Baltimore, presented Elizabeth with the idea to found a religious congregation for the education of African American girls.
- Elizabeth and three other women professed their vows and became the Oblate Sisters of Providence in July of 1829.
- The sisters not only educated and evangelized to the African American community but also nursed the terminally ill during the cholera epidemic and sheltered the elderly.



Reverend James Hector Joubert