

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



INTRODUCTION

Our Lady's Home has and continues to care for the orphaned, poor and destitute boys of all castes and creeds. It is run by the Trust of Our Lady's Home for Boys. This Trust also runs a Kindergarten Section and a Primary and Secondary School. Over the years the Priests, Seminarians and Religious Women/Sisters have endeavoured to make sure that every boy is well

cared for and, given the love and attention the child deserves. Though it has meant long hours of work, at times sleepless nights and /or even working when not too well.....all this is done with a smile, in a spirit of love and selfless service to God. To assist us there are numerous people who support us with their contribution of time and talent, of generosity and dedication.

A Admissions

Applications for admissions are distributed in the first week of January. A month and half is then given for this form to be duly filled in. The form should be accompanied with the Birth Certificate of the child, Death Certificate of the deceased parent and a letter of recommendation from the Parish Priest. A thorough scrutiny is conducted so as to verify the genuineness of the case. Applications are first screened by the Superintendent and then in greater detail by the Social Worker. As we have only about 25 vacancies every year, priority is given to the totally orphaned, those who have a single parent and then the destitute. Applications for admissions come through the recommendations of Parish Priests, Social Workers, Social Welfare Agencies, etc.

We emphasize mainly on admitting more of the primary children i.e. from the I to the IV as there are very few residential Institutions that look after the Orphaned primary section child.

B Boarding & Lodging

Today, the Orphanage is well equipped with all the latest facilities.

- **Refectory:** The Staff and the Boys refectory has seen many changes over the last few years. We take great care to see that there is cleanliness and that good wholesome food is served to the boys. The boys are made to sit class-wise so that one can make out immediately if anyone is missing.
- **Meals:** Our boys are given a wholesome and balanced diet under the strict supervision of the Priest-in charge. We have a lot of vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals being sponsored by the benefactors on different occasions. These benefactors are allowed to share the meal with the boys and to interact with them.
- **Mini Stadium:** Besides a basement hall which is beautifully tiled, we also have a mini stadium where night games like rink football, tele-games and basketball are held.
- **Study Hall and Dormitories:** A large study hall that accommodates about 150 children makes supervision of studies very much easier.

Having a place to stay is one thing but sleeping on a bed and keeping dhobi washed clothes in a wall cupboard is yet another. Three large dormitories house the 110 boys according to their age groups. The dormitories are a riot of colour as towels, counterpanes, the doors of the lockers and walls beautifully painted every year by Deloitte Mumbai, do not bear the stamp of uniformity.

- **Audio Visual Hall:** A large multi-purpose hall provides us with enough room for in-door games. This hall has table tennis tables and carom boards. All our Audio Visual programs are also screened in this hall. From time to time, the Audio Visual room is used for educational purposes.
- **Solar Heaters and Shower Cubicles:** The bathing place has cubicles so that, each boy can have a bath in privacy. We have a lady employed who bathes the younger boys. Clothes are washed and kept to dry in the drying room. There are three solar heaters which are mainly for the boys who are not well. We encourage all the boys to have a cold water bath when the weather is not very cold.

Health and Hygiene C

With a relentless passion for cleanliness and a keen eye for a balanced diet, the boys are almost immune to the disease that usually children are prone to. We are extremely grateful to our “family doctor” Dr. Jain for the free advice and treatment given to our boys from time to time. We keep our boys fighting fit with an equal stress on preventive and remedial measures.

Being boys and living with only boys, they play real tough and so the year had its fair share of fractures.

Caring for the boys particularly when they are sick holds out no major problem, for our Home is within walking distance of all the major hospitals in the vicinity. Our boys mainly go to K.E.M. Hospital. Healthy conditions are maintained by a regular and meticulous general cleaning. Cleanliness of clothes is taken care of by the Staff of the linen room.

D Academic Training & Performance

Every child admitted to Our Lady's Home enjoys the privilege of attending School, being given books and tuitions if he cannot cope with his studies. The boys do find it difficult to cope with the English medium yet; we have managed to get an overall result from the K.G to Std IX of 85% being successful and a resounding 100% success in the S.S.C. Examinations. Our School is till Std VII and the boys after that attend the neighbouring School, St. Paul's High School till their SSC. We are extremely grateful to the Principal of St. Paul's High School who so kindly grant admissions to all our boys into Std VIII.

This year the Home witnessed a lot of tuition teachers and college students who offered their services free of cost to teach our children during their free time on a regular basis.

This year, two Counsellors were employed from the month of October onwards on a regular basis. One dealt only with the primary children and the other was for the secondary children. They were taken mainly to deal with those children who were weak in studies and who had behavioural problems. These Counsellors come in once a week for a duration of five hours.

E Clothing and Linen

The Home provides the school uniform, games clothes, night clothes, towel and bed linen that is required for the boys. At the beginning of the year, children are expected to bring a few sets of clothes but, if the child is not able to get the required clothes, even those are provided by the Institution.

The linen room has two full timers, who see to the daily mending, alteration of donated clothes and linen and the making of new clothes from the cloth we purchase.

F Formation

The present system of schooling seems to be pre-occupied with information and has not much of a chance to stress formation. Hence, the Home outside of our lad's schooling makes place for many projects and programs that would enhance their formation.

Recreation:

We have a large library of books and a wide range of magazines. Quizzes are organized on a regular basis to test memory and general knowledge. Audio-visuals are screened regularly on topics ranging from health to wild -life, from games to history, from science to religious values.

Games:

Daily games are fully organized according to ages so that there is a minimum amount of friction. The daily games give our robust lads an outlet for their super abundant energies. Games here in Our Lady's Home are so well organized that each and every child is made to take part. We allow and activate

the child into strenuous play, letting him expend all his energy so that, by the time he gets into bed, he has only sleep on his mind and does not indulge in any other mischief.

Team Work:

To bring all the boys together and to encourage team spirit, all recreation games and competitions are organized in teams. These competitions include all indoor and outdoor games, quizzes, etc. resulting in an overall development in their general knowledge and their ability to work in teams.

Prizes and Scholarships:

It is a known fact that people learn faster by rewards rather than punishments. Prizes in abundance are awarded on the Feast Day in the presence of our friends and benefactors. There are also some scholarships and prizes instituted by our well-wishers. There is a much healthy competition as these Prizes and Scholarships are awarded publicly on the Feast Day of the Home.

ANNUAL DAY
SAT, 8TH DEC 2018 | 6:00 P.M.

H Events at a glance

Training for events is yet another aspect of formation. We take every opportunity to put our boys on stage. At Our Lady's Home, every event is an opportunity to help our boys GROW to be useful citizens.



14th June 2017

All the boys were back. Once again, there was joy, laughter and noise in the Institution with some crying and few others sulking among the new boys.



16th July 2017

Parents' Day was celebrated as it was the first visiting Sunday after the children returned and all the parents came to visit their children.



1st October 2017

The Harvest festival was organized. The children were served the traditional South Indian meal on plantain leaves.



17th August 2017

Bro Herold organized the Monsoon Dhamaka. All the games were played in the rain and with water. After the tele-matches, a sumptuous hot meal kept the boys asking for more.

08th September 2017

This being the Marian month a lot of competitions like painting, rosary making, quizzes etc were organized for the boys according to the groups. Novena Prayers to Our Lady were also conducted. On the 08th after the Mass the boys were served a high breakfast. A mini-fair was organized with games of skill. After the recitation of the rosary at the grotto a grand dinner was spread out.



02nd December 2017

The Annual Day of the Home and School was held on this Day. The Chief Guest for the function was His Lordship Bishop John Rodrigues. The Variety Entertainment was a grand success. The ground was packed with well-wishers, benefactors and parents. The items and dances put up by the boys were fantastic. Many of the children were awarded different scholarships.

28th January 2018

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay visited the Home. He joyfully interacted with the boys assuring them that they are close to his heart and that he cares for them. He then encouraged them to work hard and do well under the guidance of the Fathers, Brothers and other Staff of the home. Before leaving, His Eminence blessed the boys and the home.



11th February 2018

Eight of our boys received their First Holy Communion on this day. The Main Celebrant was Rev. Fr Elias D'Souza. The children were trained for almost a year by a group from Opus Dei under the guidance of Fr Carlos. After Mass, a small get-together and variety entertainment was held along with the parents and relatives of the First Holy Communicants.



March-April 2018

During the Lenten Season, various forms of Stations of the Cross were organized, prayer services were held and cross making and painting competitions were carried out. All this turned out to be very meaningful to the children on the whole.

Having a school attached to the Home, all the National Days are celebrated within the school infrastructure. The celebration of these great days of National importance is religiously carried out with patriotic pride.

PERSONNEL

If the Home is what it is, it is because of the combined work of the Staff, who have constantly put the good of the boys and the Home before their personal conveniences and themselves.

In the month of June 2017, a warm welcome was given to Bro. Herold Quadros who was appointed here during his Regency year.

A deep debt of gratitude goes to the Staff of the Institution. It is the Staff that has been responsible for the progress of the Institution and for the happiness of the children. The day to day running of the Institution rests on the shoulders of the Priests, Nuns and the Seminarian. Supporting them is the Office Staff which comprises a Professional Social Worker and an Accountant cum Purchase Assistant.

The linen room is staffed with two full timers. The Kitchen is well equipped with two cooks and two helpers. In an Institution of this kind what matters is not the number of people, but people who work selflessly.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

The entire building repairs and painting was completed by the end of June 2017.

FUTURE PLANS

- Polishing and repairing of all the desks and benches in the school classrooms and in the Study Hall.
- Concreting of the ground along Pearl Colony side.

A word of **APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE** goes out to the following:-

All our wonderful work and ambitious planning would be useless without the support of our donors and well-wishers. We are extremely grateful to the following:

- The Archdiocese of Bombay
- Priests of various parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay
- The S.C.C. groups of various parishes
- Donors who have set up Scholarships and who have sponsored the School and Tuition Fees and Boarding and Lodging of our boys
- Fr Carlos and Team of Opus Dei for teaching Catechism to our First Holy Communicants
- The Rupanter Team for volunteering to conduct Sunday School classes for the Secondary section on the first and third Sunday of every month
- The various subject tuition teachers, music teachers and volunteers too many to mention by name
- The individual donors (too many to mention by name)
- The many schools: Campion, Convent of Jesus and Mary, Fort, St. Xavier's Boys Academy and Ryan International School

To the TRUST OF OUR LADY'S HOME FOR BOYS run by the Catholic Church of Mumbai we owe a tremendous amount of gratitude for the support and encouragement in all our endeavours.

YOU CAN HELP BY WRITING / CALLING US:

- We pray for our benefactors four times a day and also during Mass. If you have any special intention we will be happy to pray for you.
- Send us your phone numbers and email addresses.
- If you have not received from us an official receipt for the donation, however small, sent by cash or cheque, within a month, please let us know.
- Your suggestions, ideas and advice are always welcome.

You can bring a smile on the boys' faces by sponsoring the following:

A meal on occasions like Birthdays, Anniversaries or any other occasions

Breakfast	: ₹ 4,000/-
Tea	: ₹ 2,500/-
Meal(Veg)	: ₹ 8,750/-
Meal(Non-veg)	: ₹ 12,750/-
School & Tuition	: ₹ 7,500/-
Boarding	: ₹ 17,500/-
Scholarship	: ₹ 25,000/-

Cheques to be drawn in favour of 'Our Lady's Home for Boys'

**Residents of India can transfer funds directly to:
Central Bank of India, Naigaum Branch,
Mumbai - 400014. A/c. No 1002042237**

**Foreign Residents may transfer funds directly to:
Central Bank of India, Naigaum Branch,
Mumbai - 400014. A/c. No 1002042248**

IFSC code no. CBIN0281209

**All donations are tax exempted under section 80G of
the Income Tax Act**

CONCLUSION:

Our Lady's Home is proud of the spirit of warmth and love that pervades...it is a home away from home to the Orphan and destitute of Mumbai. The overall picture of Our Lady's Home that emerges is of an Institution that has been successful to a great extent. There is of course room for improvement but it seems to be more a case of building on strengths rather than merely remedying weakness.

A word of sincere gratitude goes to the Governing Body Members of Our Lady's Home for their constant and continued interest in the growth and smooth functioning of the Institution.

May God Bless those who have been instrumental in bringing His love into the lives of our children who are the children that have come from HIS hands.

We welcome Bishop John Rodrigues who has now taken over the Chairmanship of the Governing Body from Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes.

Sd/-

FR. ELIAS D'SOUZA
DIRECTOR



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