

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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The following is the Annual Report of “Our Lady’s Home for Boys” covering the period from May 2022 to April 2023.

INTRODUCTION:

Our Lady’s Home for Boys is a non-profit organization that provides a home for boys who have lost their parents or are unable to live with them due to financial or other reasons.

At our Home, we provide a safe and nurturing environment for boys who may be facing difficult circumstances. Our mission is to help each boy reach his full potential by providing the support, education and resources necessary for success. Through our programs and services, we aim to empower our boys with the skills and tools needed to overcome challenges and to grow and develop into responsible and productive members of society.

Admissions: In the month of June we admitted 26 new boys to the Home bringing the total number of boys in our care to 116. We conducted thorough background checks. We made sure that they were provided with all the necessary resources and care to make their transition as smooth as possible.

Education: Education has always been a top priority at the Home and we continued to focus on providing quality education to our boys. We have highly qualified teachers who work tirelessly to ensure that each boy receives the education he deserves. This year we had a 100% pass rate for the boys who took their S.S.C. Exam which is a testament to the quality of education we provide.

Health and Nutrition: We understand the importance of good health and nutrition in the development of children, and we make sure that the boys receive a balanced diet and regular health check-ups. We also provided them with opportunities to participate in sports and outdoor activities to promote physical health and wellbeing.

Social and Emotional Support: We understand that growing up without a family can be tough on the boys emotionally and so we have a dedicated team of religious staff and a social worker who work with the boys to provide them with the necessary support. We organized several activities and events throughout the year to promote social interaction and team work among the boys.

Infrastructure and Maintenance: We take pride in maintaining a clean and hygienic environment for the boys. We regularly conduct maintenance work and upgrades to ensure that our facilities are up to date and meet the needs of the boys.

Overview of Activities:

The following is a summary of the activities carried out during the year.

June 14, 2022: A warm welcome was meted out to the boys as they entered the premises of Our Lady’s Home after a gap of two long years. Most of the children were very excited to be back, though, some were not so pleased as they had got used to being at home. Meeting classmates and friends after a long time boosted their morale. All were very enthusiastic to begin the new academic year with joy and hope.

July 17, 2022: Family members and guardians are allowed to meet their children once a month on the third Sunday. This being the first visiting Sunday after the children returned, the meeting met with a mixed reaction. Some were happy and shared their joy with their loved ones while there were a few who were crying and wanting to go back home. The children utilized this day to celebrate Parent's Day. They honoured, thanked and appreciated their parents, grandparents and guardians for all the love and sacrifices made to bring them up. They portrayed this through a beautiful cultural program presentation.

August 15, 2022: Independence Day was celebrated with great joy. The National flag was hoisted after which the National Anthem was sung. This was followed by a short cultural program which included speeches, songs and dances performed by the children highlighting the beauty of India. The latter part of the day was spent taking part in organized games, entertainment and watching a movie.

September 05, 2022: The children look forward to this day when they are able to honour and wish their beloved teachers and the Staff. The day began with a special prayer followed by a cultural program presented by the children. Each Staff member was presented with a floral bouquet as a token of love and gratitude. The Staff spent the entire morning participating in group games followed by a sumptuous lunch.

September 08, 2022: The day began with Mass and with the children praising and thanking God for the gift of Mother Mary who is the patroness of our Home. A special liturgy was organized to mark the occasion followed by games and cultural events including delicious snacks and food. The rosary was recited in front of the grotto by all the boys.

October 02, 2022: The first Sunday in October was celebrated as Thanksgiving Day with special prayers, liturgy and the blessing of the new and fresh grain during the Mass. The children were made aware of the abundant blessings that they receive from God.

November 14, 2022: Children's Day. The Staff made a special effort to make this day a memorable day for the children. A special prayer service was conducted, followed by a well-organized entertainment program. A magic show was also put up for them and delicious snacks were served to each and every child.

December 03, 2022: Annual Day Celebrations: This is one of the biggest events of the year celebrated jointly by the Home and the School. After two years of the pandemic there was a mass gathering at Our Lady's Home of benefactors, parents, and ex-inmates of the Home. The program began with a message from the Director/Manager who welcomed the gathering and appreciated the benevolence of the benefactors. This was followed by an awareness program, song and dances. Our Chief Guest Fr Felix D'Souza's message and his early experiences in the Home added a boost to the day's celebrations.

The Annual Day celebration allows the Home to celebrate another year of its being, and appreciates the boys' achievements in all curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities conducted throughout the year. The boys eagerly wait for this day when their hard work and initiatives are acknowledged with awards and scholarships based on academic and overall behaviour.

December 08, 2022: Feast of Our Lady's Home: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception started off with a solemn Eucharistic celebration. Fr Herold Quadros, newly ordained priest, was the main celebrant. He was invited since he had done his Regency in this Institution. After the mass a sumptuous breakfast was held. A fun filled program of games was organized by the Brothers.

December 10, 2022: A play Daniel-God's Faithful Instrument was put up by the Seminarians of St Pius X College (Archdiocesan Seminary). Fr Elias along with 25 of our children attended this play. The boys were enthralled by the performance and settings. They were excited to meet the former Regents of the Home. This was a good exposure for the boys as they were able to get an idea of what the Seminary really looked like and what it really meant.

December 14, 2022: Sports Day: This is one of the biggest events of any School. The School band which led the march was simply superb. On this day the student's talents were tested, exposed and awarded. The Chief Guest of the Day Br. Karthik spoke on the importance of sports and what impact it has in our daily life. He highlighted that sports builds one's personality and teaches one to live life in a better way. Getting involved in such activities teaches good values, ethics and skills to the students. Sports also teaches life skills such as teamwork, leadership, patience and self-confidence. The most important thing is that all the students are made to take part in those games which are their strengths as well as take part in the games of their liking.

December 20, 2022: Christmas Carols Competition, was held for our children at Our Lady's Home. Sr Regina and Ms Rossanna were the judges on this important day. The competition was organized to enhance the talents possessed by the children as well as to welcome the spirit of Christmas among the gathering.

It was truly a memorable event where the children got to celebrate Christmas and most importantly promote the true meaning of Christmas- the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Competition engaged children in singing carols that set the mood and built anticipation among all. Children of all houses (teams) sang a variety of carols enthusiastically and melodiously, spreading the message of faith, happiness and peace. Carol singing at Christmas time is a wonderful way to spread the festive cheer and sense of togetherness.

December 21, 2022: Christmas Celebration and Crib Blessing: The Christmas decorations, lights, the Christmas tree, star and Crib made the whole place look very impressive and festive. The theme "Saviour amidst us" was a very appropriate one. Before the Christmas party, a very meaningful Prayer Service and the blessing of the Crib and Star was held.

A grand Christmas party was organized for the boys by the Regents with creative games, carol singing, music, fun, dance and entertainment. Lots of prizes and gifts were awarded to the children and delicious snacks and dinner was served. The children really had a great time. Each child was handed over a gift bag full of delicacies, games and clothes when they left for the Christmas vacations the next day.

January 19, 2023: Study visit to Joseph Cardijn Technical School. The Principal, Staff and students of Cardijn School welcomed our boys joyfully and led them to a Conference room where Fr John Almeida, through a Power-Point Presentation gave an overview of all that is being taught and done in the school. The boys were then divided in to three groups and were taken around to various departments to know what is being taught there and to interact with the students. Back again in the Conference Room, in the presence of Fr Felix, Fr John and Staff, our boys shared their observances and experiences, cleared many doubts, gathered more information and became aware of many options available to them. The session ended with refreshments and thanksgiving. The boys were very happy with the visit to Cardijn Technical School.

January 26, 2023: Republic Day: Republic Day was celebrated on the campus of Our Lady's Home with great joy. The boys were trained to perform songs and dances, and various patriotic messages were given by the Manager, Fr Elias D'Souza and the Chief Guest Br. Armstrong. Prizes and Certificates were awarded to the children who excelled in Fancy Dress and other Competitions in the School during the year.

February 02, 2023: Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and One Day Picnic: The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord was celebrated with much solemnity with a prayerful candle-light procession. Later, all the boys of Our Lady's Home and School accompanied by the teachers and Staff of Our Lady's Home went for a one-day outing to Royal Garden. It was a wonderful experience for all the children. They enjoyed themselves to their heart's content with the water games. Besides, they were given plenty of refreshments and got to see a magic show as well. They enjoyed the trip both physically and mentally.

February 14, 2022: First Holy Communion: Fourteen of our young lads received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time in our Chapel. The main celebrant was Bishop Barthol Barretto. The Eucharist was meaningfully celebrated. Thereafter a get-together was held. Each child had a table reserved for him and his family members. The First Holy Communicants were invited to the stage to cut the cake. Snack boxes and soft drinks were served while the cultural program was going on. The celebration ended with a sumptuous meal for all.

February 18, 2022: Closing of the Sports Events held during the year: Closing of the Annual events is a very special day that every child looks forward to. There were four teams and points allotted to these teams according to their performance in various activities during the year.

Mr Kevin Coelho was the Chief Guest on this day and he officially inaugurated the Day with a message of how to maintain a healthy body.

Finals of different sports like Kho-Kho, Cricket, Football etc. were held and the prizes were awarded to winners, individuals and teams. The team Warriors lifted the Corona Challenge Trophy.

March 07, 2023: Holi Celebrations: Holi is a festival of colours and a festival of unity as it brings people together to celebrate regardless of caste, creed or religion. Our Lady's Home celebrated Holi with the splashing of water and fun games organized for the boys by the Brothers.

March 08, 2023: Women's Day: The women Staff of Our Lady's Home and School were honoured on this day. A short but meaningful Prayer Service was organized by the boys. Br. Karthik and Fr Elias D'Souza explained the origin Women's Day and the importance of women in our society. The children presented a short cultural program which added colour to the day. A spray of fresh flowers and a card was then handed to each of the women staff present.

March 23, 2023: Farewell to S.S.C. Boys and Regents: Our Lady's Home bid farewell to its S.S.C. boys and to the Regents Br. Karthik and Br. Armstrong. It began with a Prayer Service and a short reflection led by Fr Savio Rodrigues. Then followed a short cultural program put up by the boys. The S.S.C. boys then shared their experiences during their stay at Our Lady's Home and expressed their gratitude to the Home and the Staff. The Regents shared their experiences in the Home and how they have grown over the months spent here. Fr Elias D'Souza then gave a bit of advice to the boys and Brothers explaining to them how to cope with the challenges of life. The boys were then presented with a spray of flowers and a small gift as a token of remembrance of the home. A token of appreciation was then handed over to the Regents for all the hard work put in.

March 25, 2023: Priestly Ordination: Br. Karthik and Br. Armstrong along with the ninth standard boys participated in the Ordination ceremony of Frs Amol, Jordon, Sunil and Dylan at the Goregaon Seminary. After the Ordination, the boys met the Rector and the former Regents. They also congratulated the newly ordained priests and received their blessings.

EVENTS IN PICTURES:



7th Std. Farewell



Annual Day 2022



Annual Day 2022



Annual Day 2022



Children Day



Children Day



Children Day



Children Day



Christmas'22



Christmas'22



Christmas'22



Christmas'22



Feast Day



Feast Day



Feast Day



Feast Day



SSC Farewell



First Holy Communion



First Holy Communion



The Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis



Independence Day



Independence Day



Independence Day



Picnic at the Royal Garden

02/02/2023 09:5



Picnic at the Royal Garden

02/02/2023 12:02



Picnic at the Royal Garden

02/02/2023 12:38



Republic Day

26/01/2023 08:03



Republic Day

26/01/2023 08:03



Republic Day

26/01/2023 07:44



Republic Day

26/01/2023 08:07



Sports Day



SSC Farewell

23/03/2023 15:24



7th Std. Farewell

06/09/2022 16:50



Visit to Joseph Cardijn Technical School

10/01/2023 10:59



Visit to Joseph Cardijn Technical School

10/01/2023 11:00

PERSONNEL:

The month of April 2022 was our time to say “goodbye and many thanks” to Br. Dorson D. D’Mello and the mid November 2022 was the time to welcome our two new Regents Br. Karthik Guru and Br. Armstrong Joseph.

To the Religious Staff, a sincere thanks for their untiring efforts and unstinted service in the care and love of the children. During the year, the day to day running rested solely on the shoulders of the Director Rev. Fr Elias D’Souza and the two Regents.

They were ably assisted by the two Religious Sisters from St Paul Convent, the Office, Linen Room and Kitchen Staff.

A special word of thanks goes to the Members of the Governing Body of Our Lady’s Home for their encouragement, able guidance and support.

PROJECTS COMPLETED AND FUTURE PLANS:

Ongoing maintenance, repairs and painting the building, Installing solar energy, New Chairs in Boy’s Refectory.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE:

A word of appreciation and gratitude goes out to the following:-

The Archdiocese of Bombay. Priests of various parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay. Donors who have set up Scholarships and who have sponsored the School and Tuition fees and Boarding and Lodging of our boys. The Team of Opus Dei for teaching Catechism to our First Holy Communicants. 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: Ryan International School, Christ Church, Convent of Jesus and Mary, St Xavier’s Boys Academy, St Stanislaus and others. To the TRUST OF OUR LADY’S HOMES FOR BOYS run by the Catholic Church of Bombay goes our gratitude for the support and encouragement.

CONCLUSION:

We are proud of the progress we made in 2022 towards achieving our mission. We provided a safe and nurturing home for the boys, provided them with quality education, healthcare and recreational activities. We are grateful to our Staff, donors and volunteers who contributed to our success. We look forward to continuing our work and making an even greater impact on the years to come.

Fr. Elias D’Souza

Director

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	: ₹ 5,000/-	School & Tuition	: ₹ 8,500/-
Tea	: ₹ 3,500/-	Boarding	: ₹ 21,500/-
Meal (Veg)	: ₹ 10,000/-	Scholarship	: ₹ 25,000/-
Meal (Non-veg)	: ₹ 15,000/-		

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

IFSC code no. CBIN0281209

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

Foreign Residents can transfer funds directly to:

State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch

Account No : 40316694980 (FCRA Current Account)

Branch Code : 00691

IFSC : SBIN0000691

SWIFT : SBININBB104



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