



OUR LADY'S HOME

ANNUAL REPORT

2021- 2022

www.ourladyshome.com



INTRODUCTION:

In the heart of the city of Mumbai is situated “A Home of Hope”; an Institution under the title “OUR LADY’S HOME”.

After the Seminary was relocated from Parel in 1960, Our Lady’s Home was started in place of the Seminary through the initiative and zeal of (Late) Msgr Joseph Lobo and (Late) Msgr Nelson Mascarenhas. The Home began with the goal of catering to the orphans and destitute boys from needy families, who because of their social and financial circumstances would lose out on a wholesome growth.

Thanks to these visionaries and pioneers, the seed planted by them has grown into an Institution that has catered to

over 2200 boys through the decades. The Institution today remains faithful and committed to the ideals and mission of the founders.

Now follows a report at a glance, for the year May 2021 to April 2022.

To begin with, during the entire academic year, most of the children have been at home due to COVID-19. Most of the activities and events that were held during this year were conducted online.

ADMISSIONS:

As usual letters were sent in the month of January to the Parish Priests of all the Churches in the Archdiocese asking them to recommend deserving cases from their Parishes. This year, somehow admissions were done on a very low key because of the ongoing pandemic and the onset of the second wave.

Admissions were done online and hence, we had only 9 new admissions. Till date, we have not yet met some of the newly admitted children. Formalities like filling up of the admission forms and handing over the required documents etc. were all done by the parents and guardians.

ACADEMIC TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE:

The academic year for the second year in succession began with a sense of uncertainty. No one could guess how this year would unfold. However, Our Lady’s Home once again, geared up to reach out to the boys through the online platforms and social media. The year began with a welcome video on June 14, and a Home opening video on June 26, where all the children were made to feel that they were being missed and that the Home was empty and void without them being around. This gave them hope and a sense of belonging. The Home set off in action, with a plan to keep the boys

motivated to study, pursue their hobbies and provide a holistic development.

The overall result of the students was an astonishing 100%. In all fairness, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Director of the Home, the Teachers and the Regents for their close follow-up that instilled confidence in our boys. We are extremely thankful to Rev Fr Joseph D’Souza of our neighbouring St Paul High School, who so kindly granted admission to 11 of our Std VII boarders.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

This year, we had only one Regent placed here for his regency. This Regent along with the two Carmelite Sisters who work with our primary boys were in constant touch

with the boys with regards to their studies. They also made it possible to celebrate and conduct certain School, Spiritual and Institutional Events online.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

June 14 and June 26, 2021:

A welcome video and a Home Opening video made all the boys feel that they were being missed and that the Home was empty and void without them. This made them feel wanted and gave them a sense of belonging.

July 04, 2021:

Sunday School links were sent out to all the children so that, they could attend Sunday School classes online. This link was also helpful to those children who were going to receive their First Holy Communion.

July 25, 2021:

Parent's Day was celebrated online. The boys acknowledged and appreciated their parents for all that they were doing for them. A card making competition was also had online on Parent's Day.

August 08, 2021:

Vianney Day: A small video was prepared by the boys for Vianney Day. The boys expressed their gratitude and thanked all the past and present priests for all that they did and are still doing for them and for the Institution as a whole.

August 15, 2021:

Independence Day: With none of the children on campus, the Independence Day celebrations were rather low key with only the residential Staff on campus. The tricolor was unfurled and hoisted by the Staff. This was followed by a speech and the singing of the National Anthem.

September 05, 2021:

Teacher's Day: The boys acknowledged and appreciated their School teachers and tuition teachers, through speeches and songs. They also made cards in which they thanked and wished their teachers.

September 08, 2021:

Nativity of Our Lady: A Prayer Service was prepared and conducted online on the Feast Day of Our Holy Mother-the Feast Day of Our Home. This was done with a view to unite all those associated with the Home in prayer and celebration on this special day. Some of the boys even visited the Home and participated in the Prayer Service. The Rosary was recited in front of the grotto by the few who were present.

October 03, 2021:

Thanksgiving Day: A Prayer Service was prepared and conducted so as to stir a sense of gratitude in the hearts of the participants. During the Mass which was celebrated in the Chapel, fresh paddy was blessed, thanking God for a providential harvest.

October 12, 2021:

With the Schools gradually being asked to re-open, boys from Stds VIII, IX and X were called back to the Home. Once again there was joy, laughter and noise in the Institution. The reason for calling only the bigger boys back was to enable them to get help in their studies and prepare them for the offline examinations.

November 14, 2021:

Children's Day: As children were still at Home, the teachers, tuition teachers and all associated with the Home put up a video for the children to make the day special for them.

November 15, 2021:

The older boys who had gone home for the Diwali vacations on November 01, returned to the Home.

November 28, 2021:

The boys from Stds IX and X were taken by Br Dorson for a day's outing to St Pius X College, the Archdiocesan Seminary situated at Goregaon. The visit to St Pius X Seminary was a day much looked forward by the boys as it was the first time since the pandemic began they were able to go out on an outing together as a group. The excitement and joy was very visible. Fr Aniceto Pereira the Rector of the seminary met the boys and welcomed them and motivated them to do their best with the opportunities they receive. The trip began with a tour of the St Pius X seminary campus that is like a green oasis in the middle of the concrete city of Mumbai. After that they were given a talk on focusing on their goals in life without being discouraged by failures which are temporary. After a sumptuous lunch we visited the Archdiocesan Heritage Museum where they were given a guided tour. Knowing the history of the local Church and also learning about various things associated with the Church was truly enlightening. The visit ended with some delicious snacks and games for the boys.

December 08, 2021:

Annual Day: This is one of the biggest events of the year, celebrated jointly by the Home and School. The day began with the Eucharist at 7.00 in the morning. Rev. Fr Kelvin Santis, newly ordained priest, was the Main Celebrant. Fr Kelvin was invited as he had done his Regency in this Institution. After Mass, a cake was cut and "Happy Birthday" was sung to Mama Mary. This was followed by a sumptuous breakfast for all the boys, School and Home Staff, Priests and Religious Sisters. A full day's program was organized for the boys by Br Dorson. This consisted of tele-games and a movie.

December 20, 2021:

A grand Christmas party was held for the few children who were in the Home. They were left totally free to sing and dance. There was a grand spread of snacks and food and the children really enjoyed themselves to their heart's content. At the end of the party, the children were given a gift packet. Gifts were packed and kept for all the children who were at home as well. They were informed and told to come and pick up their gift packet anytime between December 20-23. Practically everyone came except for a few who were staying out of Mumbai. The children along with Br Dorson wholeheartedly prepared a lovely Crib, Star and Christmas tree. The theme of the Crib was "Emmanuel in our midst".

January 26, 2022:

Republic Day was celebrated with great joy to honour our Country and its people. Different boys were trained to sing patriotic songs and to speak fluently about our great leaders on this occasion. Br Dorson was the Chief Guest who gave a beautiful message to the children. All the boys, 15 years and above, were sent to take their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine after Republic Day.

March 01, 2022:

On this day, 23 of our Std VII boys returned to the Home. The idea of calling them back was to prepare those boys who would be leaving the Home after Std VII. More than half the number would either be going to other Institutions or would be going to their parish Schools.

March 08, 2022:

Women's Day: A short but meaningful Prayer Service and Scripture reading was organized by the boys on this day. They came together to thank God for the women and to pray for their intentions and well-being. A spray of fresh flowers was then handed over to each of the women present.

April 02, 2022:

S.S.C. Boys and Br Dorson's Farewell: The farewell program began with the lighting of the lamp by the Director followed by a Scripture Reading and Prayer Service which was beautifully organized 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 all involved in its functioning. The Director, Fr Elias D'Souza, then gave a bit of advice to the boys explaining to them how to cope with the challenges of life, etc. The boys were then presented with a spray of flowers and a small gift as a token of remembrance of the Home. After a couple of dances, the boys then went on with the Regent's farewell. Br Dorson shared his experiences in the Home and how he has grown over the past one year. The Regent's farewell compiled in a song by Fr Savio Rodrigues was just astounding. The closing note by the Director, Fr Elias D'Souza, about Br Dorson left one and all spellbound. A token of appreciation was then handed over to Br Dorson for all the hard work put in single handedly during the year. The finale of the program was the rendition of The Home Anthem sung by the Staff and boys of the Home.

June 2021 – March 2022

Distribution of Rations: Parents of those children who were at home were informed every month through WhatsApp messages and telephone calls to come to the Home and collect their monthly stock of food items such as rice, dal, channa and other items of basic necessity. The Home provided food items on a monthly basis.

EVENTS IN PICTURES:





VOICE OF THE BOYS AND STAFF:

When I first came to Our Lady's Home (OLH), I did not know much about the Home and life in the boarding. The Fathers, Sisters and the older boys helped me to manage my things and they would correct me when wrong. As time passed OLH became a second home. It nurtured me, taught me good values, gave me spiritual as well as educational knowledge, provided me with a chapel to pray, a study hall, a bed, a refectory, a playground and much more. In the past 10 years, OLH gave me many opportunities so that I could explore my talents and skills.

I am thankful to the Fathers, the Brothers, and the Sisters who have done so much for me. Thanks to the teachers

I have been a part of OLH for 10 years. OLH has played a very important role in my life by giving me so many opportunities that I had always wished for. Life in OLH was very good as it took care of all my needs and provided me with all the necessary materials for studying, playing, activities, etc. I never felt alone or lonely because I had my friends who were always there for me. I can never forget all the memories and time I spent with

I began teaching at Our Lady's Home in December 2017. Since then, I continued teaching at Our Lady's Home because of the warmth and love I felt here. The boys are very sweet and are angels, in disguise. Teaching them is a privilege, and I have enjoyed every bit of it. We've played a lot of games and quizzes, but my favorite memory was when I organized an elocution competition, a couple of years ago, and gave the liberty to the boys to talk about anything they wanted to. Surprisingly, most of them spoke about their families and the challenges they faced at home. I had tears in my eyes listening

My volunteering stint at Our Lady's Home in Parel began three years ago at the request of a friend. I had never interacted with anyone at the Institution before nor did I know the Parel area.

While fairly confident of my ability in Mathematics, I wondered if I would be able to make a difference in the boys' understanding of the subject. I began apprehensively and soon found out that many of my students were very keen to do better, and not just in maths. They sat for a two-hour tuition class enthusiastically. The tuition classes helped

'A boy is the only thing that God can use to make a man' – Unknown.

My stay at Our Lady's Home was a time of learning as I dealt with boys from various backgrounds and each one had a unique story of their own. Being with them gave me the opportunity to understand closely not just their problems but also their dreams and ambitions. The Director, Fr Elias, and the Home Staff worked tirelessly to see that the boys are not bereft of necessities and that the Home truly becomes a second Home for the boys where they get all the care and attention they need.

and the tuition teachers who helped me in my studies and extra-curricular activities. Also, thank you to the Staff of the Home for the hard work and patience throughout. You all have served us with deep dedication all these years. I also thank the benefactors for their generosity and big hearts in caring and sharing with us. And thank you to the boys of the home for your fraternal friendship and the joys and the fun time we have been through. I will miss all of this. It's a great deal!

- Ronnie Oberai

my friends, the time spent in mischief, pranks, studying, playing, etc. I learnt many wonderful and valuable concepts about living a well-mannered life and to decide on an ambition or goal for my future life. I thank the Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and all the Staff for the timely assistance and care you have given to me. I am happy that I got to be a part of this institution for so many years.

- Jack Koli

to them. Each of them spoke from the heart. Since then, it's not been just a teacher-student relationship but something much deeper. On occasions like Teachers' Day and my birthday, these boys planned many surprises for me using the limited resources they have, but each of those surprises will be cherished forever.

I truly feel blessed to be teaching these boys because I believe each of them has a very bright future ahead, but they just need the motivation and guidance.

- Calvin Pereira (Tuition Teacher)

them improve their scores and gave them the coaching advantage that the other children in their school had. It was an enriching experience and when asked to sign up again this year, I did so without any hesitation.

We give and inexplicably, we find that we get more in return. To anyone considering volunteering their time or resources, I would only say, 'don't hesitate - because both indeed are blessed - the receiver as well as the giver'.

- Jennifer Rebello (Tuition Teacher)

Efforts are taken to form them, not only in their academics but also physically, morally and spiritually so that when they leave the Home they are not just qualified academically but may turn out to be in the future, individuals with a strong, independent and moral character. Our Lady's Home has left no stone unturned to turn these rough stones into beautiful diamonds.

- Br Dorson D. D'Mello (Regent at Our Lady's Home)

PERSONNEL:

The month of April 2021 was our time to say “goodbye and many thanks” to our two Regents Br Kenneth Pinto and Br Ashton Pinto. The beginning of June 2021 was the time to welcome our one and only new Regent Br Dorson D. D’Mello. Our Staff comprises, the Director, Rev. Fr Elias D’Souza who because of his efficiency, foresight and love for the children has held office for the eighth year in succession.

The day to day running of the Institution rested solely on the shoulders of Fr Elias and Br Dorson.

Supporting them were two Religious Sisters from St Paul’s Convent, the Office Staff comprising a Professional Social Worker and an Accountant cum Purchase Assistant and the Linen Room and Kitchen Staff.

FINANCE:

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 the boys.

The Individual donors (too many to mention by name).

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.

FUTURE PLANS:

To complete the pending works: Upgrading infrastructure facilities for children (computers, sports, lodging etc), building repairs and painting, etc.

CONCLUSION:

As the years pass by, Our Lady’s Home has grown a little more focused and organized, now than before. We go ahead with a lot of experience behind us. It is indeed a joy to share in God’s creative love and concern. Much of what is undertaken and carried out is with the guiding hand of God, always there to support us and point out to us the directions that we should take. May God Bless all those who have helped make

‘A Home’ for the hundreds who have found their way here. A word of gratitude to Bishop John Rodrigues and the members of the Governing Body for their continuous and constant interest in the Home. Their valuable guidance has, down the years, helped us to keep our head above the water.

- Sd/- 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	: ₹ 7,500/-
Tea	: ₹ 3,500/-	Boarding	: ₹ 17,500/-
Meal (Veg)	: ₹ 9,500/-	Scholarship	: ₹ 25,000/-
Meal (Non-veg)	: ₹ 13,500/-		

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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