



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2020

www.ourladyshome.com



INTRODUCTION:

DIAMOND JUBILEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

Our Lady's Home is in the midst of its Diamond Jubilee Year. A jubilee of an Institution is an important milestone that gives us an opportunity to look back on the distance travelled and "ahead to" the journey that lies ahead and has to be planned.



Reminiscing over the years that have gone by, we cannot but, thank God for the Blessings received. We also need to thank God for the visionaries who dreamt, the pioneers who launched the project and all those who labored hard all through the past sixty years to make the Institution what it is today.

We are indeed grateful to all those who during the past 60 years have helped to keep the fires burning, spent themselves in the service of our boys, and helped to make the Institution a Home.

MILESTONES AND MEMOIRS (1960 - 2020)

THE YEAR 1960: Shifting of the Diocesan Seminary to St Pius X College, Goregaon and the phased conversion of the Parel Seminary building into a home for the minor orphan boys. The beginning of OUR LADY'S HOME.

NOVEMBER 28, 1964: Pope Paul VI visits Bombay for the 38th International Eucharistic Congress.

DECEMBER 04, 1964: **RED LETTER DAY** in the history of Our Lady's Home. Pope Paul VI visits and places the Home under the patronage of Our Lady. He has breakfast with the boys of Our Lady's Home.

FEBRUARY 02, 1968: The present building, which houses the children, was blessed and inaugurated by His Eminence Late Valerian Cardinal Gracias, the then Archbishop of Bombay.

DECEMBER 08, 1977: The Old Boys' Association (OBA) was started by the Late Rev. Fr Austin Cerejo and Rev. Fr Denis D'Souza. The idea of forming the OBA was to help the ex-students of Our Lady's Home to meet regularly, where ex-boys could be assisted either with further studies or their future careers. Initially, the motto of the OBA was "Love is sharing" which later changed to "Together for Progress".

AUGUST 1980: The completion of the Auditorium constructed on top of the Chapel. With the Late Rev Fr Austin Cerejo as the Director at that time, this Auditorium was named 'Cardinal Valerian Gracias Hall'.

MAY 1983: Major repairs of the building undertaken for the first time. This was the first phase.

DECEMBER 1985: Our Lady's Home celebrated its Silver Jubilee under the Directorship of Rev. Fr Denis D'Souza.

MAY 1986: The second phase of repairs carried out! Extensive plumbing work as many pipes had corroded. Replacements of pipes as the old ones were beyond repair. The terrace over the first dormitory was resurfaced with china mosaic tiling because of leakage.

APRIL 21, 1989: In December 1987 a campaign was launched by Rev. Fr Denis D'Souza for a Housing Project in Uttan. This was to house widows whose children were inmates of Our Lady's Home and who had no shelter of their own. This Project was completed and inaugurated by his Lordship Late Bishop Longinus Pereira on April 21, 1989.

JULY 30, 2004: Our Lady's Home established its bakery. Many older boys who display interest in baking are trained. On Feasts and important occasions Our Lady's Home bakes cakes and confectionaries.

AUGUST 12, 2004: Emeritus Bishop Bosco Penha blessed the Solar Heaters and the Computer room in the Home. The year also marked the completion of the renovation of the kitchen.

NOVEMBER 23, 2005: The complete tiling and renovation of the Chapel and Sacristy were carried out.

JANUARY 31, 2006: The Entire building repairs and painting completed.

NOVEMBER 28, 2006: Audio Visual

Room inaugurated by Mr A.K. Joshi of Voltas. The Audio-Visual room has an LCD Projector where the Computer and TV Cable are connected. It is equipped with a proper sound system.

FEBRUARY 09, 2007: A mini-stadium, constructed in the backyard, was inaugurated by Archbishop Oswald Cardinal Gracias. The boys can have tournaments and night games on different occasions.

JULY 26, 2007: Renovated Boys Refectory inaugurated by Mr. A.K. Joshi of Voltas. The boys' refectory was given a total new look with mosaic walls, marble flooring, L.C.D. T.V., Music system and stainless steel dining tables and plastic chairs.

FEBRUARY 18, 2010: The Foundation Stone for the new building, which would be housing college students, aspiring to join the priesthood, was blessed by Archbishop Oswald Cardinal Gracias.

DECEMBER 05, 2010: Our Lady's Home celebrates its Golden Jubilee. The Chief Guest was the Late Emeritus Ferdinand Fonseca, and the Guest of Honour was Emeritus Bishop Percival Fernandez.

DECEMBER 12, 2010: A milestone was reached when the Old Boys' Association (O.B.A.) held a most memorable Celebration of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of their Alma Mater Our Lady's Home.

JANUARY 2013: The construction of the new

building, for housing college students, was launched by Rev Fr Rui Comelo. Stalled briefly due to procurement of (certain) permissions, the work took off again in August 2014 under the Directorship of Rev Fr Elias D'Souza. The building was finally completed by the end of November 2015.

DECEMBER 05, 2014: In commemoration of the visit of Blessed Pope Paul VI to Our Lady's Home during the 38th International Congress in 1964 (50 years), a grand celebration was held at Our Lady's Home. His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias graced the occasion. His Eminence and many other priests, Religious Sisters and Staff shared the meal along with the boys.

DECEMBER 16, 2015: The new building "Our Lady's Home" Training Centre was inaugurated by His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias. He was assisted by His Lordship Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes who was the Chairman of the Governing Body and the Director Rev. Fr Elias D'Souza.

JUNE 30, 2017: The entire building was once again repaired and painted.

OCTOBER 2018: Polishing and repairing of all the desks and benches in the school classrooms and study hall completed. Also, the concreting of the ground along Pearl Colony Side done.

DECEMBER 07, 2019: Opening of the Diamond Jubilee Year. The Chief Guest for the function was His Lordship, Bishop Barthol Barretto.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020

Our Lady's Home is a home where love resides. A beautiful grotto of Our Lady at the entrance greets each and everyone who enters here and imbibes in them a sense of peace

and tranquillity. This Home, with its serene surroundings, houses 125 orphaned, destitute and poor boys, of all castes and creeds from the ages of 5 to 18 years.



ADMISSIONS:

This year, 27 boys enrolled at Our Lady's Home! However, stress is laid mainly on the admittance of primary school children, as there are only a few institutions which cater to this age group. Letters to all Parish Priests and Assistants are sent in December asking them to send deserving cases for admission in January. Application forms, are distributed through January and, are expected to be returned duly filled with all the required certificates by mid-March (the latest). It gives us a chance to check each deserving candidate. Practically, all cases recommended are usually through a Parish Priest. Occasionally, some are recommended through Social Workers or sent from other Institutions. Orphans get the first preference, followed by those with one living parent and finally the poor with both parents. One has to be academically inclined to get admission.

BOARDING AND LODGING:

Healthy growth is our primary concern! The child is given a balanced diet, rich in nutrients. One-third of our expenditure is on food. We believe that 'a properly' fed child is a healthy child. Besides, good food also provides a sense of security and well-being. Quality and quantity are never compromised. Eggs are given twice a week, in addition to chicken, fish, vegetables and fruits. Children are also given a cup of milk every day with Bournvita, etc. The height and weight chart and the relatively low medical expenditure both indicate that the children are growing well.

Three large airy dormitories house the boys according to their age groups. Each has a locker for clothes and personal belongings and a shoe rack under each bed. In the dormitories, the boys are made to feel very comfortable with fans, beds, mattress, pillows and colourful counterpanes, which bring to the dormitory, a warm and delightful feeling! The study hall is equipped with lights and fans; each child has a personal desk and chair. The Home is blessed with a 24-hour water supply, which is so essential where sticky, playful boys are growing.

CLOTHING AND LINEN:

Our Home does not only provide a roof over the head, but it also provides the child with the school uniform, games clothes, and all the bed linen they require. Each child is given about three sets of clothes. An extra set is kept in the linen room where the seamstresses diligently mend worn out and torn clothes. All the clothing and linen are sent regularly to the dhobi as there is hardly sufficient room for drying clothes and also because more than half the children are too small to wash their clothes.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE:

Stress is on prevention rather than cure and, hence, we are proud to say that our yearly expenditure on medicals is not much. Thanks to the wholesome food, on account of which our boys are immune to most diseases that children usually fall prey to. Thanks are due, in large measure, to the 'family

doctor', Dr Bipin Jain for services rendered free of charge. The dormitories are fumigated, and distinct mosquito lamps ensure a good night's sleep.

A free medical camp was organised by Capt Deepak Correia and his team from ANAVI group with the help of Seabird Medicare Pvt. Ltd. The medical team comprised seven members which included a doctor and two nurses. All the 125 boys underwent a physical examination and blood check-up. The ANAVI group distributed hampers to all the children on completion of testing. It was a nice gesture on their part!

ACADEMIC TRAINING & PERFORMANCE:

Every child has the privilege of attending school. Extracurricular activities are also given weightage so that education is not reduced to rote learning. The emphasis is on an all-round growth. From the First to Std VII, all the boys attend our school run by the same parent body, the Trust of Our Lady's Homes for Boys. The boys of Std VIII upwards attend the neighbouring school, St Paul High School.

This year, we had a lot of volunteers and honorary teachers coming in to teach our boys. All our primary boys were given tuitions the year-round while for the boys of the secondary section, qualified tuition teachers were engaged, to help out where certain subjects are concerned.

Counselling sessions were held regularly twice a week for all the boys. Children who were weak in studies and those who had behavioural problems were given more attention.

FORMATION:

Young minds are very receptive. With so many negative values being presented by the media, a child could lose his sense of direction and purpose. No effort is spared where the formation is concerned. Through programs and activities which are dear to a child's heart, a good formation is instilled.

GAMES:

Play is an all-important and wonderful teacher. Where there are boys, there must be games. Every age group is catered to. There are ample equipment and just enough place for our 125 lads to play to their heart's content. Boys like to be with those of their age and temperament but, as part of formation in community living, we organize team games. This year the Inauguration of the BEE TEAMS was held on July 18, 2019. Each team was named, after a bee, e.g. bumblebee etc. Strenuous play not only helps the child study more but also helps in handling feelings of anger and depression. The child gets into bed exhausted, with nothing but sleep on his mind.

MUSIC:

Many of our boys are learning to play the drums, the violin and keyboard. Special tutors come to teach them once a week. Our children are talented and put up good performances at various functions in the Home.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

June 14, 2019: All the boys! were back Once again there is joy, laughter and noise in the Home with some crying and few others sulking among the new boys.



July 13 to 26, 2019: Specialized Sports activities were conducted by our friends from Spain. Around 15 youngsters coming from Spain conducted various sports activities for all boys from Stds I to X. The main focus of their visit was to train our boys with the correct techniques to play football and volleyball. The boys had an enjoyable time interacting with the Spaniards and learning to play the games well.



July 21, 2019: Parents' Day was celebrated when the children's' parents came to visit them. The program was well-organized. It began with an opening prayer led by the Director, followed by a short entertainment program. All the parents were served snacks and a soft drink.



August 15, 2019: This year after the hoisting of the flag the children celebrated Independence Day with a program called "THE FREEDOM MASTI" It was a fun-filled day where the children had the freedom to paint their faces, hands and legs with sketch pens etc.

Then they were divided into their bee teams where each team had a particular colour of wrist band. Tele-games were organized like spell forming, relay of water games etc. There was also a dance session, and a lot of snacks were distributed. In the evening the children were shown a movie 'Sui Dhaga'.



September 07, 2019: Teacher's Day: Teachers play an important role in the life of children. They teach, guide and mould the children in school or during tuition time. The Home encourages children to express their love and gratitude to teachers by celebrating TEACHER'S DAY every year. This year also the children greeted the teachers with flower bouquets, gave tokens of love and put up a beautiful cultural programme with music, dance, songs, etc. The teachers were deeply touched by the children's efforts, love, and appreciation of them.



September 08, 2019: The Birthday of Mother Mary was celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy. The day began with Morning Prayer, Rosary in the chapel and a lovely breakfast. A special prayer service was conducted at the grotto followed by the inauguration of Marian fete. The children participated in many games and enjoyed themselves to their heart's content. The feast Mass was celebrated at 12.00 noon by Fr Omar Fernandes, newly ordained priest who was a regent at Our Lady's Home some years back, followed by a festive meal, indoor games/quiz and screening of a movie on the Life of the Blessed Mother. The children were grateful to the Blessed Mother for giving them an opportunity to honour and celebrate her birthday.



October 2019: Diwali Damaka was held this year where a series of indoor and outdoor events were organized team-wise during October. The first event was a Rangoli Competition. The second event was a Geography quiz. The next was an “Ad Mad Show”. Each team had to prepare a skit on a Diwali offer. Then followed the outdoor events of different League matches like Dodge Ball, Volley Ball and Blind Throw Ball. The last and final event to close the Diwali Damaka was a Magic Show.



November 14, 2019: Children’s Day: The children wait for this day to come to school with party clothes and do “masti” with other children. They want to express themselves freely and have fun. This year the children enjoyed a special movie, played many games and relished special snacks like Dhabeli, Pani puri, etc. The teachers facilitated the children and went out of their way to make it an enjoyable day for them.



December 07, 2019: Annual Day and Opening of the Diamond Jubilee Year. This was one of the biggest events of the year, celebrated jointly by the Home and School. A packed capacity of approximately 1000 guests greeted the Chief Guest, Bishop Barthol Barretto. One could sense the enthusiasm and excitement of our boys to present their talents before the audience. It was colourful and enthralling to see the opening ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee. The cutting of the ribbon and the releasing of 60 gas balloons into the air was really amazing. It is also one day when the boys wait for awards. Their hard work and initiative were acknowledged with awards and scholarships based on academics and overall behaviour. All the guests, benefactors and well wishers who attended the evening function appreciated the efforts put in by the Manager, Staff and Students.



December 19, 2019: Christmas Party: Christmas is a very dear celebration for all, especially our children. It is a tradition in the home to celebrate Christmas with great Joy. It is JESUS’ birthday. The children whole heartedly prepare a lovely Crib, Star, and Christmas tree to show their love for Jesus. They pray at the Crib and thank Jesus for the gift of life. This year Bros. Cletus and Cajetan organized many entertaining and competitive group games, carol singing, tableau etc. The children were given many prizes, gifts and were served a delicious meal. Music and dance is part of the celebration. The children had a wonderful time.



January 26, 2020: 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. Parade and cultural activities were conducted. Bro. Cletus Ferrao was the Chief Guest who gave a lovely message to children in Marathi.



February 09, 2020: The First Holy Communion Day: Sixteen of our young lads from Stds IV and V received their First Holy Communion in our Chapel. The Main Celebrant was Fr Savio Rodrigues. The Eucharist, was meaningfully celebrated. The children were trained for almost a year. After the Eucharist there was a short program that was organized. Each communicant was allowed to invite 8-10 guests. The program began with the lighting of the lamp followed by the cake cutting and then the variety entertainment. Each child sat around the table with their family and snack boxes and, soft drinks were served. After the program, there was a dancing session. The children and the parents really enjoyed themselves.



February 19, 2020:- Closing of 'BEEing Children' Year: A closing ceremony of all events organized during the year was held. The programme consisted of a short prayer service, team-wise march past, the finals of the basketball tournament, followed by the distribution of prizes, certificates, medals and cups to the individual winners and the teams. The champion of the Trophy was the Mason Bee Team.



PERSONNEL: The end of April 2019 was our time to say “goodbye and many thanks” to our Assistant Director Rev. Fr Wilfred Vaz and the two Regents Bro. Cris Veigas and Bro. Jordon Gobind. The beginning of June 2019 was the time to welcome the two new Regents Bro. Cajetan Mendes and Bro. Cletus Ferrao.

Once inside the portals, each child is given all the love and affection he deserves. This would not be possible without a loving and dedicated Staff. To the Religious Staff a simple and 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 and the two Brothers.

They were ably assisted by the two Nuns from St Paul’s 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.



FINANCE: Amidst these difficult times, our gratitude goes out to donors and benefactors both big and small who with their financial aid has made our work very much easier and lighter. We owe our special thank you to the following:

- * The Archdiocese of Bombay
- * Priests of various parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay
- * The SCC 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. Antonio Alonso and Team of Opus Dei for teaching Catechism to our First 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: Champion, Convent of Jesus and Mary, Fort, St Xavier Boy’s Academy, and Ryan International School
- * The TRUST OF OUR LADY’S HOMES FOR BOYS run by the Catholic Church of Bombay we owe our gratitude for their support and encouragement

PLANS & PROJECTS

Completed Project: The repairs, renovation work and painting of Our Lady's Home Uttan House during the year.



BEFORE



AFTER

Future Plans: The repairs and resurfacing of Our Lady's Home building terrace with china mosaic tiles to be taken up at the earliest. It will incur major expenses.

CONCLUSION

I implore God's choicest blessings on the Management, Staff and all concerned in the coming years. May God grant them the wisdom, guidance and commitment to plan and carry out the good work initiated sixty years ago. We ask Mother Mary, the patroness of our Home to

continue playing her role of watching over those who enter the portals of this Institution.

God Bless you all.

Fr Eilas 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

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



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DIAMOND JUBILEE - ANNUAL DAY 2020

Dear Parents / Benefactors: Due to the prevailing situation in Mumbai the Diamond Jubilee - Annual Day celebration in December 2020 is cancelled. We may have a short in house function if possible to award the scholarships to the deserving students. - **Director**