

## OUR LADY OF NAZARETH PRIMARY SCHOOL 20TH ANNIVERSARY AND PRIZE GIVING DAY CELEBRATION

### Growing in age, wisdom and grace

It is possible to transform a child's life from desolation to delight. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Prize Giving held on February 24, 2012 at Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School illustrates this phrase. The celebration renewed commitment among participants to provide a good learning environment for children who live in Mukuru kwa Njenga slum. The ceremony brought together stakeholders in one venue, guaranteeing their support for the life transforming campaign whose goal is to *'change a child's life one day at a time.'*

Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School began in 1992 with two hundred children. It is a charity school in the heart of Mukuru kwa Njenga, one of Kenya's largest slums. Currently, the School has experienced teachers and supporting staff under the Care of the Marianists and the leadership of Bro. Joseph Maricky. It has a conducive, learner-friendly environment embedded on The Marianists philosophy. As a result the School have received several awards including the most improved school in 2011 and the Library Award. These achievements have truly motivated the children to excel more. At Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School, Bright and needy Students who excel in Kenya Certificate of Primary Examination (KCPE) normally receive secondary school tuition fees scholarship. This has been made possible by many generous friends of The Marianists and Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School.

The school is able to maintain good facilities because of The Marianists and other well wishers. Parents also support their children in the hope that they will break the poverty circle and live a better life. Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School admits children from preschool to class eight: there are four streams from class 1 to class 8 and five streams in preschool. At present the School population is 1952 pupils. The Schools vision is growing in age, wisdom and grace.

### Key things that happened

The guest of honour at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Prize Giving Day celebration was His Highness Bishop David Kamau representing His Lordship John Cardinal Njue the Archbishop of Nairobi Dioceses. Bro. Chola The Marianist Superior was among the key dignitaries who graced the occasion. All dignitaries were taken through the School Tour by knowledgeable, enthusiastic pupils. They toured the computer lab, weather station, science lab, tree nursery and finally planted trees.

Guests were treated to songs, poems, drama, karate club presentation, music club presentation as instructed by Bro. Mark's and humour by the alumni 'zangalewa' dancing troupe. Further two leading luminaries encouraged the pupils that dreams are achievable to those who pursue them.

Speeches were presented in support of the school. Awards were then presented to students, teachers and donors. The event culminated by cutting of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake.

### **Change a child's life one day at a time**

Those who pledged support for the OLN School include: The Marianists Brothers in the person of the Regional Superior Bro. Chola, Catholic Diocese of Nairobi, Teachers Service Commission of Kenya (TSC), AAR Health Services provider, *PriceWaterHouseCoppers* (PWC) the renowned audit firm, KK Security Company, G4S Security Company, Atlas Plumbers, E A Cables, NIC Bank, Heritage Insurance Company and Kenya National Library. Companies that donated towards the event budget include: Panari Sky Centre.

Bro. Chola applauded the success of Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School, Aquinas High School and Mangu High School. He projected the idea to expand Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School so that it can also offer secondary school education to cater for the children who are unable to secure a position in the secondary schools. He also proposed the construction of another stream of classes so that each class can accommodate a maximum of 40 students. He thanked Corpus Christi Parish in England for being 'far but very near to the hearts of OLN School.'

On the other hand, Bishop Kamau encouraged guests to continue in their commitment to be involved in activities that have eternal value. He pledge support from the Nairobi Diocese - to acquire the School's land title deed. The School is built in the middle of an informal settlement making it difficult to obtain the title deed.

While Speaking Fr. Jerry conveyed Father Martin Solma's greetings and acclaimed the efforts of the stakeholders and pledged support from other friends of the Marianists in the USA. He moved the crowd by giving a big hug to the School Head teacher to symbolize a hug from Father Martin to the children. He also reminded them the significance of the gifts that all the children received from Father Martin.

Md. Beckman of AAR Health services pledged support for the tree planting program whose goal is to create a healthy environment at the school compound. She congratulated the school for being in the forefront in the de-worming program. Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School has maintained the best sanitary condition and the pit latrines are showcased as an example to emulate in Kenya and the region.

The Kenya Teachers Service Commission (TSC) representative thanked The Marianists for their commitment. Being an election year in Kenya, he encouraged the guests to give politicians who campaign in the region duty bearers 'performance perimeters.' He pledged to facilitate the employment of OLN teachers by the TSC. Out of the 18 male and 12 female teachers who work at the School, only 9 are employed by TSC.

Corporate companies that support alumni who excel in KCPE also renewed their commitment. PWC who are sponsoring 43 students in various secondary schools. Heritage Insurance Company has supported and will continue to support one of the alumnus who currently learns at Kenyatta University. Daraja, an NGO that holds programs for parents who live in deplorable living conditions also pledged their support.

The School appreciates the care given by World Food Program (WFP) who continuously supports the feeding program that provides a meal to these children who would otherwise learn with a bare stomach. The School also thanks the Kenyan Government for providing funds through the free primary education.

Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School is an 'oasis' in the middle of an informal settlement. The children of Mauro kwa Njenga slum are able to get good quality education because of the efforts of this God given School.

### **How you can be involved:**

We need support from well wishers whether large or small to achieve the goal – *change a child's life one day at a time*. We invite you to join us in the effort to mobilize resources for Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School.

**Sign up:** Say a pray of blessing for the less fortunate members of the society during the 2012 lent season. Plan to show mercy according to your means.

**Give:** Contribute care packs, tuition scholarship fees and help raise funds to construct classrooms and to rehabilitate the deplorable rusty tinned walls of our classrooms.

**Encourage:** Show the world the value of giving to the poor and needy.

For more information about this OLN School please contact Bro. Joseph Maricky, the Manager of Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School on telephone +254 725 962 340 or email [mmaricky@sm-ea.or.ke](mailto:mmaricky@sm-ea.or.ke).

*The family of Our Lady of Nazareth Primary sends blessing to you.*