

Veritas Academy



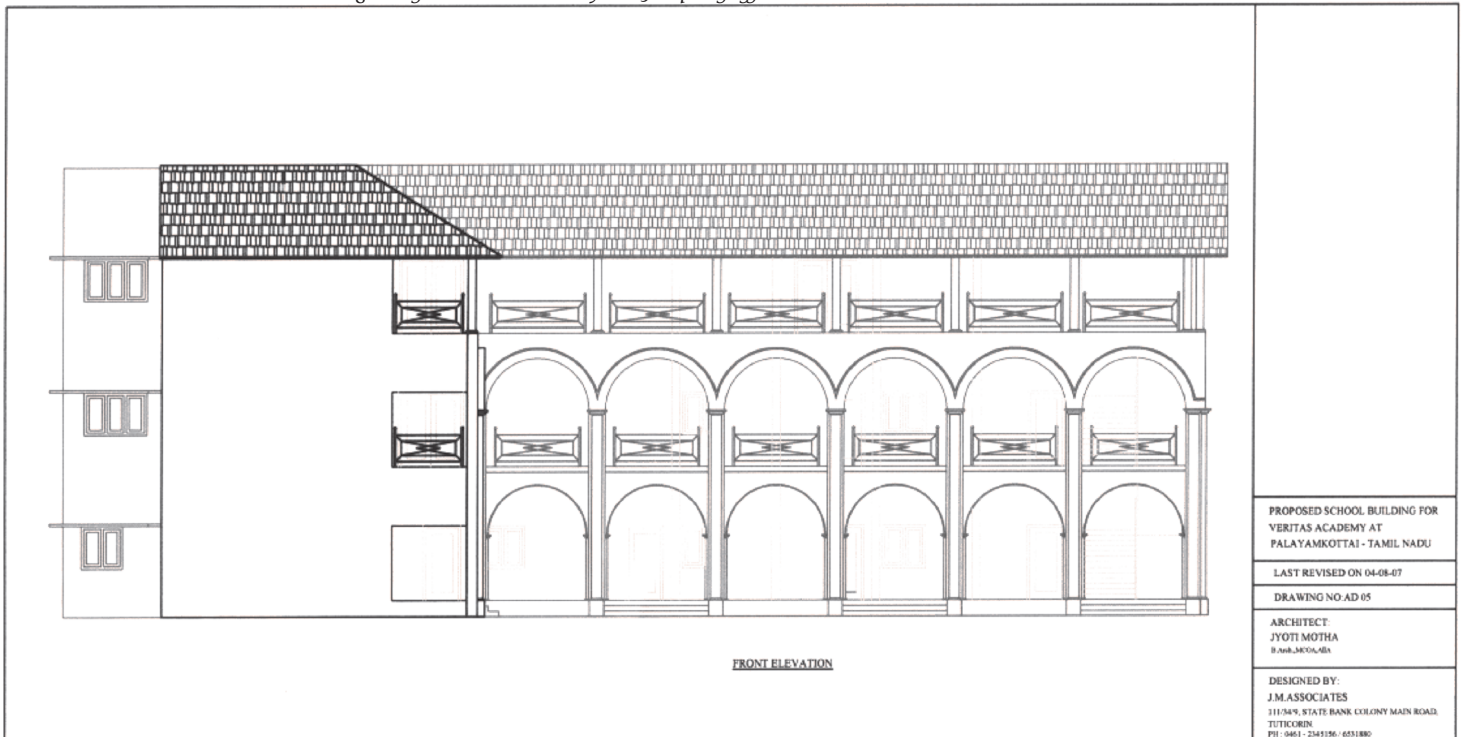
Fr. Daniel Couture digs the first clod assisted by Fr. Joseph Pfeiffer.

NEW BUILDING PROJECT LAUNCHED

Veritas Academy was founded in June 2006 for the education of the children from both the orphanage and from the families who either live near to the Most Holy Trinity Priory or are willing to send their children as boarders.

Its beginnings have been modest; the school is currently situated in a rented building owned by one of our long-time benefactors, Mr. Selvaraj, but is rather too small to be a permanent home. With the future in mind, therefore, we have decided to build a new school on the priory site itself.

With this goal in view, the “Fr. Francis Design Studio” has pulled out all the stops to produce a simple, elegant and practical solution to our needs. The project was launched with raised glasses in mid-November, but, as with all such projects, it soon found itself struggling to move



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forward in a molasses of planning permission bureaucracy. Indeed such is our concern, that we ask your prayers that the bureaucrats be speedily moved to approve the plans.

SCHOOL BLOSSOMING

While all this is going on, the school is slowly developing its own character and rhythm. Miss Marie-Blanche, a postulant of the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart, is the headmistress. She has established a regime of order and happiness in the school. She is blessed with that greatest of teaching gifts: a withering glare; the sort, as P.G. Wodehouse would say, that could 'open an oyster at sixty paces!' Her staff are comprised of three dedicated local faithful and three volunteers. The four priests of the priory teach at the

school too, but theirs is more of a cameo role for the purposes of entertainment.

A well run school is one founded, not only on the right principles, but also on their prudent application. The secret is to have that rare combination of (a) the right school rules and (b) their consistent application by *all* the staff. If this can be achieved, then, not only are the children in no doubt about what is right and wrong, they are also preserved from that damaging insecurity of uncertainty, an insecurity that can easily end in rejection of all authority.

Despite the school blossoming, we are not entirely free of our quota of worries. Besides the worry of planning permission, there is the worry of how we are going to cope with additional class groups as we separate the boys and girls after Year 6.



Anthony carries the liturgical shovel.

There is also the worry about losing Miss Marie-Blanche for a year to the mother house in Vigne, Italy for her novitiate year in July. If you know someone with special teaching gifts, please let us know...



Veritas Academy, December 2007.