
Veritas Academy



Veritas Academy 2009-10 in blossom.

THE SCHOOL IS NOW A NECESSARY CONDITION OF OUR APOSTOLATE

OPERATION BLOSSOM

In the early years of the Society of Saint Pius X, Archbishop Lefebvre called the Society's work "Operation Survival." Now in India, as in every other corner of Catholic tradition throughout the world, by the wonderful workings of Providence, "Operation Survival" might well be called "Operation Blossom" on account of the growth of its traditional Catholic schools.

It is true that the development of schools is very much a part of "Operational Survival," but it entails so much of a different approach to the apostolate as to appear to be a change in direction altogether.

HOW IT USED TO BE

For example, until Veritas Academy was established by Father Summers in

2006, the priests of Palayamkottai expended themselves upon Sunday "hit-and-run" Mass Centres. Mass was offered in far flung chapels, twenty minutes of catechism followed and then the priest disappeared in a cloud of dust to the next chapel on the list. Congregations grew very quickly at first as faithful, disillusioned by the post-Vatican II changes (or having fallen out with their local parish priests), rediscovered tradition, but as time passed, there were fewer faithful who could rediscover tradition (they were dying of old age or had spent too long in the faith-sapping modern church) and the children of existing faithful, having been educated in local schools, rarely had the formation to hold on to the treasure they had received. The value of the Mass Centres by themselves, therefore, began fol-

lowing a law of diminishing returns. They were enough to keep those firmly established in the faith nourished with the sacraments, but by themselves, they produced no growth.

VERITAS

As soon as the school was established to educate the orphans that fell under our care, and as soon as the faithful had enough confidence in the school's ability to make their children pass the state exams (sadly education for the world is too often given a higher priority than education for eternity), the children began to arrive from the villages. And then, when they returned home for the holidays, everyone noticed the difference. More parents approached the school and more new parents came to the Mass Centre too.



Elizabeth.

BELOVED SINGAMPARAI

The greatest success so far has been in the village of Singamparai. Last year we had 4 boys at Veritas, this year we have 9 boys and 5 girls. Next year we will have even more. In the meantime the Mass attendance has doubled at Singamparai and the rapport with the priory is ever more cordial.

In the letters of St. Francis Xavier, we read that he often used the children to convert their parents. The experience to date with our humble school shows this to be a most promising strategy.



Vijay Joseph concentrates on his catechism test.



*“My personal feeling, Joyson, is that we should look at the whole of the original text in Greek before we be so bold as to suggest a translation of Theophilus’ “*τριάς*”.*

THE FUTURE

It is clear that the paradigm of the apostolate has changed over the last few years. The Mission can no longer be a watering can for the faith to survive, but must plant seeds afresh and cultivate fragrant blossoms for the fruits of the summer to come.

PLANNING PERMISSION WOE

If Charles Dickens had visited the Palayamkottai Planning Office, he would never have been so harsh on the Her Majesty’s Civil Service when he portrayed it as the ‘Circumlocution Office’ in the novel *Little Dorrit*. Still no progress on the workshop/dormitory project I’m afraid.