

April 5, 2025 New Students and Parents of Sakura no Seibo Junior College

Good morning. It is my honor to have this opportunity to share a few reflections with you today as you begin a new learning experience at Sakura no Seibo Junior College.

I am a Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame and am joined by the members of the general council of the congregation. We live in Montreal Canada and are privileged to be visiting our sisters and educational colleagues here at the college.

I would like to welcome you to a school that is inspired by the life and educational philosophy of our foundress Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys. Since 1658, the sisters and now the women and men across the world and most especially here at Sakura no Seibo Junior College are fostering a liberating education.

The goal of liberating education is to develop the full potential of students, preparing them to become agents of their own transformation. It also seeks to help students become citizens of the world who participate actively in and are committed to transforming society and preserving our planet. It is a form of education that prioritizes humanizing relationships and promoting mutual and interdependent dialogue, while always taking into account the dignity of each person.

As you begin this educational journey,

I ask Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, who contributed to the dignity and well-being of families in her time, to look with compassion on this school community.

May she help parents in their search for the spiritual and material resources required for the education of their children.

May she be a source of hope and enlightenment for the Board of Directors, Administration, Faculty and Staff of Sakura no Seibo Junior College who are dedicated to promoting the values of excellence, dialogue, collaboration, and responsibility.

May she walk with the students in their search for meaning and help them to recognize and develop the gifts that they have for the advancement of a more just and equitable world.

May she guide and support all the members of this school community as they continue to live her vision of an education that is liberating and uplifting. Amen