



CONGRÉGATION DE
NOTRE-DAME

Éducation libératrice
Liberating Education
真の自由への教育
Educación liberadora

SAKURA NO SEIBO

PROVINCE MARIA (JAPAN)

SAKURA NO SEIBO JUNIOR COLLEGE

How do the Sisters of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame implement "liberating education" in Japan?

How is it related to Marguerite Bourgeoys's charism?

What are their ministries?

We implement "liberating education" mainly through our schools. The spirit of the foundation of Sakura no Seibo Junior College in Fukushima is to live in love and service following in the footsteps of our foundress, Marguerite Bourgeoys.

The aims and objectives of education at Sakura no Seibo Junior College have been based on the founding spirit. For example, Biblical Studies are compulsory for first and second year students in college.

Through catechesis, first year students learn the life of Jesus Christ, while second year students learn Christian values by "meeting Jesus and learning about people who have formed the Church." Understanding universal values helps to reflect on self and, in the long run, guides the development of one's own values. Learning about others is learning about oneself.

Another example of following the founding spirit is the Study of Social Welfare, which the first year students are required to take. They also work as volunteers responding to the needs of the area where they live. The welfare study and activity cultivate their spirit of love and service in society. In fact, some students testified that the study and volunteer activity broadened their view. An overseas study tour "International Volunteers" is scheduled for 2013. The tour is a pilgrimage trip to the roots of Marguerite Bourgeoys. We are looking forward to knowing what the young people will learn from Marguerite Bourgeoys during the trip.

MARIA PROVINCE: EDUCATION AND REAL LIBERATION

SAKURA NO SEIBO GAKUIN KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our education is:

Prayer

During prayer, the school is surrounded with complete serenity, and the students are encouraged to clear their minds of all thoughts and to concentrate on God's love and blessings. We aim at fostering their sensibility.



Dialogue

We give the students the opportunity to look at God, friends, self, and nature and to dialogue honestly with them intentionally and systematically.

Learning

We learn from the Bible, from events, from the classroom, and from human interactions. With our school motto, "Honesty," we try to cultivate the whole person.

Service

The students learn to reach out to people, starting with the classroom, then the community, and the world. The students learn to think about what they can do for others and how to do it. Through this process, they gradually acquire a spirit of service.

Liberation

Liberation is often manifested in adversity and in dire situations, as is shown in the life of our foundress, Marguerite Bourgeoys. In order to make what she believed happen, she was never discouraged or distracted by the opinions of others. It was her liberation. What about us? Our liberation is to carry out the education as described above. Our liberation is to educate the young who can build the future, despite the unprecedented disaster that took place three years ago.