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To the Supporters of Nanzan School Corporation

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF NANZAN SCHOOL CORPORATION**

Hideaki Ichise

Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Nanzan School Corporation

### **Introduction**

We are very grateful for all the support that you have given to Nanzan School Corporation. With the enactment of the “Law to Partially Amend the Private Schools Act,” Nanzan School Corporation has implemented several governance reforms, mainly through a reorganization of the Board of Directors and the Board of Councilors, and has established new organizational and operational structures. In addition, Nanzan School Corporation will develop its educational and research activities with even closer cooperation and collaboration than before with its founding body, the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). At this critical juncture, I would like to give an outline of the direction and rationale that Nanzan School Corporation will take going forward.

### **Our Founding Spirit and Educational Motto**

Fr. Joseph Reiners, SVD, who arrived in Japan in 1909, established Nanzan Middle School in Nagoya in 1932 and Nanzan Primary School in 1936. This educational enterprise has been sustained by the efforts of our many predecessors and the dedicated work of many people of goodwill. Nanzan School Corporation, through mergers with two other educational institutions—Nagoya Seirei School Corporation in Seto, Aichi Prefecture, and Misono School Corporation in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture—has grown into a comprehensive Catholic educational institution comprising eight constituent schools in Aichi and Kanagawa Prefectures ranging from kindergarten to university.

Our founding spirit and educational motto “Hominis Dignitati (for Human Dignity)” are deeply rooted in a Christian worldview and are based on a view of humanity that considers “each and every person as an irreplaceable individual with an inviolable dignity.” The term “human resources” referred to in the founding philosophy and Act of Endowment of Nanzan School Corporation, is to be understood in the context of “Hominis Dignitati” and means not “manpower” but “human beings.” A human being is not a material or a resource for a certain purpose. Similarly, the expression “beneficial to society” should not be understood to refer only to such practical things as miracle cures, but rather as referring to whatever sheds new light on the true nature of human beings. We believe that politics, economics, and education in any society are all activities aimed at the development of the true potential of all human beings.

### **The Implementation of the Nanzan Educational Philosophy**

I would like to give a brief explanation here of the four elements of the educational philosophy of Nanzan School Corporation.

#### **Cultivating Religiosity**

This is the core of Nanzan as a Catholic educational institution. It is important here to differentiate between religiosity, which can be said to be the foundation of our common humanity, and specific individual religions. Each religion is expected to speak out and contribute responsibly to the discussion of issues that we may be indifferent to but which are by no means irrelevant, such as the global environment and world peace. While valuing the Christian maxim “In essentials unity, in non-essentials freedom, in all things charity,” Christianity also speaks out and takes action to work with other religions to bring about the kind of world we all want. In early childhood, actual experience is important, but as a person grows older, a more intellectual

and theoretical approach becomes necessary. In particular, a more sophisticated and objective approach becomes necessary at the university level. Intelligent and honest dialogue is required, both internationally and with others in different positions.

### Intellectual Understanding and Rigorous Intellectual Training

All learning is undertaken in dialogue and interaction with others, including nature, and is a continuous cooperative activity aimed at building a better society. “Teaching” about matters related to human beings is putting into practice “love of one’s neighbor,” regardless of the field. In the same way, sharing the results of “research and “learning” with others and giving it back to the community, is an act of “love of one’s neighbor.” Especially at a time when dialogue is so important, each Nanzan school must preserve its identity as a constituent member of a Catholic educational institution. Furthermore, while recognizing the importance of quantifying “cognitive ability,” we also value “non-cognitive abilities” such as the ability to communicate, consideration for others, perseverance, a sense of responsibility, and a sense of humor, which do not necessarily lend themselves to quantification. As artificial intelligence and robot technology continue to evolve in today’s world, we must use them wisely without losing sight of the fundamental principle that we, as humans, must make responsible decisions concerning important matters.

### Contributing to the Local Community

Nanzan has been rooted in the local community since the very beginning. Nanzan School Corporation, whose origins go back to Nanzan Middle School founded in 1932, together with Nagoya Seirei School Corporation in Seto, with which it merged in 1995, and Misono School Corporation in Fujisawa, Kanagawa Prefecture, with which it merged in 2016, have all developed with support from their respective local communities and have collectively sent 240,000 graduates into the world, thus contributing to the formation of a community that puts into practice the ideal of “Hominis Dignitati.” I hope that each constituent school, while sharing the educational philosophy and motto of Nanzan School Corporation as a whole, will honestly address the unique challenges they each face, and as a result be schools that are esteemed and sought after by the local community.

### Cultivating Internationality

With its background as an institution of the world-wide Catholic Church, the cultivating of internationality has been an important concern of Nanzan School Corporation from its founding. Nanzan approaches the various countries and cultures that exist in the world with respect and aims to learn from its encounters with them. We value the “one-of-a-kind irreplaceability” of the culture, language, and customs of every country, whether our own or another. Furthermore, we reject all violence and do not exclude anything that seems to be different. Through our education and research activities, we aim to carry out the work of “building bridges, not walls” in the world, as advocated by Pope Leo XIV, who was elected on 8 May 2025 to succeed Pope Francis.

### **Into the Future**

In this modern age of change and diversity, I believe it is necessary for each of us to deepen the awareness of our own identity. The constituent schools of Nanzan School Corporation have a common basic philosophy as expressed in our educational motto “Hominis Dignitati.” We are convinced that the education and research activities that we undertake based on this philosophy make an important contribution to society and the world. With the support of the local community, and in gratitude to the efforts and work of Fr. Reiners, our founder, and our many predecessors, we will continue to move forward into the future. We ask for your continued understanding and support.