

T H E
HAWTHORN
F O U N D A T I O N



December 30, 2020

I have been headmaster of The Heights School in Potomac, Maryland, for nearly twenty years. Last year we celebrated our 50th anniversary, and in the last half century we have inspired or been directly involved in the launch of many other schools around the country whose Christian formation is entrusted to Opus Dei. Many consider the New York metropolitan area to be among the great cultural capitals of the world, yet it lacks one of the critical elements of a thriving society: influential educational institutions that promote a view of human dignity rooted in Christian values. The most fundamental of these institutions are primary and secondary schools, and it is the mission of The Hawthorn Foundation to launch both a boys and a girls school of the highest caliber to serve the metropolitan community of the preeminent city in the United States.

The extraordinary success of schools like The Heights and Oakcrest School in the Washington DC area are the fruit of conversations had 50 years ago by men and women, families and faculty whose heroic generosity has borne great fruit in the following decades. I know that these conversations are happening now in New York and Connecticut: many families in the area deeply feel and understand the critical nature of our project to form intellect and character in the face of social indoctrination at public schools and the propaganda promoted at the private schools of modern day elites. After fifty years of growth and countless acts of generosity, our community in Washington has reached a point of maturity. We now count among our blessings thousands of parents, alumni, and friends who have committed themselves to a mission and loyally seen it accomplished. We are eager to pass on our success to succeeding generations in the New York metro area, and look forward to seeing you reap the fruits in the half century ahead.

I have every confidence in the success of this project and the team behind it. I myself have taken a role as Senior Advisor to the Faculty Search Committee. We look for men and women who are willing to stake their lives on the education and formation of your sons and daughters. Their principal role is to support you, the parents, as primary educators of your children. Our boys will become men you would want your daughters to marry, and our girls will become women your sons would want to be the mothers of their own children. The men and women who form our students will be selected for their competence and retained for their sense of mission, admired for their spirit of comradery, and respected for their ability to gently and firmly correct each other as well as their students. Many of the faculty will serve for decades to come.

We feel a great weight of responsibility on our shoulders, and it has been remarkable to witness families already moving from different parts of the world to Connecticut in anticipation of the launch of our schools. These schools will be affordable to families of every socioeconomic condition. As Saint Josemaría would say frequently, “Out of a hundred souls, we are interested in a hundred,” and is with that guiding philosophy that we look forward to serving you by offering your boys and girls an education of the highest caliber.

Alvaro de Vicente
Headmaster of The Heights School
Senior Advisor to the Faculty Search Committee at The Hawthorn Foundation