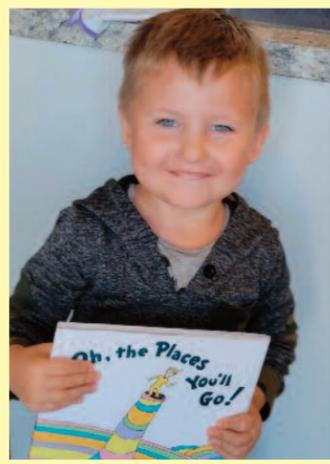


We are so proud of our little ones here at Mater Filius!

### Spotlight on the Early Childhood Learning Center

The cute meter is off the charts in the Early Childhood Learning Center! We have a full house which means we have a full ECLC! Lots of babies and toddlers require lots of love and we have just the staff to provide that! We said good-bye to Monica and Zavi as they graduated from the ECLC and are now students in the Lighthouse Preschool.



We would like to share a message sent to Julie Mainelli on the day that Zavi graduated from the ECLC. What a beautiful testimony from Trevor, Zavi's father.

"I just wanted to share how touched and moved I am of the ladies at ECLC. They gifted Zavi a book called "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss and wrote beautiful memories with Zavi. It absolutely blew me away (almost had me in tears). Your staff is truly amazing and thank you for allowing our sweet boy to be affiliated with you guys."

Your support of Mater Filius of Nebraska, Inc. allows us to provide services that are meaningful across generations. Thank you!



WINTER  
**2021**  
NEWSLETTER

### A Letter from our Directors



Wow! What a great summer capped off with a National Conference. It was a beautiful experience being able to gather in person to enjoy some long overdue fellowship with representatives from all the Mater Filius branches in the United States. Our theme was "Fidelity to the Mission" and our training was centered on our mission of Defending Life with Love!

Fall is in the air, and we are busy, busy, busy here at Mater Filius of Nebraska. We have been enjoying a full house complete with a new Ima at the helm. Kimberly is a perfect example of how Mater Filius receives everything we need in His perfect time. She is an answer to prayer.

It is impossible to thank all of you for your support and the gifts of time, talent, and treasure you all share with us. As you know, we are living in unprecedented times and the need for programs like Mater Filius is great! We are enjoying many success stories in the making here at Mater Filius of Nebraska and so proud of the progress our moms and families are realizing.

Jim and I have been very blessed to have served as the Executive Directors these past years and are now becoming very busy nationally with the other Mater Filius areas in the United States. We have been recognizing the need for a succession plan here in Omaha.

We are thrilled to announce Dr. Steve and Anne Raynor as the new Executive Director couple in Nebraska! Steve and Anne have been active members of the St. Margaret Mary parish in Omaha for the past 32 years. They have four grown children who are also part of the Mater Filius ministry. Steve and Anne view Mater Filius as a family ministry and they are excited to begin a new journey with all of you.

Steve is a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and he is a pediatric surgeon, providing surgical care for children and their families for 33 years. Steve has been a supporter of many pro-life groups and organizations across the city and Archdiocese. Steve has always felt a special call to protect and care for all children, including the unborn. Together, Steve and Anne have served on the

ILAC Hernia Travel Team. This team provides much-needed care in The Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Anne, the daughter of Irish immigrants, grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Creighton University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Anne worked for many years as a pediatric nurse. As their family grew, Anne chose to become a stay-at-home mom. During this time, she was involved in numerous school, parish, and community organizations.

In 2017, Anne attended a talk given by Julie Mainelli at the Children of Mary, First Friday Mass group, hosted by Duchesne Academy. From that moment, she knew that she was called to serve at Mater Filius of Nebraska. Anne has filled many roles at Mater Filius. Before accepting this position, Anne has filled the roles of Director of Volunteers, Director of Doulas, and Path advisor. She has found great joy in being able to help the Mathis grow into the mothers that they have been blessed to be, by our wonderful, loving, God.

Steve and Anne are filled with gratitude for the many, many blessings God has given them. They are so happy to have been given this opportunity to "Defend Life with Love" and forward the mission of Mater Filius.

Jim and I are so grateful for the Raynor's "YES" to serve at Mater Filius of Nebraska the next four years. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we make this transition. It's so important to be able to show the other Mater Filus homes in the United States the succession plan.

May your families be blessed this Holiday Season!  
Jim and Julie Mainelli



### Spotlight on the Lighthouse Preschool

Kids grow so quickly and off to kindergarten went one of our Lighthouse Graduates. We said good-bye to Svetlana and wished her well in kindergarten. Svetlana was asked to carry a rose during the annual Blue Mass honoring all deceased police officers and firefighters. She even got her picture taken with Archbishop Lucas. The summer was spent in comfortable clothes, enjoying lots of summer fun activities like bowling, going to the zoo, Lauritzen Gardens, Durham Museum, parks and the splash pad. They even made their own splash pad and pool for their baby dolls and toys. After all that summer fun, we are back to business! They are learning the alphabet, shapes and colors. Did we mention our favorite outing for the week? Ballet!



### Giving Tuesday is Nov. 30, 2021- Please remember Mater Filius of Nebraska

As many of you know, the Omaha Community Foundation no longer sponsors Omaha Gives. In its place, SHARE Omaha powers Giving Tuesday. Please, remember Mater Filius of Nebraska, Inc on Giving Tuesday! Here's how to give...Go to shareomaha.org, search for Mater Filius of Nebraska, and follow the directions to give! Thank you in advance for supporting us on this special day of giving.

Mater Filius, Nebraska, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. If you feel called to donate, please send check or money orders to: Mater Filius, Nebraska, 5924 S. 36th St., Omaha, NE 68107

For your convenience, you can also donate through paypal on our website at: [www.materfiliusne.org](http://www.materfiliusne.org). Thank you for your consideration, and God bless you!

30  
Join us on Nov. 30th!

[SHAREomaha.org](http://SHAREomaha.org)

#GIVINGTUESDAY402  
presented by Core Bank

## Front Door Welcomes All

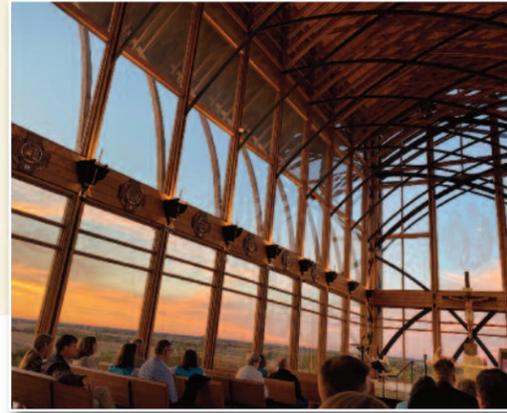
We have a newly refinished front door at our house and a beautiful new deck on the Early Childhood Learning Center, thanks to Greg Poupard. Our new front door will help us offer our new moms and visitors a nice, warm welcome. The new deck provides a new level of



their expert help. Thank you, Greg! We appreciate your hard work.

Along with the deck on the yellow house, the children of the ECLC have a new deck on their playhouse to enjoy. They even got to help Greg build it. I'm sure he appreciated

## Annual Volunteer Mass and Dinner



Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Volunteer Mass and Dinner. God gave us the gift of a beautiful sunset to enjoy during the Mass said by Father Frank Jindra at the Holy Family Shrine in Gretna. This event is an opportunity for us to thank our dedicated volunteers and staff for their service



and for all those in attendance, it is a commitment to serve another year. Congratulations to those who received their blessed tilmas: Mary Grelk, Marian Weaver, Joan Ronnfeldt, and Kimberly Glass. We look forward to another year of service to moms and babies in need.

August was a significant month for Mater Filius in the United States- Our VERY FIRST National Conference. The theme of the conference was "Fidelity to the Mission". Because we have several new Mater Filius branches in the United States that are just beginning to serve moms in need, we felt it was vital for everyone to be united in our mission of Defending Life with Love! We were excited to welcome special guests from Mexico, our founders, Miriam and José Manuel Tejeda, along with Majo Real. We also hosted representatives from Miami, Cincinnati, Colorado Springs, and Dallas (virtually).

## First Annual Mater Filius of The United States National Conference August 27-29

Friday evening was spent welcoming our out-of-town guests at a welcome dinner. Despite the rain, we had a beautiful evening full of socializing and getting to know each other. We had a friendly competition of outdoor Jenga won by "Team Rita".

Saturday started off with Mass at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish and a group photo. After Mass, we had a wonderful day of training and small group break outs in the Mainelli Center at St. Robert's. Jim and Julie Mainelli started the day by welcoming Nebraska's team of volunteers and staff along with our out-of-town guests.

We were blessed to hear Miriam and José Manuel share their testimony which led into a beautiful presentation on the Spirituality of Mater Filius.

of our Nebraska graduates. Hailey and Venita were gracious and shared their beautiful stories with the group. They were truly the highlight of the day!

Rita Sawin and Anne Raynor taught everyone how a Path is developed and what all goes into developing an Individual Path for each Mathis as they move through our program. Stressing "Individual" is important as each Mathis has their own story and their own journey.

Jan Braun spoke about Work/Life Balance. She stressed the importance of prioritizing your own family, working hard while you're at Mater Filius, and finding activities you love to balance your life. All of this together, helps us stay true to our mission without burning out.

You could hear a pin drop in the room. It was a blessing to participate in training presented by our founders.

Saturday evening was spent in fellowship at dinner in Aksarben. Our guests from Mexico were introduced to Corn Hole! Let's just say that José Manuel has purchased his own personal corn hole game to play with his friends and family in Mexico!

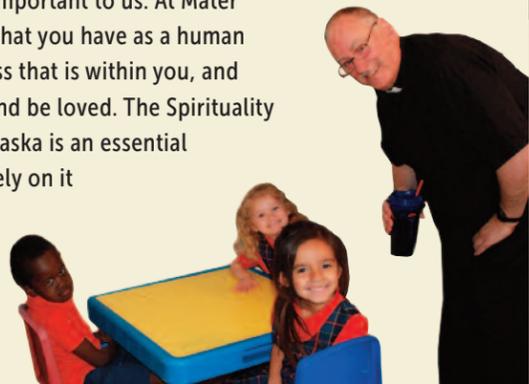
On Sunday we attended Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, had breakfast provided by our Imas, toured the house, Lighthouse Preschool, the Early Childhood Learning Center, and the BLU\*tique. Most of our guests had planes to catch or long drives ahead of them so we sent them off with prayers and a sack lunch packed by one of our amazing volunteers.

## welcome to the world!

- Colin 9.24.21
- Kayden 10.6.21
- Gianna 10.17.21
- Karmarrion 10.23.21
- Luis 11.7.21
- Karina 11.17.21

## Spirituality of Mater Filius

As a Catholic apostolate, we are so grateful for our chaplain, Father Frank Jindra. He has been with us from the beginning, in 2014. He has a weekly commitment with us every Wednesday at 10:00 am saying Mass in our beautiful chapel. All who attend this Mass on a weekly basis benefit from the wisdom embedded in his homilies. Our preschoolers are regular attendees, and they are especially fond of Father Jindra and his greeting after Mass. Everyone smiles after Mass when their sweet little voices are heard saying, "Thank you, Fodder". Who wouldn't love that? Because of Father's influence, coupled with the classes our Spirituality Director, Rita Sawin, teaches we have seen baptisms, confirmations, and conversions of heart. When discussing our mission, our values are very important to us. At Mater Filius, we discover the value that you have as a human being; you know the greatness that is within you, and you have the ability to love and be loved. The Spirituality aspect of Mater Filius of Nebraska is an essential part of our mission, and we rely on it every day! We thank everyone for your continued prayers. We feel them!



Rita Sawin gave her testimony on what the Spirituality of Mater Filius means to her.

We must confess; we did enjoy lots of good food provided by an amazing team of volunteers. After lunch, we heard from two

The capstone of the day was a training offered by Miriam on the Sweet Love of Mary and the differences between LOVE according to a worldly definition as opposed to the spiritual meaning of LOVE.

We would like to send a special thank you out to everyone who made this possible. The list is long, and we appreciate every one of you!