

# MATER FILIUS

national conference

Mater Filius US hosted their National Conference at St. Columbkille Parish in Papillion. We were treated well and are thankful for the hospitality. The theme of the conference was "Fidelity of Mary to the Will of God". There were many great speakers and many opportunities for training and spiritual growth.



US National Conference



Anne and Steve with US and Global Directors

## for TRAINING

Nebraska is the training center for all Mater Filius branches in the United States. We recently hosted the newly formed team from Colorado Springs for two full days of training. We started the training off with Mass on Monday morning. What a beautiful sight to see our chapel full of men and women dedicated to our mission: Defending Life with Love!



Training with Colorado Springs

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!



WINTER  
**2023**  
NEWSLETTER

## A Letter from the Directors



Greetings from Mater Filius, Anne and I offer greetings and our hopes for a blessed Advent season for you and your families. The Mater Filius house remains busy, with lots of activity and never a dull moment. Since the last newsletter, we have served an

additional 14 women with the birth of 3

babies over that time. In addition, since our pregnant moms can bring any other children less than 5 into the house with them, we have made a home for an additional 8 children in the house over that time. That has been a lot of bodies in our small home, but that is our mission, and our many volunteers continue to serve with joy and respect for our families. Defending Life with Love!

As you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter, the Mater Filius National Conference was held in Papillion the weekend of September 22-24. We were blessed to have our founders Miriam and Jose Manuel Tejada present, and it was an informative and invigorating time. Since our house was the first in the United States, we share the additional responsibility of showcasing what Mater Filius is to cities considering opening a home, as well as helping new locations plan, open and run their homes.

We also have exciting news to share about the mission of Mater Filius globally. We previously were recognized as a Lay Apostolate by the Catholic Church. Formal rules have been drafted regarding the running and governance of Mater Filius. The rules were subsequently approved in Mexico City with a subsequent English translation of the rules by a canonist of the Archdiocese. As a result, we are now considered a Lay Association. This means that the rules of Mater Filius have been given formal approval by the church, and this will simplify the process of opening a new home. It also ensures uniformity in the structure of how each house will run. This is very exciting news that is a reflection of the rapid growth of our mission.

Mater Filius remains a volunteer run organization with the mission of serving pregnant women of all faiths and their families. We believe that this model provides a stable, nurturing environment for our mothers in their time of need. With the Dobbs decision, we have seen an increase in the need for our services. We face the same economic headwinds that affect everyone, and we remain dependent on the generosity of our donors to allow us to serve. Please keep us in your prayers this holiday season, and we are thankful for your generosity in the past and ask for your continued support. We will be good stewards of your gifts. If interested in volunteering, please contact us and we will be happy to show you our home and the many opportunities to impact the lives of these women.

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season

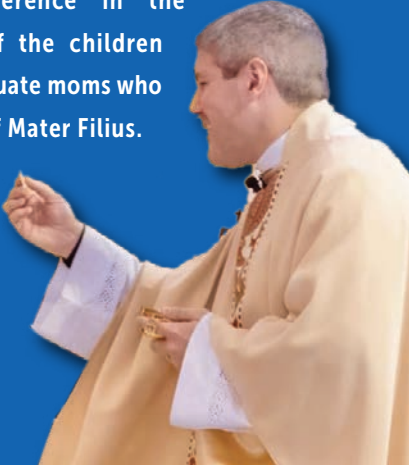
Sincerely,  
Steve and Anne Raynor

\*If you wish to have this newsletter delivered electronically in the future, please let us know at [materfiliusne@gmail.com](mailto:materfiliusne@gmail.com)



# GENERATIONAL *change in progress*

Sacraments are milestones in the lives of Catholics. We had two children of graduates receive their First Holy Communion and seven children of graduates are on scholarships to Catholic elementary schools. Mater Filius is making a difference in the lives of the children we serve and hats off to our graduate moms who are continuing the spirituality of Mater Filius.



we ♥ our graduates!

# looking for creative ways TO DONATE?

Mater Filius of Nebraska is a busy household! Just as you pay your household bills and go through consumables, so do we. Inflation has hit our grocery and operational expenses. Some of our donors have been very creative in their giving. Recently, some Creighton medical students had a toga party and donated the sheets. If you are planning a gathering in your home, set out a donation box, and challenge your friends and family to give. Please, keep sending us your fun photos to share! Donations sent directly to Mater Filius are the most beneficial. All giving strategies are accepted: donations of stocks, through Share Omaha's Giving Tuesday, our website, or donation drives. Thank you for your support of our mission: Defending Life with Love! Most importantly, thank you for your generosity and support. None of this is possible without you!



# VOLUNTEERS *in action!*

We ♥ our volunteers!

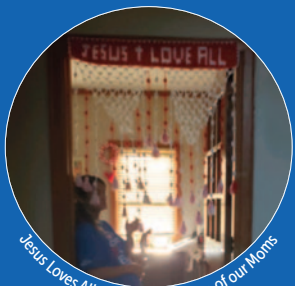


"Just wanted to send you some updated pictures of my two children. My husband has already adopted our oldest and we are currently working toward finalizing the adoption of our youngest. Things are well. I have managed an auto-body shop for four years now. I just want to thank you again for allowing me the chance to change my circumstances."

"I just want to say Thank You for everything because I wouldn't have made it this far without your help here. I am greatly appreciative for everything. I know this has been a great journey and I am glad this is the beginning of a new chapter."

Mondays are busy as Nichele and the twins come to Mater Filius for Mass and GED tutoring.

# SPOTLIGHT *on the ECLC*



# ♥ happenings ♥

Gathering Spot

Learning how to brush her teeth

Welcome to the world Avyanna - 7.1.23

Welcome to the world Silas - 9.6.23

Welcome to the world Serenity - 10.1.23

Helping Mommy vacuum the stairs

Sophia watching all the house happenings from her favorite spot

HERO Program graduation - Congratulatory!

Fall Field Trip!

Jesus Loves All - crocheted by one of our Moms

Archdiocese Youth Adult Group Fall Yardwork Day

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Semi-annual Doula Training

Semi-annual Volunteer Training

Joni doing double-duty with the twins!