

Annual Report

FEBRUARY 2022



PREPARED FOR
Regina Mater



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Regina Mater honored St. Frances Xavier Cabrini at our holy mass and land work day on November 13, 2021. During her lifetime, Mother Cabrini founded 67 orphanages, hospitals, and schools for the immigrant poor in America. Meditating on her motto "education of the heart," a philosophy steeped in her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catholic author Stratford Caldecott writes:

"The education of the human heart, then, represents not merely a training of the emotions, but an integration of feelings and thoughts into a higher unity: that of the conscience or intellect that is our point of contact with God in the deepest recesses of our soul."

Following her understanding of forming hearts, we ask Mother Cabrini to help Regina Mater be wise builders in raising a school community to bless the next generation.

Mission

+ TO FORM SAINTS FOR OUR TIME THROUGH ORGANICALLY STRUCTURED ACADEMICS IN COMMUNION WITH THE FAMILY.

Vision

+ TO BE A FORERUNNER IN RENEWING CATHOLIC CULTURE THROUGH HOME AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP IN ALTERNATIVE PK3-12 LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION.

Values

+ PROMOTING FAMILY ORIGINALITY AND APOSTOLATE
+ RESPECT FOR THE ECOLOGICAL ORDER
+ RENEWAL OF THE SOCIETY IN JUSTICE

Forming Saints through Servant Hearts

The core mission of Regina Mater is to form saints who renew the world in Christ. To be a saint means to live out fully the calling God has for each person, family, and society. In ages past, the monastery and cathedral schools weaved together the pursuit of holiness with academic study, fitting young people for the needs of the time. Reformers in later centuries like St. Dominic and St. Ignatius developed the same idea, taking new strands of the moral and intellectual life to fashion saintly scholars, or "men for others." These ideals of science and scholarship, wisdom and holiness inform and inspire our educational program. Starting from attachment to faith and family, our students, families, and teachers go forward in service to the Church and world.

SERVING COMMUNITY

STUDENTS FOR LIFE. Our high school students co-founded an area-wide pro-life club for ages 14+. They invite speakers and engage in activism to build a culture of life and civilization of love. This January they raised funds to attend their third March for Life in Washington, DC.

JOHN PAUL II FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT. The middle school students created and administered a day-long tournament to raise money for the JP II Life Center. Through sponsors, donations, and fees they raised nearly \$800, and will host it again in 2022.

COMMUNITY IMPACT. High School senior Brendan Lanicek obtained Eagle Rank from the Boy Scouts of America in 2021.

SERVING THE CHURCH

PARISH SERVICE. Our families represent a dozen parishes. Over 50% of our boys age 7+ are altar servers. Many parents serve as catechists and parish leaders.

RENEWING CATHOLIC CULTURE

FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP. High school senior Clara Ramsay won a full ride to Wyoming Catholic College in their 2021 Founder's Scholarship competition.

CURRICULUM. Regina Mater developed a new "Morning Time" curriculum integrating the saints, fine arts, catechism, and Scripture study for the family. We also created a new early elementary history curriculum centered on Catholic contributions to society.

Following the Child with Maria Montessori

Regina Mater is home to the first Montessori program in Austin integrating Catholic faith with the primary environment (ages 3-6). Founded in 2005 by Vicki Schiavolin, an AML-certified instructor, the Montessori classroom has continued to be a jewel in the crown of Regina Mater.

The original form of the Montessori Method is based on the realist philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Starting from the idea that human knowing begins in the senses and in the wonder of God's creation, Maria Montessori developed extensive materials meant to flood the imagination with sensory examples. From these images, the results of attentive work with small hands, the child begins to grasp the universal ideas embodied in the particular elements of the lesson. For example, addition is not taught on paper until the child has touched, moved, and arranged quantities of beads represented in number. Then the equation, itself a language and a form of abstraction, has a relation to something real. Moving from concrete to abstract continues to spiral upward throughout the lessons in the Montessori classroom.

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A second key idea from Montessori is the role of the teacher as a guide who bases instruction on observing the child. Homeschoolers know the power of waiting until a child shows readiness before introducing a topic. The same approach is present in the classroom. The guide watches for self-mastery and mastery of the materials before providing more difficult work. This allows the child to grow confidence and develop habits of self-direction. It also reflects the child as made in the Image of God. St. Augustine explains that though a teacher prompts ideas, it is Christ who ultimately transforms our hearts and minds. This is the goal of our Montessori education.

In 2022, Regina Mater helped launch Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the parish environment. Our students attend Level I, II, and III Atrium on Wednesday. As a result of the program, six new catechists and materials are being developed for the parish.

As Augustine says, "Regarding each of the things we understand...we don't consult a speaker who makes sounds outside us, but the Truth that presides within over the mind itself, though perhaps words prompt us to consult Him. What is more, He Who is consulted, He Who is said to dwell in the inner man, does teach: Christ - that is, the unchangeable power and everlasting wisdom of God..." (On the Teacher).

At the Hill with St. Benedict



This year Regina Mater launched the first Catholic ecology program for children in Austin at Maryhill. Under the guidance of Ryan and Bethany Heneise, school parents with a background in homesteading and regenerative agriculture, students engage weekly topics around botany, biology, soil science, first aid, outdoor tools, meat butchering, and more.

Outdoor education has seen tremendous growth in the last five years as families seek ways to get back into nature. For Catholic families, outdoor education offers a tremendous opportunity to learn about God's order that reaches into the depths of all things.

As a pedagogy, learning outdoors connects us to the Benedictine insight of work and prayer. St. Benedict's Rule continually balances hours for reading with hours for field labor in the structure of 24-hour prayer. Labor is intensely practical, as the monks have to work in order to eat. But free from the secular pressure of turning quick profits, the monasteries historically became incubators for advancing the best agricultural technologies and products the world had seen. Biology as a science also flourished. Mendel, the father of genetics, made his groundbreaking study of inherited traits in the gardens of the monastery.

In terms of the psyche, Benedict recognized the importance of working with hands in order to soothe the soul. Modern neuroscience confirms the positive impact of "heavy work" on the brain. Children especially benefit from activities that compress the joints and muscles. It gives them a much needed "reset" for dealing with everyday stressors, bringing calm back to the home.

Our outdoor program, then, aims to help children grow the habit of seeking God in his creation and respecting the rules that govern it lovingly. We are thankful to have been a joyful place for children to run, play games, build forts, hang bird feeders, plant flowers, dissect owl pellets, cut grass, bake mud pies, fly kites, and embrace all the beautiful aspects of childhood suppressed during the pandemic and digital era. With continued support, we hope to expand the program with additional instructors, long-term projects (permaculture and food forests), and growing enrollment. In this way the gift of Maryhill can be a blessing to the wider Church, in the spirit of St. Benedict's holy understanding of ecology.

Profit & Loss

2020-2021
FISCAL YEAR

INCOME

92,920 — TUITION CASH
49,110 — TUITION BARTER
1,095 — FEES
20,975 — FUNDRAISERS

TOTAL INCOME: 164,100

EXPENSE

30,772 — FACILITIES
16,838 — OPERATIONS
550 — EVENTS
8,726 — PROGRAMMING
79,588 — SALARIES
49,110 — TUITION BARTER
1,731 — OTHER

TOTAL EXPENSE: 187,315

LAND WORK COMPLETED TO DATE
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY
CIVIL ENGINEERING
CEMETERY SURVEY
LAND PURCHASE
LAND SURVEY
ARCHITECTURE
GEOTECHNICAL

UPCOMING
TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS
FINAL PLAT APPROVAL
FINAL SITE APPROVAL
BREAK GROUND