

South Carolina State Council Legacy

South Carolina's Ultrasound Machine Program

Supreme Council initiated the Ultrasound Program in about 2009. Under the program, if a council raises the cost of an ultrasound machine for use at a diocese approved pregnancy center, the Supreme Council contributes the balance. To date The Knights of Columbus has procured over 1,500 machines worth over \$75 million.



South Carolina's contribution started in 2010 under the leadership of State Pro-Life Chair **James St. Clair**. He initiated a reasonable goal to obtain an ultrasound machine in the Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville/Spartanburg area. He found that two councils had already started an initiative in two other regions of the State. This changed the State Council's goal to obtain five machines.

Raymond G. Bennett Council #7289 of Hilton Head in October 2010 and **All Saints Council #14475** of Lake Wyle in January 2011 obtained the first and second machines in the State.

In trying to achieve the Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville/Spartanburg machines, Jim organized multiple districts to focus on raising money for pregnancy centers in their area. He soon found that while there were many pregnancy centers who wished to have an ultrasound machine, many were found to be very evangelic Christians that were not Catholic friendly. Part of the Supreme Program requires that the Diocese must approve the receiving pregnancy center. Jim St. Clair worked with Fr. James L. LeBlanc and Kathy Schmutge of the Diocese of Charleston Family Life Program to establish an agreement that receiving organization would need to agree with to be eligible for the Diocese's approval. This agreement opened the door to many pregnancy centers for Catholics to both work at and obtain services without our Catholic Faith being disrespected. This agreement has served as a model for other State jurisdictions within the Order.

Under Jim St. Clair's leadership the South Carolina State Council not only achieved its initial goal of obtaining five ultrasound machines but raised monies for seven machines with an eighth one in progress during the first two years of the program.

As an incentive for the five machines raised by the State Council, any individual who contributed \$1000 or received a statue of a baby sleeping within the embrace of angel wings. (See image above.) One of these statues is on display at the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven CT acknowledging South Carolina's achievement of raising monies for seven machines in two years.

Since 2010, South Carolina has raised monies for 36 ultrasound machines worth over \$1,320,000. South Carolina State Council has raised obtained sixth machines (the five described above and one requested by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone for the Diocese of Charleston's mission in San Jose Guatemala.) Top council achievers are:

- **All Saints Council #14475** of Lake Wyle – 5 machines • **St. Gerard Majella Council #6884** of Seneca – 4 machines.
- **Raymond G. Bennett Council #7289** of Hilton Head – 3 machines

Obviously, South Carolina State Council has a great Pro-Life legacy.

TMM 12/2025