

SOUTH CAROLINA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

SESSION IN REVIEW

*A close look into the
2021- 2022 Catholic
advocacy work in the
Palmetto State.*



CON TENT

03 MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Meet Michael Acquilano -
Secretary of Communications
and Public Affairs, Director of
the South Carolina Catholic
Conference.

04 ABOUT THE SCCC

Learn about the Catholic
Conference, our mission and our
work in South Carolina.

05 CATHOLIC OFFICIALS

Get to know the names of your
Catholic elected officials in
South Carolina.

6-7 SESSION IN REVIEW: OUR WINS AND MILESTONES

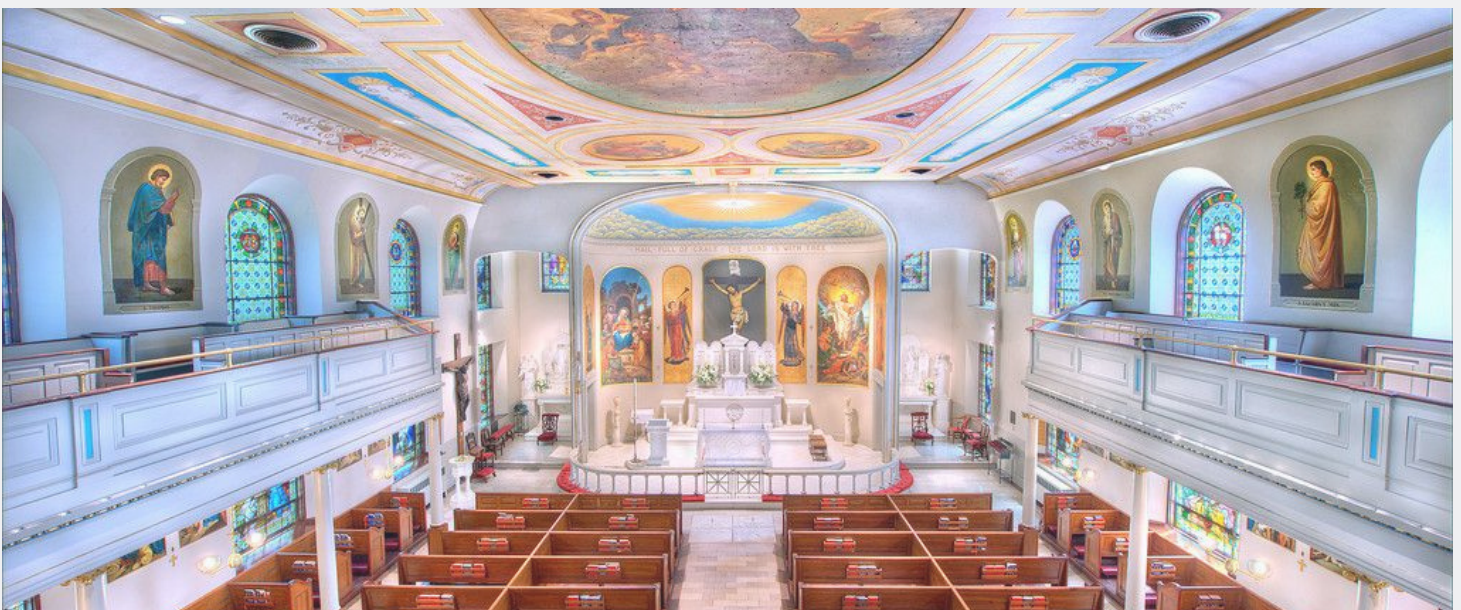
A look at our pro-Catholic
legislation that became law this
legislative session.

8-9 WHAT'S NEXT?

Our plan and priorities for the
2023-2024 legislative session
under the new leadership of
Bishop Jaques Fabre-Jeune.

10 JOIN US

A quick an easy way to stay in
contact with us and send letters
to your lawmakers.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear friends in Christ,

We are blessed to live in a country that values the will of its citizens, a nation that allows every American to vote, informed by individual conscience. I am happy to announce that this is evidenced by the 20 bills (and counting) that have been passed in the 2021-2022 legislative session which align with and promote the teachings of our faith. What a couple years it has been for pro-Catholic legislation! We were made to fight for truth, goodness, and beauty in times such as this.

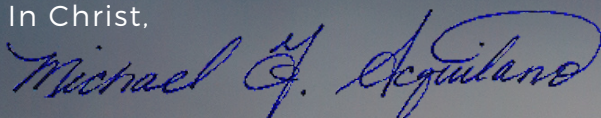
As Catholics, we know that we are called to be ministers of truth. In today's world, society has deemed that truth is relative, that is up to every individual to decide what ought to govern their lives. But we are informed through Sacred Scripture and Tradition of the role that truth plays. It is the very star that guides us to God, who is Truth Himself. With this in mind, the Catholic Conference works to restore the essence of truth into South Carolina law. This extends to the responsibility that each of us has to ourselves and our neighbors.

Christ said: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul." This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The whole law and prophets depend on these two commandments. This also applies to secular law, the governing rules for us to live by in society.

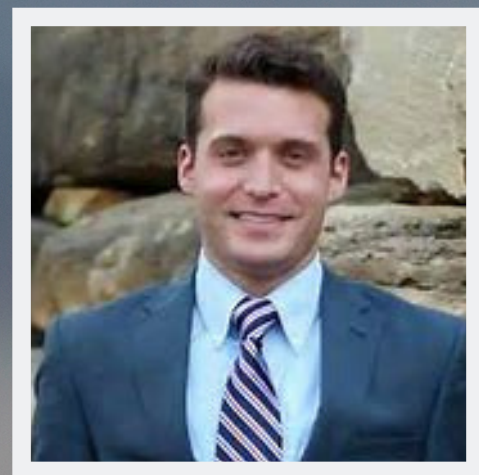
In this light, the Catholic Conference advocates for laws that protect and defend human life, from conception to natural death, and extends to those who are most in need of our help. But we can't make this change in our society alone; we need your support. We urge you to do your best to remain educated on the laws that govern our state. Contact your elected officials. Vote for those that uphold laws which allow us to freely live out our faith. Spread awareness in your own families, and parishes, as these are the primary building blocks of our country.

Then and only then, with a united effort, and with the grace and assistance of God, our greatest ally, are we capable of restoring the role of truth in our nation and state. Let us pray to He Who is the bestower of authority to protect and guide our leaders, and give us strength to build up His Mystical Body.

In Christ,



Michael Acquilano
Secretary of Communications and Public Affairs





WHO WE ARE

OUR FAITHFUL MISSION IN THE PALMETTO STATE

The South Carolina Catholic Conference was founded in 2013 by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, DD. Today, we serve as a liaison to state and federal government officials on matters of concern to the Church and act as a nonpartisan public policy voice on behalf of the Faithful in South Carolina.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of his Church guide the work of the South Carolina Catholic Conference, which through relationships with representatives and agencies of

South Carolina government, analyzes the moral dimension of public policies, proclaims the sanctity of life and dignity of the human person, leads decision makers in reaching just solutions, and provides opportunities for Catholics in South Carolina to carry out their responsibility to participate in political life.

NOT LIBERAL. NOT CONSERVATIVE. SIMPLY CATHOLIC.

Dedicated to contributing the Church's message to matters affecting human life, the poor, families, and the common good, the South Carolina Catholic Conference addresses a broad spectrum of Christian issues.



catholic officials

Lieutenant Governor **Pamela Evette** Taylors - Prince of Peace
Senator **Sean Bennet** Summerville - St. John, the Beloved
Senator **Sandy Senn** Charleston - Our Lady of Good Counsel
Senator **Tom Davis** Beaufort - St. Peter
Representative **Shannon Erickson** Beaufort - St. Peter
Representative Bill **Herbkersman** Beaufort - St. Gregory, the Great
Representative **Mark Smith** Daniel Island - St. Clare
Representative **Joe Daning** Berkeley - Immaculate Conception

TOP PRO-CATHOLIC WINS

2021-22 Legislative Session

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

- ① Religion is Essential: provides that churches are essential businesses and must remain open.
- ② Medical Conscience Rights: defends the individual rights, consciences and choices of religious medical professionals.

HUMAN PERSON

- ⑪ Save Women's Sports: prohibits biological males from competing in girl's sports.
- ⑫ Vaccine Mandate: protects individual's conscience objections to vaccines.

RESPECT FOR LIFE

- ③ SC Heartbeat: bans abortions at the detection of a fetal heartbeat or at 6 weeks post conception.
- ④ Real Alternatives: \$2.4 million to provide a statewide support program that promotes alternatives to abortion.
- ⑤ Safe Haven for Infants: provides a safe, legal option to abandonment for babies up to 60 days old.
- ⑥ St. Clare Home: \$200 thousand to fund Catholic home for mothers facing crisis pregnancies.
- ⑦ Ad-hoc Committee: committee to deliberate laws after ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

POOR & VULNERABLE

- ⑬ Employment First: ends subminimum wage practices and promotes inclusive employment for disabled employees.
- ⑭ Protection for Financial Exploitation: protects elderly from unfair banking practices and financial exploitation.
- ⑮ Medicaid Expansion: extends coverage from 60 days to 12 months postpartum for new and expecting mothers.
- ⑯ Lunch Vouchers: prohibits schools from discriminating against free and reduced lunch students.

PRO-FAMILY

- ⑧ Paid Family Leave: entitles full-time state employees to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for childbirth or adoption.
- ⑨ Child Welfare Protection: protects faith-based adoption or foster-care providers from government discrimination.
- ⑩ Foster Kin Reform: allows for displaced child to be placed in loving home of extended family or friends.

EDUCATION

- ⑰ Exceptional SC: program restructuring to increase funding for special needs students in non-public schools across SC.
- ⑱ SC Highschool League: prevents discrimination against non-public school competition in sports.
- ⑲ First Steps: provides pre-kindergarten non-public school choice options in all 46 counties in SC.
- ⑳ COVID Relief: \$34 million in funding to Catholic schools serving diverse populations in SC.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Under the new
leadership of Bishop
Jacques Fabre-Jeune.

“

Whatever you do to
the least of my people
you do unto me.

2023 - LEGISLATIVE 2024 PRIORITIES

"LAWS WITHOUT LOVE ARE USELESS"

01 PRO - LIFE

Advocate for life-affirming laws, including anti-death legislation and support for mothers facing crisis pregnancies

02 POOR & VULNERABLE

Reform laws to curb human trafficking, predatory lending, and expand Medicaid and social services

03 IMMIGRATION

Secure drivers licenses, identification cards, and fair and legal pathways to citizenship

04 EDUCATION

Promote parent driven school choice initiatives, home-school tax-credits, and special needs scholarships

05 PRO - FAMILY

Champion family-centric laws, adoption and child welfare protection, and legislation affirming human dignity



IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERYONE TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND PROMOTE IT FOR ALL PEOPLE.

POPE FRANCIS

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



- 1 Contact your lawmakers
- 2 Scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter
- 3 Join us at the State House