



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Daniel's Law saves lives in South Carolina**

(CHARLESTON, SC) – As state legislators continue to debate the future of abortion in South Carolina, Catholics are celebrating the 56 lives saved by Daniel's Law. "This law is a victory for life at its most vulnerable stage," said Michael F. Acquilano, director of the South Carolina Catholic Conference. "It gives mothers a choice if they are not able to take care of their babies and saves the infants' life."

South Carolina's General Assembly passed Daniel's Law in 2001. It prevents the dangerous and fatal abandonment of newborns. It provides mothers the opportunity to give up their babies at safe haven destinations, including hospitals, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and places of worship.

During the 2021-2022 legislative session, the General Assembly extended the law's grace period to up to 60 days. Mothers do not have to reveal their identity and no legal action is taken if the baby is unharmed.

So far this year, seven mothers have safely surrendered their babies in South Carolina, the most since the law's inception. The majority of the infants saved by the law in 2022 have already been adopted.

"We are thankful that the General Assembly has made a concrete step to foster a culture of life in our communities. We pray for a future in which all children protected by Daniel's Law find loving homes," said Acquilano.

#### About the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 115 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, more than 350,000 people, and encompasses the state of South Carolina.

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