

Maine Knights Raise Funds for Ultrasound Machine

On January 22, 2009, as our nation marked the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion on demand, the Knights of Columbus launched a new initiative aimed at providing women considering abortion a new way of viewing the life within them. Ultrasound exams, which are medically suited throughout pregnancy for a variety of diagnostic reasons, use ultrasound waves to scan a woman's abdomen, creating a picture or "sonogram" of the baby in her uterus. Without K of C support, many pregnancy care centers would be unable to purchase the ultrasound machines, each costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Our Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said; "The sophistication of today's medical technology provides a 'window on the womb... Even from the early stages of pregnancy, a mother can see her developing child, hear the baby's heartbeat, and recognize the miracle of new life within her.'" The Knights of Columbus ultrasound project seeks to provide medically certified pro-life pregnancy centers with the modern technology to monitor the health of babies' in-utero, and to allow mothers to visually experience that development. When a state or local council campaign raises one-half the cost of an ultrasound machine for a pro-life pregnancy help center, the Supreme Council will match the other half of the machine's cost.

Reports indicate that up to 90 percent of women considering an abortion choose to have their baby after seeing an ultrasound image. They hear their baby's heartbeat and see their baby's head and fingers. They know it is a child, and not a "choice."

The Maine State Council Knights of Columbus is vigorously working to raise funds to purchase a new 3D ultrasound machine, for the only medically certified pregnancy care center in our state, the ABBA center located at 1250 Forrest Avenue in Portland. We spoke to the director of the ABBA Women's Resource Center in Portland and she is very excited about the work this center is doing in defending human life. She spoke about a couple that came to visit the center and the young man was determined that his girlfriend should have an abortion until he saw the ultrasound of their baby "that's my son he exclaimed"---- needless to say the couple kept the baby.

Several Knights of Columbus Councils have already begun fundraising for this project and we encourage all councils and other Parish organizations to vigorously support this ultrasound program. For more information please call us at (207-604-4500). We should all remember Blessed Pope John Paul's dire warning at the world youth day Mass in Denver 1993 ---- "*You must feel the full urgency of the task. Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life*". There is no cause in our world more important than the defense of human life. Knights and Catholics in Maine now have an opportunity to impact the decision of a woman contemplating an abortion and we must use every means at our disposal to help her make the right decision. The ultrasound program is yet another example of how Knights continue to defend their faith and the principals that our Church & country were founded upon.

Frank & Jean Pease
Pro-Life Chair Couple
Maine State Knights of Columbus

