

Hi Mom!



Before I begin our reflection, I thought I'd take this opportunity to update you on the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative. Ultrasound machines provide pregnant women a way of viewing the life within them. Since 2009, state and local councils have teamed up with the Supreme Council for the Order's Ultrasound Initiative to fund over 760 ultrasound machines for pro-life pregnancy care centers (PCCs) in all 50 states, as well as in Canada, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Peru.

When a state or local council raises \$25,000 – about half the cost of an ultrasound machine – the Supreme Council will provide the other half to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound machine for a pregnancy care center. Furthermore, if the state or local council raises all of the funds needed to purchase a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy care center, the Supreme Council will provide up to 100% of the cost of purchasing the ultrasound machine to use in the unit.

In 2012 and 2013, councils from San Diego helped to raise funds necessary to supply the first and second San Diego-area OEM mobile ultrasound facilities: Opus 1 went to the Turning Point Pregnancy Resource Center near Miramar; and Opus 2 went to the Pregnancy Resource Center of Vista. Funds are currently being gathered for Opus 5.

And speaking of Motherhood, Anna Jarvis began a campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States in 1905, the

year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Anna's mother had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. The first Mother's Day was celebrated in America in 1908, when Anna held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia.

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday, the first being Jarvis' home state, West Virginia, in 1910. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although successful in founding Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis resented the commercialization of the holiday. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. She protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and was arrested for disturbing the peace at a 1925 meeting of American War Mothers. She was angry because the American War Mothers were selling carnations to raise money.

And speaking of mothers and flowers, Brothers, I'd like to remind you of a couple of things:

Our Knights Choir is booked to sing at the 9 AM Mother's Day Mass on May 14. We practice on Monday evening, May 8.

And most important of all, unless you wish to suffer a fate worse than death, you will make our practice day the deadline for making your Mother's Day reservations for flowers and brunch.