



LIFE GUARD

Protecting, and loving the "least of these" - Mathew 25:45
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LifeGuard is a non-profit educational 501 © (3) organization that promotes the sanctity of human life from fertilization until natural death.



"He has risen, just as he said!" (Matthew 28:6)

Happy Easter, everyone! With all that's going on in the world at this moment, I have no idea when this newsletter will be delivered into your hands, but the message is the same. After all, we are called to be Easter people all year long, right?



So, what does it mean to be an Easter people? We all know people in our parish communities whose faithfulness inspires us. They are the ones who trust the Spirit's presence, even during times of hardship and adversity. They are the ones who raise their children to do what is right, even though that often flies in the face of popular cultural opinion. They are the ones who accept their own illnesses and failures as an opportunity to reveal God's love to others. They are the ones who quietly feed the hungry, who share their own resources, and teach the next generation to do the same. They are the ones who use every opportunity to say "Yes Lord, I believe." They are the ones who gather their own families during times of fear and confusion and remind them that they *are* an Easter people.

At this very moment, you can likely name a dozen or more of these people right off the top of your head. They might include healthcare workers, grocery store personnel, first responders, teachers, pastors, or family members. Whoever they may be and for whatever reason, they make a positive impact on the world by their attitudes and actions. They draw from inner strength and exude hope. These are people who adapt to the ever changing landscape rather than allowing for self pity or anger.

From my window in the LifeGuard office, I see these people every day. They come from all walks of life, all with their own stories of how they came to be at this particular place at this particular time. During the season of Easter, the season of hope and promise, we have passed through these 40 days of Lent with the "40 Days for Life" campaign, complete with constant prayer from ever present volunteers. The unborn babies that we campaign for might not be able to see us standing in the snow and the cold. They may not be able to hear our voices of hope and promise, but we're there, never leaving them alone. Think now of Jesus in this strange and trying time of uncertainty; although we couldn't meet with Him inside the church to celebrate Easter, He's still with us. He *never* leaves us alone.

So, although we are socially distanced from one another right now, we can still be present in nearly every way that matters. We can continue to pray for one another, pray for the elderly, and for those most at risk. Pray for the little ones in the womb, whose slaughter is still considered to be "essential" in the eyes of the law. Pray for your neighbors, friends, and family members who cannot gather to gain strength and courage from one another. Pray for those who are alone. *Just continue to pray.* God has cleared our schedules, so we now have plenty of time to talk to Him.

When our personal Easter comes, will we be able to say that we took the best possible care of each other? Did we share what we had or did we stockpile out of fear that we might not have enough? Did we greet each day as a gift from our creator to be lived in joy, or did we complain that we were somehow mistreated? Did we cherish our children and this mandated time together, or did we grumble that caring for them was too much work? When we're back in our offices, and businesses are once again bustling with shoppers and patrons, will we remember how to love each other well?

We'll all come out the other side changed in some way, but hey, it's Easter! We should be changed! In the words of a wise and Godly man...

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are Easter people, and hallelujah is our song."

~ Saint John Paul II

What do Western singers, families, local businesses, great food, shopping, pies & cakes, and the respect for life all have in common? ...well, the LifeGuard 12th Annual Banquet and Auction of course!!!



A packed house gathered at the Fort Lewis College Ballroom on February 28th for a fantastic evening of music and laughs, and no one was disappointed.

The festivities went all too quickly for most as the Bar D Wranglers provided their always stellar music and stories to a crowd of more than 260 people. Silent auction items aplenty lined tables on both ends of the ballroom, with the children's auction area drawing immediate attention from the younger set,



and the overflowing display of baskets and treasures in the back of the room calling to the adults.



The evening kicked off with prayer by Sean O'Reilly, and a brief history of LifeGuard's mission presented by board member Steve Johnson. A promotional video done by Daniel and Emily Sandner explained what might bring a young woman through LifeGuard's doors, and what is available once they arrive. (Check out the video for yourself at <https://youtu.be/j70fW6c0yOk>) Shelley Gundrey, treasurer, gave a brief description of how your donor dollars are used, and asked for continued help.

Once the business part of the evening concluded, the fun began. As all Durango locals know, when the Bar D



Wranglers take the stage, good times will ensue. Gary, Joel, and Matt kept us tapping, singing, and laughing along as guests shared a delicious meal and perused the auction offerings that had been so generously donated by local businesses and individuals.

At intermission, auctioneer Bill Waters took the stage to begin the live auction. Camping gear, a flat screen TV, tools, trips, catered meals, train tickets, hotel stays, a pellet BBQ grill, and the yummiest pies and cakes you've ever seen were all among the items up for live bid. Bill did a fantastic job of encouraging the crowd with reminders

that they were helping young moms and their babies with each bid, and kept the excitement high.



In a flash, things were wrapping up, bids were being sorted, final songs were being sung, and the evening was coming to a close. The drawing was done to determine the winner of the 50/50 raffle, and a very excited winner gave a happy shout. A final prayer was offered and winning bid numbers were projected on the big screens. The process of gathering and paying for items was nearly flawless thanks to our expert volunteers, and guests were on their way out the door with their treasures in record time.

There are simply too many people to thank on these short pages, but I urge you to take a look at the list of donors and volunteers on the following pages. These are the people and businesses that willingly and generously support the lives of the pre-born in the Four Corners as they support the work of LifeGuard. We are especially grateful to Accent Landscaping and the Mike Foutz Family for underwriting the evening. These two donors allow us to keep our price down in order to make this evening affordable for individuals and families alike. We are also extremely grateful to all who sponsored tables, and those who made cash donations or donated items for auctions. Next time you are at the Bar D, please thank the Wranglers for their support of LifeGuard as well. Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of our volunteers. You are proof that many hands make light work. These people have come together for every LifeGuard event, year after year, to do whatever is asked of them and so much more.



So, from the board of directors of LifeGuard, we offer you our deepest gratitude. This one fundraiser isn't enough to keep this ministry afloat for the entire year, so if you haven't already done so, please consider making a recurring monthly donation. Continue to pray for us, to join us on the front lines as we fight to end abortion, and to support life at every stage.

THANK YOU! ~Martha, Shelley, Linda, & Steve

THANK YOU TO OUR BANQUET SPONSORS!

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Grateful
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DONORS: Bar D Wranglers; Bill & Theresa Waters; Chef Marc & Anne Weigel; CJ's Diner; Gary & Betty Wiley; Durango & Silverton Train; Selena Kennedy; Steve & Beth Johnson; Jean Paul Wright; Tamie Cottrell; Honeyville; Pat & Melisa Dillon; Burnham Fireworks; Vicki Velez; John O'Hare; O'Hare Family; Harley Davidson; Durango Joe's; Allen Theaters; Larry & Theresa Rockett; Durango Glass; Gundrey Family; Sandner Family; Jim Sanders; Cameron & Linda Stevens; Joe Zuber; Holy Family Store; Faith Works; World's Finest Chocolate; Carlos & Mary Baca; Mary Ann Hiller; Kim & Sheri Pardini; Marsha Keyes; Townsend Family; Basin Printing; Angie Sandhoff; Don Kampheit; Amy's Bookstore; Lia Fuson; Doug Hellman; Pine River Lodge; Durango Gun Club; Katie Sproston; Janice O'Hare; Cowgirl; SW Ag; Kathlene Threadgill; Frank Pecoraro; Pete & Sally Fotchman; Urban Market; Dazzle for a Dollar; Pine River Pawn; Valley Feed; Lake Chiropractic

...and all who made financial contributions throughout the evening of the banquet

