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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.

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GOD IS WORKING IN OUR MIDST!

To be sure, we are going through some confusing times. COVID 19 has tested our country's resilience as deep-seated issues of unhappiness, tragedy and restiveness have arisen. Lives lost and damages caused by hurricanes and wildfires have heightened fears and uncertainties. And there is an election ahead in less than 30 days, but who is counting?

Through all this confusion the gifts of faith are often being questioned. Where action is called for, whether socially, administratively, or politically, the values of faith are often set apart from the discussion as personal opinions. Rather, we are inundated with the constant noise of headlines, sound bites, and political rhetoric. Any expression of wonder at the amazing works which God performs, especially through these confusing times, can somehow be seen as an anomaly. Could not His work be made more evident to those who struggle for a quick, sure resolution to the present difficulties?

Is He really here? For those with these questions, please read on. At least we may agree that there is something beyond us, working quietly to help us through this journey. Let us begin, always, with life itself. An old blessing begins, "Lord, thank you for giving me this day. And, Lord, this day would have been enough, but you also gave me this family. And this day and this family would have been enough, but then, Lord, you put forward this sunshine and these trees.

Lord, the day, the family, the sunshine, and the trees would have been more than enough, but then you gave me a friend. All this was enough, Lord, but now you gave me other moments to remember. And now I see there are these other little gifts you strew constantly in my path. And please, Lord, all this is enough and more, really, for now I see. . . you are giving me life. . . ." There are certainly issues of our times which appear to be moving beyond us and will be of great concern far beyond the months ahead. But there is one issue that is included on the Colorado November 3 ballot which we should be alert to, for a small gift is to be offered - an opportunity for each one of us to make a vote for the precious gift of life for another person. To vote Yes on Proposition 115 for babies who have achieved 22 weeks of life in their mother's womb, to be allowed the right to a natural birth. These little ones will achieve at least the status deserved of life-giving support and be freed from the threat of abortion, to be given the chance to be born into this world. Forty-two of the United States already recognize and guarantee this right of the 22-week-old unborn person. Colorado yet lags

behind. The gift which is being offered is certainly not an inordinate request. Scientific studies show the hidden, developing embryo can taste, smell, and detect sounds, especially the voice of the mother, during the second trimester of pregnancy. The developing heart begins to pump blood by the sixth week, and at week ten he or she has the major organ systems and human characteristics which will be unique to him or her throughout the life ahead. By week 22 the child is a vitally developed human being. Many are born just so, even before that 22nd week, to live healthy, normal lives. Under Proposition 115, these unborn babies of 22 weeks will have the opportunity to live and to be born just like every human being deserves. Let's take a moment to celebrate the amazing work of the Durango Pregnancy Center and the local Lifeguard organizations. They walk with expectant mothers, fathers, and families of unborn children through sometimes difficult and lonely pregnancies. Through the ultrasound machine these families can see the hidden gift of the life of the unborn. "Look, I can see a heartbeat. I can see fingers, toes, earlobes. Look, she's sucking her thumb." The mother's health needs are provided for through professional medical referrals. Incentives are given for parenting classes and baby-to-toddler essentials such as diapers and warm clothing, and maternity clothes for the mother. All free, through partnership with private sponsors and the support of local faith organizations. Serving 1,700 square miles of La Plata County, including Durango, Bayfield, and Ignacio. Life is happening! We can do this! In these confusing times we

have an opportunity to bring forth a huge gift. We can touch real lives somewhere, somehow, on this upcoming November ballot. Even better, we will touch hidden, invisible lives, the unborn person who will be given a voice, the baby who will someday walk with somebody we don't know, the child who will change the future for the better in a way we can't foresee. Perhaps we will never meet this person who is to be given this life. But that is the greatest gift of all, doing something good for someone even when they, nor anyone else knows about it. It is truly better to give than to receive. We can vote YES on Proposition 115 to make this one difference, to bring it about, and to just say yes for a change. As for the rest of the noise and political confusion out there, our faith in this cause has reason behind it. When we say yes to life, to the hidden, fragile, and most vulnerable among us, the blessings flow mysteriously, in hidden ways,

given by the hidden power which creates and guides us. God is working in our midst!

VOTE "YES" ON PROPOSITION 115

~Bishop Steven Berg – Diocese of Pueblo~

Welcome to the world, Dylan and David!



Mom #1, with new little Dylan, and his twin brothers, has asked me to convey her deep, deep gratitude. She is overwhelmed by your generous support and feels so much better about making sure this little guy and his brothers have what they need to start life in the best possible way. All are doing great thanks to your prayers and willingness to help!



“From the bottom of my heart, thank you. This baby boy is already so loved and I am so grateful for the community in which he will grow up! We feel so much more prepared to welcome this little one after receiving all of your gifts! The nursery is now prepped and ready. Please pray that the Lord now prepares our hearts and minds to be the best parents we can be! Know that you are in our prayers as well! We cannot thank you enough for your generosity! God Bless each and every one of you! Our hearts are exploding with love and gratitude.”

~ Kara and Joey Schnitzler



**Baby David Ambrose Schnitzler arrived safe and sound on September 10, weighing in at 9 pounds, and 20.5 inches long. Mom, Dad, and David could not be more in love with each other.*

Thank you all for your overwhelming support for these moms!



***Christmas Caroling** – Fridays, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, 10 a.m., at the LifeGuard office

***Name collection for January pro-life ad in the Durango Herald** – Dec. 29 - Jan 18
Ad will run approximately Jan 23rd.

***Annual Banquet and Auction** – Due to the uncertainty of possible restrictions in February, the date of our banquet is uncertain. Watch for updates as we near the beginning of the year.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Courageous

“Do not be afraid, for I am with you.” ~Isaiah 41:10

9th ANNUAL SOUTHWEST CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020

VIRTUAL VIA YOUTUBE

OCTOBER 24, 10 – NOON



Join M.C.s **Fr. Carl and Fr. Josh** to bond in faith across the internet as you gather safely with your youth minister, priest, and friends to hear speakers **Cooper & Laura Ray, Bishop Berg, and Bishop Wall** at this year’s virtual conference.

Even though the look may be different this year, there will be plenty of fun and bonding to be shared. Ask your youth minister for details, call **LifeGuard at 970-385-8451**, or visit **lifeguardlaplata.org**.

September 23 - November 1, 2020

Thank you to all who have joined in the 40 Days for Life fall campaign! Your prayerful presence is vital to the lives of the pre-born and their families. To sign up, visit 40daysforlife.com/Durango2, call the LifeGuard office, or contact organizer Kit O’Reilly at kitoreilly72@gmail.com.

Please join us in extending a special thank you to Kit and Sean O’Reilly for the considerable effort and time that goes into taking on a project as large as this.

