

VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
September, 2005

Rachel's Vineyard is on the web at: www.rachelsvineyard.org
Our national toll-free hotline is (877) HOPE-4-ME.

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Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes, women, men, couples, grandparents and abortion providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a resource for clinical training, education, and healing models.

Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We work in close partnership with Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.

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Help us spread the Good News! Pass along this newsletter to friends and colleagues. If you are receiving this newsletter because a friend forwarded it to you, details on subscribing (or unsubscribing) appear at the end.

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Universal Celebration for Next Generation

Theresa Burke

The 2005 World Youth Day proclaimed an invitation: "Come Let Us Adore Him!" And so they came – from every corner of the earth! In groups by the thousands, young people responded – like the Magi who followed a brilliant star into a distant land. Together, the youth of the world came to find Christ, the King who is God incarnate.

I was invited to give a presentation on post abortion trauma and healing with Domus Vitae, which in Latin means the "House of Life." The organization created a "Center for Life" in the heart of the World Youth Day Festival which was set up to greet those in most need. Domus Vitae has a special mission to minister to those with physical or mental disabilities, single mothers, pregnant teens, and those who suffer from addiction. The Domus shares in Mother Teresa's witness of love and offered a platform for entertainment, catechesis, discussion, testimonies and worship. We also met many heroic defenders of life who came to offer fruitful examples and inspiration to the youth pilgrims who traveled there.

Our groups met in Düsseldorf, Germany, a picturesque city along the Rhine River. Amidst the millions of pilgrims, I coincidentally met Father Fidelis Moscinski, CFR and Geraldine Savva who are both involved with Rachel's Vineyard in London. We bonded immediately, connected by our kinship in service to Christ. I also met members of the Good Council Network who help to sponsor the ministry in England, and members of The Helpers of God's Precious Infants in Ireland. What a joy to meet English-speaking friends who are fellow laborers in the Vineyard!

While I was in Europe I did not want to miss the opportunity to investigate whatever happened to a Rachel's Vineyard program which was offered in France. Over 10 years ago, I had given permission for a group of French nuns to translate the Rachel's Vineyard Support Group model. In America, I had actually met a few women who had gone through it in France. Traveling by car down into the Vineyards of Champagne, I began my quest to find them! All that I had was a wrinkled street address and the name of a nun. My search took me to a narrow alley in Paris and up to the doorsteps of a busy maternity hospital. With the best French I could muster, I began my explanation of "that which I was searching for." Though a series of back and forth conversations and discussions with hospital historians, I was given the next clues to follow up on. As this investigation continues to unfold, it looks very promising as I correspond with a program called Agape, a branch of the Family Life Office for the French Diocese. I'll keep you posted as our search continues.

As I was exploring through the streets of Paris, my two oldest children who came with me, toured the Louvre. Together, we slept in sleeping bags under the Eiffel Tower, in a cornfield, a German Vineyard and our final night nestled under trees in the deep woods bordering the outskirts of Frankfurt. It was fun to re-live younger vagabond days with two of my kids. World Youth day was a spectacular experience! The youth of the world are on fire with passion, love and vibrant energy to serve Christ. I'd like to thank Marijane Camilleri in Rome and Priests for Life for giving us this wonderful opportunity!

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A Prayer for Youth

Lord, Jesus Christ, I ask your blessing on our young people today. May they respond to you with strong and generous hearts. May they offer their youth and enthusiasm to proclaim your Gospel in our world. May they be salt and light to every person they encounter and may they answer your call with joy and give their lives in loving service to all their brothers and sisters. Just as you trust in them, Christ Jesus, may they also place their trust in you. Amen.

Pope John Paul II for World Youth Day

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Love for Christ encourages love for people.

Mark Pickup

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Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

I write you this message while I am at EWTN, the world's largest religious cable network, taping for their worldwide television and radio ministry. In the course of these programs, the message of Rachel's Vineyard is being transmitted to tens of millions of people. Today on the televised Mass, for instance, I preached on the Gospel passage of the raising of the son of the widow of

Nain. Scripture tells us that Jesus was moved with pity for the woman who had lost her child. That is why he raised him up, and gave him back to his mother.

I said in the homily that the work of Rachel's Vineyard is fulfilling this Gospel passage every day, because through this retreat ministry, Jesus does give children back to their mothers, as they take responsibility for those children, name them, commend them again to the Lord, and ask forgiveness for having participated in their deaths. Of course, the ultimate "giving back" will occur in the final resurrection. But Rachel's Vineyard is a place where, even now, the encounter with these children is real, and the compassion Jesus has for their mothers and fathers is made tangible.

Let us move forward then, as if this were the first day we were involved in this anointed ministry!

With prayers,
Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director
Chairman of the Board

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Rachel's Vineyard Site in New Orleans Needs Help!

Dear friends,

My name is Susan Mire. I am the director of the Woman's New Life Center, a pro-life pregnancy counseling and medical center in New Orleans, LA. Before I tell you about what has happened to us due to Hurricane Katrina, I would like to share with you about our center, of which I am very proud. I opened the Woman's New Life Center in October of 2001 around the corner from a New Orleans abortion clinic. When we first opened, we provided professional counseling and ultrasounds to women who were seeking abortions. We also became a site for Rachel's Vineyard. Within 8 months of opening, due to the use of ultrasound and a high level of counseling, we had saved 37 babies and their mothers from abortion, and had offered one Rachel's Vineyard retreat. We have grown tremendously in four years. We now have Rachel's Vineyard retreats 3 times a year, and continue with professional counseling for crisis pregnancy, post-abortion and other pregnancy losses. Our counselor is a licensed supervisor, and we started to receive graduate level interns to work at the center. In 2003 we were able to hire a nurse practitioner who provides pre-natal care into the 20th week of pregnancy, as well as ultrasounds and limited well woman care. I was also able to hire an assistant.

Since opening in 2001, the number of children and women saved from abortion is now over 200, and 11 babies scheduled for abortion were instead placed for adoption. The entire staff are trained adoption facilitators. We give thanks to God for all of the amazing things He has accomplished through us these past four years.

Now, due to Hurricane Katrina, we must begin a new chapter. The last report I heard is that our street, Napoleon Avenue, had received up to 12 feet of water. We are on street level, and have taken in a lot of water. It's possible that we have lost everything. As a small non-profit we have no endowment or extra funds--payroll will not continue for me or other employees beyond the next couple of weeks. We are not administered by the Archdiocese, and receive no money from them. It's interesting, because each year our main fundraising event has been on a riverboat and we have called the event the "Lifeboat cruise and auction." Now we need a lifeboat!

We are committed to keeping the Woman's New Life Center open, even if we have to relocate. My employees want to stay with us, and we have looked into providing pregnancy services at the LSU campus in Baton Rouge, until we can get back to New Orleans in January (they estimate 3 months to clean up the city). In order to do this, we need your help.

We are looking for a "cast of thousands", one thousand people to give at least \$50.00. With enough contributors, we can raise enough money to get through these next months and look to rebuilding. Even after January, we will need outside sources to help because many of our donors are vested in maintaining their own lives and businesses. Everyone in New Orleans and its suburbs is suffering severe personal and financial losses from Katrina, including me. It is our local donors and churches who have kept the Center going, and they will be recovering from this well into the New Year.

Yet in all of this I truly know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His decree. I know that many opportunities and graces can come from such a situation, and I am praying for the openness to follow where He leads. I ask your prayers and intercession.

Spread the word to everyone you know, through your friends and churches. Donations can be made through our website, www.womansnewlife.com, through PayPal.

I thank you for your kindness and love for unborn children and women.

Many blessings,
[Susan Mire](#), MA
Founder/ Executive Director
Woman's New Life Center

Rachels Vineyard will be contracting with the Women's New Life Center in New Orleans to employ Nancy Rodriguez, LPC to join our small staff at the Rachels' Vineyard National Office. Nancy will be helping us with some special projects for a few months, as the Women's New Life Center in New Orleans begins to rebuild. You can help Rachel's Vineyard Support the New Life Women Center in New Orleans by sending a donation, please click here: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm> to donate via credit card or PayPal. Alternatively, send an e-mail directly to me at t.burke@rachelsvineayrd.org and I will forward a postage-paid envelope. I thank Our Merciful Father every day for your prayers and support!

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Please pray for our Rachel's Vineyard Ministry Members who live in New Orleans:

Susan Mire; Nancy Rodriguez; Melanie Baglow; Jo Ann Fain; Fr. Joseph Doyle; Pam Richard; Rhonda Barrleaux; Shelly Phillips; Gail and Rick Bratcher; and Kathy Martinolich.

O God, in Whom Mercy is endless,
and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible,
Do look kindly upon us,
and increase your mercy on us,
so that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent,
but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will,

which is love and mercy itself. Jesus, I trust in You!

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How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.

Anne Frank

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Speaking Events & Training Schedule

September 26 - October 1, 2005 American Association of Christian Counseling World Conference, Nashville, Tennessee

Pre-Conference Presenters "Take Me to the Cross" – Theresa and Kevin Burke
To make your reservations visit www.aacc.net or call 1-800-526-8673

October 1, 2005 Pennsylvania Pro Life Federation Conference in Harrisburg

Contact: Lisa Neuhauser (717) 541-0034
www.paproflife.org

October 7, 2005 Project Rachel – Rachel's Vineyard Statewide Clergy Training Day

Presenters: Fr. Frank Pavone, Kevin and Theresa Burke
Evening Fundraising Banquet for Rachel's Vineyard in Iowa
Contact: [Maria Shores](mailto:maria.shores@rachelvineyard.org) (319) 665-9588 maria.shores@rachelvineyard.org
Dan Ebener, ebener@davenportdiocese.org (563)-324-1912 [Click here for Brochure](#)

October 7-8, 2005 Iowa Statewide Conference - Davenport, Iowa

Contact: [Maria Shores](mailto:maria.shores@rachelvineyard.org): (319) 665-9588 maria.shores@rachelvineyard.org
Dan Ebener, ebener@davenportdiocese.org (563) -324-1912 [Click here for Brochure](#)

October 10, 2005 Eucharistic Vigil at Basilica in DC

Contact: Maureen Flynn
Phone : (703) 327 – 2277.
Email: IWPF2005@aol.com
Also see the Washington Catholic Prayer and Fasting website
<http://www.internationalweekofprayerandfasting.org>

October 18, 2005 Clinical Training Seminar Rutgers' University, Camden New Jersey

6.5 CE credits available for States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania
Contact [Katie D'Annunzio](mailto:Katie.D'Annunzio@rutgers.edu) (610) 354-0555

October 20, 2005 Clinical Training Seminar

Contact: [Vincent P. Gale](mailto:Vincent.P.Gale@mihs.org), Director, CCHD / CRS 517 342 2470
300 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
CE credits approved

October 27-28, 2005 American Academy of Bereavement, Phoenix, AZ

Theresa presenting Clinical Training on Post Abortion Trauma
Contact: Kathy Brunner Program Director 716-332-0287 ext 101
CMI Education Institute

892 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

October 29, 2005 Skill Development Clinics for Facilitators

Phoenix, Arizona

Contact: [Dr. Richard Petersen](#)

November 13-18, 2005 Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Training Conference

Oakland, California

Contact: Monika Rodman (510) 267-8335 MRodman@oakdiocese.org

[Click here for Conference Brochure](#)

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Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann von Goethe

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Fundraising Banquet, Clergy Conferences, and Trainings in Iowa

Attention Midwest Rachel's Vineyard Laborers! You are cordially invited to "Healing the Wounded Heart", a fundraising banquet for Rachel's Vineyard Ministries on Friday, October 7, 2005, in Newton, Iowa, 6PM. Please join us for an evening with Kevin & Theresa Burke, and Father Frank Pavone.

We have a unique opportunity to spread the pro life message in the Midwest. On Friday, October 7, 2005 we will have a Rachel Vineyard pro life clergy day. This conference is for all priests, pastors, deacons and elders. This conference is followed by a Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Wm. E. Franklin and a fundraising banquet for Rachel's Vineyard Ministries. The Mass and the banquet are open to the public.

Our main goals for the clergy day:

1. Teach clergy how to minister to post abortive women and men.
2. Discover the negative effects and symptoms abortion causes women and men.
3. Learn how to compassionately respond to attacks from pro choice parishioners.
4. Learn where to send your pro-life parishioners to help those in need.

The clergy day is free. This includes all meals and materials. Each person is welcome to attend the pro life Mass and the banquet for Rachel's Vineyard on Friday night. The banquet is free. There will be a free will offering at the banquet. The Mass and banquet are open to the public.

The workshops on Saturday, October 8, 2005 are open to the public. All Clergy are welcome to sign up and go to the workshops on Saturday as well. Please find the attached registrations forms for the clergy day and Saturday workshops.

Our main goals for Saturday's conference:

1. Educate every aspect of pro life issues. To reach every individual who wants to become involved or who is involved in pro life work.
2. Promote compassionate pro life work.
3. Discover the negative effects and symptoms abortion causes women and men.

4. Discover how one can become involved in every aspect of pro life work including post abortion ministry.

For a complete brochure to help advertise this Conference [click here](#):

For questions and registration information please contact [Dan Ebener](#), (563-324-1912), or [Maria Shores](#), (319-665-9588).

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“Lives are changed and transformed as people are able to receive forgiveness from God and in turn, forgive themselves. Clergy, counselors and laypersons are available to support each person as they venture into an emotional area that society has told us we should not mourn. Rachel’s Vineyard is vital to the healing of the Church and society.”
(Most Rev.) Wm. E. Franklin
Bishop of Davenport

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Skill Development Clinics for Facilitators in Phoenix

The first in a series of Regional Skill Building Clinics for Rachel’s Vineyard facilitators will be held in Phoenix Arizona on Saturday, October 29, 2005. We are delighted to welcome Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix who will address our group in the morning. Dr. Theresa Burke, the founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries, will lead the day’s activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with neighboring Rachel’s Vineyard sites, to gather as a group of ministers for spiritual renewal and refreshment, and in the afternoon, facilitators will have an opportunity to present cases for supervision and learn new techniques for connecting group members through role play exercises and facilitation techniques.

To register contact: [Dr. Richard Petersen](#)

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**Rachel’s Vineyard International Leadership Conference
“Becoming Fruitful Vines for an Abundant Harvest”**

*San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA
November 13 through 18, 2005*

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is delighted to bring its annual National Leadership Conference to the West Coast. Hosted by the Diocese of Oakland's After the Choice Post-Abortion Outreach, this year's conference is open to those already laboring in the field of post-abortion ministry, those engaged more generally in pastoral care, as well as licensed mental health and medical professionals, clergy and lay chaplains, spiritual directors and retreat leaders. We extend a special welcome to those who have newly discovered the life-transforming power of the Rachel's Vineyard model of healing.

This year's conference begins Sunday evening, November 13, 2005 and continues through Friday late afternoon, November 18. Sessions specific to Rachel's Vineyard will begin Sunday evening and continue through Wednesday morning, November 16. Feedback from past conferences has suggested the need to allow participants some "down time" to rest, refresh and begin to absorb what they have taken in through the workshops. For this reason, Wednesday afternoon and early evening are free for time to either relax around the retreat center or take part in an optional off-

site excursion. There are two excursion options: Either a San Francisco City Tour or a Winery Tour.

Wednesday night we will re-convene the entire group at the retreat center and Thursday morning we continue with a two-day workshop on healing ministry given by internationally renowned healing pioneers Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn. Conference attendees are strongly encouraged, though not required, to stay for both days of the Linn workshop, as it promises to be personally enriching and offer concrete tools to those engaged in various healing ministries. Many of the Linns books, on topics ranging from 12-step recovery to healing pre-natal hurts, healing the family tree, healing our image of God and healing of our life's purpose, will be available for purchase during the final days of the conference.

Participants may choose individual sessions as freely as they wish, while others may principally take workshops in one of the four tracks offered this year: **Foundational Issues, Clinical Skills, Outreach, or Personal and Team Growth.**

For Complete Conference & Registration Information visit
http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/training/conferences/2005_conference.htm
[Click here or Conference Brochure](#)

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Vision is seeing more than is presented.
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Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Schedule (September- October)

For a complete listing of future Rachel's Vineyard Retreats visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

September 16-18, 2005 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma

Contact: [Mary Lee](#) 918 585 8167 ext. 212

September 16-18, 2005 -- Sacramento, California

Contact: [Kathy Conner](#) 916 733 0161

September 16-18, 2005 -- Youngstown, Ohio

Contact: [Brenda Dama](#) 330 519 8838

Contact: [Br. Vit Fiala](#) 330 799 1888

September 16-18, 2005 -- Linden, New Jersey

Contact: [Michelle Krystofik](#) 732 388 8211

September 16-18, 2005 -- Portland, Oregon

Contact: [Lori Eckstine](#) 800 249 8074 or 541 521 5186

September 16-18, 2005 -- Covington, Kentucky / Cincinnati, Ohio

Contact: [Gloria Santoro](#) 513 588 9669

Contact: [Peggy Feirstine](#)

September 16-18, 2005 -- San Angelo, Texas

Contact: [Betsy Kopor](#) 817 923 4757

September 23-25, 2005-- Richmond, Virginia

Contact: [Kay Marie Geiger](#) 804 330 3137

September 23-25, 2005 -- Romeoville, Illinois

Local host: Joliet Diocesan Life Office

Contact: [Kay Corcoran](#) 815 838 7171

September 23-25, 2005 -- Stockton, California

Contact: [Nancy or Kim](#) 209 465 5433

September 23-25, 2005 -- Fairfield County, Connecticut

Contact: [Clarissa Cincotta](#) 203 218 0291
September 23-25, 2005 -- Wichita, Kansas
Local host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita
Contact: [Yvonne or Lori](#) 316 269 4673 or 1-888-456-4673 (statewide only)
September 23-25, 2005 --Phoenix, Arizona
Contact: [Margarita Chong](#) 480 820-3593
Contact: [Dianna Contreras](#) 480 966 1902 ext 101
September 30- October 2, 2005 -- Janesville, Wisconsin
Contact: [Cheryl Ryan](#) 608 755 9739 or 608 754 0309
Local host: [Pregnancy Helpline of Janesville](#)
Note: Interdenominational retreat
September 30 - October 2, 2005 --North Providence, Rhode Island
Local host: Rachel Vineyard Retreats of Southern New England
Contact: [Sheila Kuzmic](#) 401 348 8874
Contact: [Joan Pendergast](#) 401-861-2069
Contact: [Gail Picard](#) 401-447-3279
September 30 - October 2, 2005 -- San Jose, California
Contact [Mary Peter](#) 408 426 7343 or 888 467 3790
September 30 - October 2, 2005 -- Richmond, Virginia
Note: Interdenominational retreat
Contact: [Gordon and Deborah Frantzich](#) 540 775 5147
October 7-9, 2005 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: [Ann Depner](#) 412 456 6955
October 7-9, 2005 -- Casper, Wyoming
Contact: [Sharie Cundall](#) 877-237-0662
Local host: Diocese of Cheyene
October 7-9, 2005 -- Lubbock, Texas
Contact: [Kathy Krile](#) 806 577 5912
October 7-9, 2005 -- Washington DC
Contact: [Eugenia Hadley](#) 301 237 6177
October 7-9, 2005 -- Ada, Oklahoma
Contact: [Rachel Miller](#) 580 332 4199
Note: Interdenominational Retreat
October 14-16, 2005 -- Los Angeles, California
Contact: [Christine Lowe](#) 866 2 RACHEL
Contact: [Rachel's Vineyard Los Angeles](#)
October 14-16, 2005 -- Corpus Christi, Texas
Contact: [Desda](#) 361 949 1251
Contact: [Fr. Tom Goodwin](#) 361 882 7912
October 14-16, 2005 -- Fuquary Varina, North Carolina
Note: **Spanish retreat**
Contact: [Yaralitz Erives](#) 336 495 0279
Contact: [Gloria Maldonado](#) 919 548 3671
October 14-16, 2005-- Arlington, Virginia
Local host: Diocese of Arlington
Contact: [Myriam](#) 703 729 7998
October 14-16, 2005 -- Immaculata / Phila Area, Pennsylvania
Contact: [Priscilla](#) 215-906-6337
Contact: [Geri Simboli](#) 610 399 0890
October 14-16, 2005 -- Juneau, Alaska
Contact: [Mary Brooks](#) 907 523 1025

Contact: Fr. Tony Dummer 907 789 2648
October 21-23, 2005 -- Denver, Colorado
Contact: [Edith Gutierrez](#) 303 682 9185
Contact: [Diane Svoboda](#) 303 359 3289
October 21-23, 2005 -- Portland, Maine
Contact: [Project Rachel Coordinator](#) 207 879 1130 ext 770 or 771
Toll-free in Maine only: 800 CARE 002
October 21-23, 2005 -- Kelowna, British Columbia
Contact: [Janet Kormish](#) 250 762 2273 or 877 683 CARE
October 21-23, 2005 -- Fairfield County, Connecticut
Contact: [Rachel O'Leary](#) 203 313-0101
(Spanish - Español)
October 21-23, 2005 -- Rockford, Illinois
Contact: [Catherine Rennert](#) 815 968 1157
Note: Interdenominational retreat
Location: Stronghold Retreat and Conference Center in Oregon, Illinois
October 21-23, 2005 -- Northwest Indiana
Local host: Project Rachel, Diocese of Gary
Contact: [Carolyn Kenning](#) 219 374 5193
October 21-23, 2005 -- Belfast, Northern Ireland
Note: Catholic Retreat
Contact: [Bernadette](#) 087 859 2877
Contact: [Marionette Morrison](#) 0289 092 3346
October 21-23, 2005 -- Medford, Oregon
Contact: [Lori Eckstine](#) 800 249 8074 or 541 521 5186
October 21-23, 2005 -- Sydney, Australia
Contact: [Julie Kelly](#) 02 9440 7980
October 21-23, 2005 -- Birmingham, Alabama
Contact: [Maria Kaczperski](#) 205-919-3288
October 21-23, 2005 -- Lafayette, Louisiana
Contact: [Karol D. Meynard](#) 337 261 5607
Contact: [Trista M. Littell](#) 337 261 5607
October 21-23, 2005 -- Baltimore, Maryland
Contact: [Denise Douglas](#) 410 354 6900 or 800 286 4224
October 28-30, 2005 -- Cork City, Ireland
Contact: [Bernadette](#) 087 859 2877
Contact: Dr. Rita O'Connor 061 468 570
October 28-30, 2005, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA
Note: Interdenominational
Contact: [Anne Neville](#) 61 3 9870 7044
October 28-30, 2005 -- Paterson/Morris County, New Jersey
Contact: [Marie Ryan](#) 973 777 8818 ext 264
(Mendham)
October 28-30, 2005 -- Long Island / Uniondale, New York
Contact: [Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi](#) 516 523 0586
October 28-30, 2005 -- Jacksonville / St. Augustine, Florida
Contact: [Donna Augustine](#) 904 221 3232
October 28-30, 2005 -- Peoria, Illinois
Local Host: King's House Retreat Center in Henry, IL
Contact: [Colleen Harmon](#) 815 303 1184
Contact: [Jeanne Whalen](#) 309 671 1550 or 1 800 367 0702

October 28-30, 2005 --Steubenville, Ohio
Contact: [Sharon Maedke](mailto:Sharon.Maedke@rachelvineyard.org) 740-283-3636

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