

VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
November, 2006

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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 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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Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.
Melody Beattie
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The Joy of Giving
By Theresa Burke, Ph.D,

Imagine thousands of volunteers selflessly giving their time and talents to be the change they wish to see in the world, with no thought of personal reward!

Imagine thousands of women and men being empowered with the love and the reconciliation of Christ, who are reaching out to spread the Good News!

Imagine people all over the world engaged in a work that inspires giving their lives meaning and purpose, helping them become passionately alive!

You don't have to imagine – because this is all a reality in Rachel's Vineyard!

In the past eleven years, the Rachel's Vineyard Programs for both support groups and weekend retreats have served approximately 60,000 people.

Our ministry has been undergoing a steady annual 40% growth rate! In the past ten years, our Vineyard has spread to 46 states and is now available in 17 countries and is spoken and read in six languages! There are at least four more languages currently in translation.

We don't have commercials, a media campaign or glitzy ads.

This is God's work -- not ours. God has inspired a profound call in each person graced with the gift of new life to transform the world and end the violence occurring in the heart of every parent who has suffered the loss of a child through abortion.

Our faith teaches that we are created in the image and likeness of God and called to reflect love and truth as we work to protect the profound dignity of the human person. Each human being is destined to provide something unique and special for this world -- that's why the loss of any member of our society or family is a tragedy. But even so, God continues to bring life out of death! With over 40 million abortions in this country, life is destined to come to those who seek it.

When it comes down to it, healing is actually a process of resurrection and transformation that is like an explosion of light, illumination and truth that melts the chains of sin and death. Pope Benedict describes a transformation: “which inaugurates a new dimension of life and reality, from which the new world comes forth, that continuously penetrates our world and seeks to transform it” -- drawing us to the creator of life, who helps heal the loss of life.

There are many fronts to this transformation: the work of healing, advocacy, education, awareness, providing alternatives, enacting laws and legislation that will protect vulnerable women from recreating themes of sexual abuse, powerlessness and betrayal.

In Rachel's Vineyard, we expose and explore the deepest feelings of the human heart that lie in secret. William Shakespeare captured the reality of such tragedies when he wrote: “My grief lies all within, and these external manners of lament are merely shadows to the unseen grief that swells with silence in the tortured soul.”

Emptying the Grief to make room for the Grace of God is the work of Rachel's Vineyard.

We offer heartfelt and joyful gratitude to all that are involved in this sustaining this incredible work of transformation!

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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10 More Reasons for Gratitude!!!!

1. We are thankful to God for the generosity of **Priests for Life** and all the organizations and individuals who have offered assistance to help us conduct retreats, education and clinical trainings as we carry out our mission!
2. We're exceptionally grateful for the first Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Taiwan scheduled to take place this weekend! Please pray for Georgie Hseih and her new team in Taipei, Taiwan. We pray with hearts of thanksgiving because we know this work is destined to touch many hearts with the gift of healing and grace.
3. We have special appreciation for Diane & Jean-Marc Richards for all their work on the Canadian French Translation. The first French Speaking Rachel's Vineyard Retreat "La Vigne de Rachel" was held this past year in Quebec, Canada!
4. We have immense gratitude to Anne-Helene O'Malley who worked vigorously on the French Translation of the Rachel's Vineyard Manual for use in France.
5. We're thankful for requests to help start ministries in Uganda, India, Korea and Medugorje, Yugoslavia!
6. We are thankful for 84 new Rachel's Vineyard Sites in Development especially a new site in **East Midlands, England**; A new Spanish Speaking Rachel's Vineyard site in Los Angeles, California; and a new Spanish site in Alamos, **Sonora, Mexico**
7. We are blessed beyond measure to have dedicated staff that work in our Office: We'd be lost without the help and assistance of Katie D'Annunzio and Andrea Staargaard. We're also thankful for Michelle Krystofik in Newark, for her assistance with all the new Rachel's Vineyard sites in development.
8. We're thankful for Tracy Reynolds and Joan Reiley who volunteer their time, empathy and counseling skills on our toll free national hotline.
9. We are grateful for the organizations that have awarded Rachel's Vineyard grants in 2006: Senator Rick Santorum's - **Operation Good Neighbor Foundation; Our Sunday Visitor; Very Reverend Thomas Neustrom; Knights of Columbus; and The G.L Connelly Foundation.** We are thankful for Helene Eissler, Janice Buck, June and Chuck Piola and all who helped with our very successful fundraising event last May.
10. And we honor Almighty God with hearts of praise and thanksgiving for the great blessings He has bestowed upon this ministry!

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 Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but also the parent of all the others.
 Cicero
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Help Support Our Work

At this time of year, when the cooler weather has moved in and the leaves are pleasantly clattering our backyards and front walks, we are reminded that the holiday season is just around the corner. At Thanksgiving, we'll be filling our homes with loved ones and our bellies with turkey. In another month, we'll be putting the finishing touches on our Christmas decorations. In

a season with so much joy and hope, we reflect on our gratitude for all the men and women who help serve and support our work in Rachel's Vineyard.

Our ministry provides a chance to step back in safety, to lift hurts up to our eternally merciful Father, in the always-fulfilled promise of healing and reconciliation that was given through His Son. As we move through the last days of November, we wish to thank all those who have been a support to our ministry, allowing us to continue the healing work that has reached so many thousands of hurting men and women. Without your goodwill and continued prayers, our ministry would never have been able to achieve the impact and growth that we currently enjoy.

Please help us to continue serving by offering your prayers. We all know that without this necessary gift, our ministry would not be able to function. Second, we ask you to help us serve by offering your time. If you are interested in volunteering for Rachel's Vineyard in any way, please feel free to contact Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org. Third, I ask you to please aid our ministry by giving financially. A tax-deductible donation of \$1000, \$500, \$100, \$25 or any smaller amount – call us to donate using your credit card or donate online, through this link: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm>, or by sending us an e-mail at Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org to receive a postage-paid envelope or just sending us your donation to this address:

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
808 N. Henderson Road
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

We wish you and your families a Blessed Thanksgiving. Please know that you are in our prayers, and may you enjoy all the bountiful blessings of this season!

In the Love of Christ,

Theresa & Kevin Burke

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God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.
Izaak Walton
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Mark Your Calendars for 2007

- June 26- 29, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Training Conference**
Malvern Retreat House, Pennsylvania
Theme: "Carry the Message – Illuminate the World."
- June 29-July 1, 2007** **Come Aside and Rest Awhile**
A Retreat for Leaders in Pro-Life and Post Abortion Ministries
Retreat House, Pennsylvania
- July 20-22, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference in Ireland**
- Sept - Oct, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Conferences in Australia**

Keep posted for additional details in upcoming issues of Vine and Branches!

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" A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

Henry Adams

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Cabrini College presents Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Theresa Burke

Dr. Jonnie Guerra, Vice President for Academic Affairs, recently presented me with the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of career achievements that embody the principles of Cabrini College. Little did I know 24 years ago when I graduated from Cabrini College, that God had an enormous mission for me to accomplish!

My spiritual ties to St. Frances Cabrini are not limited to the charisms of the Missionary sisters of the Sacred Heart, but they extend to all of us who strive to live lives of faith, hope and love.

The passion of Mother Cabrini was centered on the Heart of Jesus, inflamed with love for all people of the earth. Her work was Missionary work. Missionaries are symbolized as boats setting sail, roaming the oceans, and seeking to be the "bearers of the love of Christ in the world."

As a graduate of Cabrini College, I am a steward of St. Frances Cabrini's legacy. We are called to action in the present and challenged to re-create this charism anew in every age, according to the changing needs of our society. The world still needs her passion and zeal, her missionary spirit, her witness of courage and absolute trust in the living God. These are the treasures and gifts of the Holy Spirit that are also at the foundation of any significant accomplishments I have achieved. So in short, any honor belongs to Christ -- whose spirit inspired Mother Cabrini and continues to infuse all of us who seek to make this world a place of justice, truth and love.

Theresa Burke, Ph.D.
Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

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"The direction in which education starts a man
Will determine his future life."

Plato

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Pro-Life Union Award

The Pro-Life Union of Southeastern PA has been a beacon of light in the culture of death in Pennsylvania. Their outreach has included campaigns to educate the public, offering services and referrals to women facing crisis pregnancies, and organizing extensive campaigns to uphold the sanctity of life.

Through their efforts, and the work of their many affiliates (including Generation Life, an excellent youth-oriented organization promoting pro-life values and sexual purity), the Pro-Life Union has made great strides toward mobilizing the public to support the choice of life in every circumstance.

We express our gratitude for receiving recognition of Dr. Theresa Burke's work to provide post-abortion healing to women and men all over the world. *The Pioneer Award*, in the name of **James D. Kelly, MD**, the late great husband of the infamous Molly Kelly, also known as the chastity lady, which commemorates Dr. Kelly's extensive work to further the pro-life cause. Our appreciation is on two levels – first: for receiving recognition from an organization whose efforts we have always been encouraged by, and second: to be honored in the name Dr. James Kelly, in whose footsteps it is a privilege and honor to walk.

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Best of all is it to preserve everything in a pure, still heart, and let there be for every pulse a thanksgiving, and for every breath a song.

Konrad von Gesner

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Put this book on your Christmas shopping List!

"Will You Bless Me" a children's book by Neal Lozano

As we move into the holiday season, nothing adds that extra spice to the Christmas spirit like true and valuable family time. In a world of fast-paced computer games and television holiday specials, getting in an extra moment with your children one-on-one is truly something to be treasured.

Neal Lozano's new book, "Will You Bless Me," gives parents an opportunity to share a truly beautiful moment exploring the graces of God's blessing in a family context. The perfect bedtime storybook, it captures a moment of love and blessing for our children, and is a wonderful way to share the story of Christ's birth from the perspective of Jesus himself as a child. Children learn not only of the powerful love parents have for their little ones, but also the all-encompassing love of God for His earthly children.

Neal's weaving of a modern Christian family with the Holy Family in Nazareth is perfectly complimented by beautifully dynamic illustrations created by Ben Hatke in warm and organic colors. This book is highly recommended for children of all ages, even us older ones who haven't grown up yet!

In addition, if you decide to purchase this book to share with your family or give as a gift this Christmas, our friend Neal will donate a portion to our ministry for any purchase made that lists "Rachel's Vineyard Ministries" under the BUSINESS section of the order form on his website.

You can place an order for "Will You Bless Me" by visiting Neal's website www.willyoublessme.com or by calling 610-952-4871.

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To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.

Johannes A. Gaertner

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Book of the Month
Compelling Interests: a book by Jessica Shaver

It has been over 33 years since abortion was legalized. Many today are likely to never have known an America where unborn children were protected from conception until birth and beyond, and even those who have been standing up for life since before 1973 can often forget what the landscape of the fight to preserve life was like pre-Roe. It is easy for us to forget in the modern hubbub of issues surrounding the sanctity of life that there was an America without legalized abortion, and what that America looked like.

Jessica Shaver's new book, "Compelling Interests", is an epic covering the decades preceding 1973, chronicling the events that surrounded the abortion debate from a myriad of viewpoints, pro-life and pro-abortion alike. Her book lifts the reader into a whirlwind of personal stories and dramas that, though fictional, are based solidly in the facts and history of the struggle against and for legalized abortion. We as readers see into the hearts and minds of women and men who made enormous impacts on society, often changing the face of the debate forever.

"Compelling Interests" is extremely well written and engaging - I spent more than a night glancing toward my clock at midnight, wondering if I could slip in just one more hour's worth of reading and still function the next day! Touching, stirring, and powerful, this book is a must read for anyone who wasn't there to see the world before Roe, and a poignant recollection of that tumultuous time for those who were. Compelling Interests is a highly recommended read.

Book Reviewed by Andrea Staargaard

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True thanksgiving means that we need to thank God for what He has done for us, and not to tell Him what we have done for Him.
George R. Hendrick
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Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Schedule (November - December 2006)

November 24-26, 2006 -- Vancouver, British Columbia
Note: Non denominational
Local Host: Post Abortion Community Services, Office of Life & Family
Contact: [Doreen Yung](#) 604 525 0999
Contact: Angie Cote 604 525 0999
Contact: Michele 604 443 3256

November 24-26, 2006 -- Taipei, Taiwan
Contact: [Georgie Hsieh](#) 886-933-42-6608

December 1-3, 2006 -- Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota
Contact: [Nancy Blom](#) 952 882 2072

December 1-3, 2006 -- Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas
Contact: [Kathleen Ames-Oliver](#) 785 760 0617

December 1-3, 2006 -- Palm Beach, Florida
Contact: [Donna Gardner](#) 561 602 4778 or 1 877 908 1212
Retreat Location: Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center
Website: [click here](#)

December 1-3, 2006 -- New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact: [Melanie Baglow](#) 504 889 2431

Contact: [Nancy Rodrigue](#) 504 269 8186

December 1-3, 2006 -- Tampa, Florida

Contact: [Emma Boe](#) 813 631 4370

Retreat Location: Clearwater, Marian Servants of Our Lady of Divine Providence

December 1-3, 2006 -- Rochester, New York

Contact: [Betsy](#) 585 328 0648 or 585 313 7100

December 8-10, 2006 -- DC Metro Area, Maryland / Washington DC

Note: Bilingual Spanish and English

Contact: [Eugenia Hadley](#) 301 237 6177

December 8-10, 2006 -- Wichita, Kansas

Local host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita

Contact: [Tama Dutton](#) 316 269 4673 or 1-888-456-4673 (statewide only)

December 15-17, 2006 -- Sonoma County, California

Local host: After the Choice, Diocese of Oakland

Contact: [Monika](#) 510 267 8335

Note: Espanol / Spanish

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