

**VINE AND BRANCHES**

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries  
January, 2007

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Rachel's Vineyard is on the web at: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://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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**Silent No More -The Power of Stories**  
By Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

As the January 22, March for Life quickly approaches, more and more opportunities are available throughout the country for post-abortive men and women to share their stories of loss, grief, and healing. While public witness is not something that everyone is called to, there are many who, after experiencing healing of their trauma, feel a calling to speak about their experience, in the hopes of educating the public about the trauma of abortion.

Stories encourage and empower the listener. They reveal the possibilities for changing direction. They encourage others to forge through what seems insurmountable to discover our strength. Stories help us relate the pain of the past into the transformation we long to achieve in the future. The choices and situations we may regret can become moments of opportunity for defining our depth and courage, enabling us to find new vantages from which to make sense of our pain. Certain stories are retold because they are turning points. They reveal what is true. By understanding our stories, we can begin to see some of the bigger picture of God's plan and purpose for our lives. Listening to and connecting with the emotional life hidden within the tapestry of the past can be challenging. Too often we may feel tempted to escape from the reality of the truth hidden in the human soul.

We can choose disconnection and numbness from our stories, but by doing so; we miss out on valuable moments of learning the wisdom our stories have to teach us. Numbness and denial will always conceal the truth. We can ignore these stories or we can learn from them and deeply enrich our lives in the process. If we don't learn from difficult life experiences we are destined to repeat them, in endless patterns of trauma and crisis. The repetition is actually a symptom – a disguised way of communicating a story that has never been spoken, listened to, or understood.

Telling our stories gives us an opportunity to explore the rich textures and colors of emotion and experiences that have touched our lives. This is certainly a generous gift we give to ourselves when we begin to seek healing, but it can also be a charitable gift to the thousands of men and women who suffer in silence and isolation. Your voice can stir the longing for freedom and healing in their hearts and inspire them to reach out for help. By laboring through the pain of what our stories have to teach us, we open ourselves to traveling a new path directly into the arms of life. A life embraced and fully lived. A life of meaning. A life of truth. A life of faith, hope and compassion. A life that provides a quilt of comfort and hope for the suffering of others. This is the fruit of healing, which frees us of the shackles of the past by reawakening awareness of our true identity in the present. A journey into our own stories allows us to feel the dark night of the soul and open our hearts to the light and destiny that God longs to share with us.

If you feel called to share your story in public, there are many avenues you can take to become involved. Silent No More Awareness is a wonderful organization dedicated to giving those who have suffered the pain of abortion opportunities to speak. We invite you to look at their website, [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org) for a listing of witness opportunities all over the country, please visit [www.silentnomoreawareness.org/events/index.html](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/events/index.html) There you will find a variety of events that you can participate in.

You can also visit Operation Outcry at [www.operationoutcry.org](http://www.operationoutcry.org) Operation Outcry is another great organization with other opportunities to speak out and get involved.

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The least livable life is the one without coherence – nothing connects, nothing means anything. Stories make connections. They allow us to see our past, our present, and our future as interrelated and purposeful. The stories we value most reassure us that life is worth the pain, that meaning is not an illusion, and that others share our experience with us.

Daniel Taylor

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**New Year Greetings!**

Dear laborers in our Lord's Vineyard,

In the small mountain village of Medjugorje located in Bosnia, many believe that the Mother of God has been appearing and giving messages for the world. The Christmas message of December 25<sup>th</sup> is a simple and beautiful message that we would like to share with you:

*"Dear children! Also today I bring you the newborn Jesus in my arms. He who is the King of Heaven and earth, He is your peace. Little children, no one can give you peace as He who is the King of Peace. Therefore, adore Him in your hearts, choose Him and you will have joy in Him. He will bless you with His blessing of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

Our world today offers many false pathways to peace. We can be tempted by a preoccupation with money, power, lust, work, drugs, various forms of entertainment, even the work of ministry.

But the allure of these false idols is illusory and can never fill our deepest desires for peace, healing and redemption. “No one can give you peace as He who is the King of Peace.”

Mary asks us to “adore Jesus in our hearts.” If we adore Him in our hearts, this means that His presence will fill our hearts as the child Jesus filled the womb of Mary. When we adore Jesus in our hearts, there can be no other gods competing for this sacred place within us. If we truly choose Him to be Lord of our lives, Christ will cleanse our hearts as he cleansed the Temple, so we can truly be a sacred dwelling place for the King of Peace.

With the King of Peace enthroned in our hearts He will cast out all fear so that we can rejoice with the shepherds present at the first Christmas:

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Make a decision every day in this coming year to be vigilant like those wise virgins (Mathew 25) who took oil in their jars along with their lamps to greet the Bridegroom. Greet the Lord Jesus each day with the fresh oil of prayer so he may find you always awake and ready for Him.

This is the foundation of our ministry. Jesus, the King of Peace is the center of the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat process. Every one of us active in this ministry must make Christ the Lord of our Hearts. Let us sweep out every false idol. Let this be the foundation of all we do in service to those wounded by abortion.

With love and appreciation for all you do to bring the peace of Christ to those wounded by abortion, we wish you a blessed and happy New Year!

Kevin and Theresa Burke  
Founders, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries

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The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.”

G.K. Chesterton

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**A Note from our Pastoral Director**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

This will be another great month for Rachel’s Vineyard, as our friends at EWTN again announce the resources we provide to their viewing audience when they broadcast the March for Life activities. Rachel’s Vineyard will also be highlighted when I preach at the United States Senate for the National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers on the morning of January 22, and when I preach the EWTN Mass on January 8 through 12<sup>th</sup> and again on the 18<sup>th</sup> (Tune in if you can! See [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org) for the schedule.)

Recently, Kevin Burke joined me as I guest-hosted the Drew Mariani show on Relevant Radio. When he began discussing the topic of the pain men have after losing a child to abortion, the phone lines lit up, and we couldn't even get to all the calls that came in from around the nation!

This year will only see more and more growth for this ministry. We don't have to worry about that. We simply need to focus on keeping our hearts right with God and on keeping close to one another, because we all need each other in this work, and we all need the healing that comes from the Lord! You are in my prayers each day!

Sincerely,  
Fr. Frank Pavone  
Pastoral Director and Chairman of the Board

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### **Help Support Our Work**

Though much of our work here at Rachel's Vineyard focuses on helping men and women who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion to find healing. In addition to developing treatment models for abortion and abuse, we also cultivate another important outreach. We strive to educate and empower others to reach out with hope and compassion to those who have experienced the pain of abortion.

In 2006, Kevin and I traveled a total of over 150,000 miles, to a total of 25 states and internationally to teach counselors, lay persons, medical professionals and those who work in Rachel's Vineyard. In the past 12 months, we presented at 42 events and educated thousands of mental health workers. We were also interviewed on numerous radio and television shows, where we had the opportunity to share the good news of restoration and recovery that can be found for those who seek healing.

Through clinical training seminars, leadership conferences, and regional skill-building clinics, we create an atmosphere of openness and learning to provide everyone with the tools necessary to promote and provide effective post-abortion recovery and counseling. By compiling research and articles about post-abortion trauma, we also hope to provide to those interested in this topic a comprehensive and easily accessible database of information. These articles can be accessed on our website, under the "Articles" section.

Because it is so important for our message of hope and healing to reach as many people as possible, we invite you to join us in this effort by providing generous support for us to continue our efforts. In particular, by making monetary donations to our ministry, you can help offset the costs of running our regional trainings and clinical seminars, keeping costs low as we create new educational programs and opportunities.

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](mailto:Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org) <<mailto:Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org>>.

Third, we ask you to please aid our ministry by giving financially. A tax-deductible donation of \$1000, \$500, \$100, \$25 or any amount can be made by calling 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](mailto:Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org)

[<mailto:Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org>](mailto: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 New Year. 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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You've got to go out on a limb sometimes because that is where the fruit is.  
Will Rogers  
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**Upcoming Clinical Training, Media and Speaking Events:**

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>January 13</b>     | <b>Door To Hope</b> airs on EWTN<br>8:00 PM  |
| <b>January 14</b>     | <b>Door To Hope</b> airs on EWTN<br>2:00 AM  |
| <b>January 15 -20</b> | <b>Making Abortion Rare</b> airs on EWTN<br>Hosted by Theresa Burke with David Reardon<br>6:30 AM Eastern Time<br>3:30 AM Pacific Time |
| <b>January 18</b>     | <b>Door to Hope</b> airs on EWTN<br>1:00 PM  |
| <b>January 18</b>     | <b>Suffering in Silence</b> airs on EWTN<br>3:00 AM<br>6:30 PM   |
| <b>January 21</b>     | <b>Bridging the Tears</b> airs on EWTN<br>3:00 AM  |
| <b>January 22</b>     | <b>March For Life, Washington, DC</b><br>Silent No More Awareness Campaign   |
| <b>January 24</b>     | <b>EWTN Live</b> airs on EWTN<br>Theresa will be a guest with Fr. Mitch Pacwa  |
|                       | For Complete EWTN listings <a href="#">click here</a>  |
| <b>February 23-25</b> | <b>Oklahoma City, OK</b><br>Catholic Men's Conference  |

Kevin Burke will be presenting on men and abortion  
Contact: Deacon Bill Bawden  
Phone: 405-751-7115  
E-Mail: [bbawden@steugenes.org](mailto:bbawden@steugenes.org)

**March 2-3 Monrovia, California**  
Pregnancy Loss and Unresolved Grief: Media, Culture & The Story Not Told  
Contact: Sherry Smith - Right to Life League, CA  
Phone: 626-398-6100  
E-Mail: [rtlifess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rtlifess@sbcglobal.net)  
+ Continuing Education Credits Available for nurses and counselors

**April 21 Danville, Kentucky**  
Pregnancy Loss & Unresolved Grief  
Contact: Sharla Wells  
Sponsored by Cliffview Retreat and Conference Center  
The Catholic Diocese of Lexington  
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
E-Mail: [sharlaky@alltel.net](mailto:sharlaky@alltel.net)  
+ Continuing Education Credits Available

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A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.  
Admiral Grace Murray Hopper  
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### **Retreat for Victims of Sexual Abuse**

**March 23-25 From Grief to Grace Retreat**  
**Healing the Wounds of Abuse – Reclaiming the Gift of Sexuality**  
Oklahoma City  
Contact [info@griefftoGrace.org](mailto:info@griefftoGrace.org)  
(610) 354-0555

### **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."  
Contact: Andrea Staargaard  
Phone: 610-354-0555  
E-Mail: [Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org](mailto:Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org)

**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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We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.  
Albert Einstein  
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**Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats January – February**

For a complete listing of upcoming retreats visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org/contact/local.htm](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/contact/local.htm)

**January 5-7, 2007** -- Fort Worth, Texas  
Contact: [Betsy Kopor](#) 817 923 4757

**January 12-15, 2007** -- Linden, New Jersey  
Contact: [Michelle Krystofik](#) 732 388 8211

**January 12-14, 2007** -- Baltimore, Maryland  
Contact: [Denise Douglas](#) 410 354 6900  
Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

**January 12-14, 2007** -- Rock Hill, South Carolina  
Contact: [Martha](#) 336 287 8421 (cell)  
Local host: Diocese of Charleston

**January 26-28, 2007** -- Fairfield County, Connecticut  
Contact: [Clarissa Cincotta](#) 203 218 0291

**January 26-28, 2007** -- Hays, Kansas  
Local host: Salina Diocese  
Web: [Salina Diocese](#)  
Contact: [Donetta Robben](#) 877 447 4383

**January 26-28, 2007** -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Contact: [Stephanie Claudy](#) 866 4 RACHEL

**January 26-28, 2007** -- Bowling Green / Owensboro, Kentucky  
Contact: [Debbie Ward](#) 270 683 6933

**January 26-28, 2007** -- Lubbock, Texas  
Contact: [Kathy Krile](#) 806 577 5912

**February 2-4, 2007** -- Portland, Oregon  
Contact: [Lori Eckstine](#) 800 249 8074 or 541 521 5186

**February 2-4, 2007** -- Lancaster, Kentucky  
Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Lexington  
Contact: [Sharla Wells](#) 877 792 3330 (toll free)

**February 9-11, 2007** -- Birmingham / Cullman, Alabama

Contact: [Maria Kaczperski](#) 205-919-3288

Contact: [Maria Steele](#) 256-347-1569

**February 9-11, 2007** -- Steubenville, Ohio

Contact: [Sharon Maedke](#) 740-283-3636

**February 9-11, 2007** -- Santa Rosa, California

Contact: [Valerie Johnson Fish](#) 707 967 1101

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Long Island / Uniondale, New York

Contact: [Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi](#) 516 523 0586

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Ann Arbor / Lansing / Detroit Area, Michigan

Contact: [Beth Bauer](#) 734 878 2217 ext 214

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Los Angeles, California

Contact: [Christine Lowe](#) 866 2 RACHEL

Contact: [Rachel's Vineyard Los Angeles](#)

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Phoenix, Arizona

Contact: [Margarita Chong](#) 480 820-3593

Contact: [Dianna Contreras](#) 480 966 1902 ext 103

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Tampa, Florida

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

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

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Belfast, Northern Ireland

Note: Catholic Retreat

Contact: [Marionette Morrison](#) 02890 799967

Contact: [Bernadette](#) 087 859 2877

Website: [www.rachelsvineyard.ie](http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie)

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Rockford, Illinois

Contact: [Catherine Rennert](#) 815 968 1157

Note: Interdenominational retreat

Location: Stronghold Retreat and Conference Center in Oregon, Illinois

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Denver, Colorado

Contact: [Edith Gutierrez](#) 303 410-1710

Contact: [Diane Svoboda](#) 303 359 3289

**February 16-18, 2007** -- Fresno, California

Contact: [Jennifer Butcher](#) 877 629 6626

**February 23-25, 2007** -- 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

**February 23-25, 2007** -- Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota  
Contact: [Debbi Stocco](#) 952 928 1697 or 651 206 8926 (cell)  
Note: Interdenominational - To register [click here](#)

**February 23-25, 2007** -- 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: [Nicole Cunningham](#) 401-263-4442

**February 23-25, 2007** -- Elkton, Maryland  
Contact: [Michele Heath](#) 443-350-6196

**February 23-25, 2007** -- Cork City, Ireland  
Contact: [Bernadette](#) 087 859 2877  
Contact: Dr. Rita O'Connor 061 468 570  
Website: [www.rachelsvineyard.ie](http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie)

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Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man.

Benjamin Franklin

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