

VINE AND BRANCHES

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

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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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Mother's Love – Mother's Day Grief

By Susan Gliko

Many Churches have a beautiful tradition of giving honor to mothers on Mother's Day. Often the Pastor will invite all mothers to stand at the conclusion of Church services for a special blessing; other Churches ask that mothers remain seated while the choir sings the song *Gentle Woman* that equates the beauty of motherhood with the mother par excellence – the mother of Christ.

For the post-abortive woman, Mother's Day can trigger buried feelings of intense grief and loss. As she sits there and contemplates motherhood – listening to the words of the song - *blest is the fruit of your womb, gentlewoman, and gentle mother* - she is brought face to face with her past abortion.

When a woman chooses abortion it is an act of disintegration. The mind has to deny what is happening to the body. The mind buys the lie that the culture of death sells – abortion is a non-event, the removal of a blob of tissue, the solution to a problem and the end of a mere potential – nothing more.

The body and heart, on the other hand, have a different story to tell - which is that at the moment of conception mother and child begin to communicate on a hormonal level and this information is permanently recorded in the mother's brain. This conversation with the child, which is supported by scientific research, creates a conflict with what the woman is trying to deny in her mind. This conflict often plays itself out in post-abortion symptoms such as nightmares, flashbacks, panic attacks, drug and alcohol abuse, bouts of crying, anger, to name a few.

In other words, “From the earliest moments of pregnancy, a woman is physiologically prepared to attach to her infant... As this process is interrupted, the body has no internal mechanism to realize and process that the child did not live... maternal identity is often harmed...As grief begins to surface, the woman’s own pain and tears may prove to be the very evidence that she is a loving mother (whether to her living children or those in heaven). Her sorrow bears evidence that she cares deeply about all of her children. Had her aborted child or children lived, she would have provided this love.” Terry Lennox, RN, MA, LCCE, CLC

Mother’s Day can be a moment of grace. Through the contemplation of the truth of motherhood, the body and heart are able to speak to the mind and the mind is able to hear – a moment of re-integration – a moment to hear the truth that they have lost a child, not a blob of tissue. This is where the intense grief comes from.

So, as this Mother’s Day approaches, and the sting of the truth springs from hearts – remember that in the Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II says, *“The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision [to abort], and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give into discouragement and do not lose hope. Try, rather, to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourself over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost, and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child who is now living in the Lord.”*

Nothing is definitively lost - your child is now living in the Lord – you are a mother.

If you or someone you know is hurting from an abortion on this Mother’s Day - consider the gift of a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat – a place where mothers and fathers are allowed to explore and contemplate their tears and what they mean – labor pains giving birth to the reality of their lost child or children. When grief is finally allowed -- then grief can be resolved.

Susan Gliko serves as the Coordinator for Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats with Catholic Social Services of Montana’s post abortion outreach “Rachel’s Hope”.

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Fear grows out of the things we think; it lives in our minds. Compassion grows out of the things we are, and lives in our hearts.

Barbara Garrison

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Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

One of the most symbolically powerful days of the year for our work is Mothers' Day. So many emotions and thoughts crowd upon this day, and so many memories – not only of our own mothers, living and deceased, but of the mothers to whom we minister and with whom we both suffer and rejoice.

As Scripture tells us, God himself chose to have a mother – and he still has one, and will forever.

It is, of course, the very strength of the bond of mother and child that explains why abortion is so painful. When one tries to pretend that this bond is disposable, or its implications negligible, or its importance subject only to the contours of one's own "choice," then reality comes crashing back, crying out that we deny this bond only at our own peril.

Even the Supreme Court, in the recent decision upholding the ban on partial-birth abortion, said, "Respect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child."

You are in my prayers each day -- Happy Mothers' Day!

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank Pavone, M.E.V.

National Pastoral Director, Rachel's Vineyard

National Director, Priests for Life

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"Unfair Choice" - A Campaign by the Elliott Institute

Their website sums it up in the very first page: "Abortion: The UnChoice." A new campaign created by The Elliott Institute provides a variety of advertising media designed to inform the public about how abortion is harming women. Through posters that can be printed right off the net, inexpensive TV ads that can be used for public service announcements, billboards, and a variety of promotional products, a cohesive advertising campaign has been created that the average Joe can use to share information about abortion and the trauma it causes.

The posters stand out, a stark picture on a white background. Here is a broken lamp, there an empty high chair. One or two sentences bring the reality of post-abortion trauma boldly to the forefront: beneath the broken lamp, we see, "Like most women, Mary didn't want an abortion. But her husband can be very persuasive." A cardboard box is accompanied by: "She was given a choice between an abortion, or a night in this." These posters are part of a grassroots campaign started by the Elliott Institute, and can be downloaded for free from their website at www.unfairchoice.info

Their campaign is poignant, and centers on research that reveals the large proportion of women who are coerced and manipulated into unwanted abortions. The poster of the cardboard box was inspired by a pregnant homeless woman who was denied shelter until she consented to an abortion. A picture of a wheelchair describes one woman's abortion experience, which left her paralyzed and unable to walk. By focusing on women's stories that reveal the trauma and damage

caused by abortion, and the fact that many abortions are actually unwanted, The Elliott Institute is striving to raise awareness about this assault on the dignity and well being of women everywhere.

The television spots, also based on true simple stories are effective and to the point. The information shared through all the ads produced by the Elliott Institute deliver a clear, concise message that rings clearly: Abortion hurts women.

The beauty of this campaign is its avoidance of the high cost of traditional media advertising - any person can print out these ads and post them up in their church, on their college campus, at their local grocery store, or anywhere else that allows public flyers. The television ads are already produced, readily available, and can be used for more than just television ads, and are appropriate for a variety of audiences including church groups, pro-life functions, and other events.

Their website, www.unfairchoice.info also has a large amount of well-documented research. It's an excellent tool for anyone who is interested in getting out the message that abortion can have harmful consequences.

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Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier
Charles F. Kettering
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Help Support Our Work

Mother's Day can be one of the saddest days of the year for those who have not yet begun to heal their wounds after losing a child to abortion - but the great hope offered by Rachel's Vineyard, and other post-abortion ministries, is that it is possible to be reconciled to that lost little one, and to yourself, through the grace and love of God.

In this spirit, I would like to share the testimony of one woman who came to know her lost daughter, and to reconcile with herself, after experiencing a Rachel's Vineyard retreat:

I had an abortion when I was 21 years old. Over the years I never could completely forgive myself for this decision. No one knew about the abortion so I carried the shame and pain with me for years. I had never forgiven myself for this decision. This spring I attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and dealt with the shame and pain of having an abortion so many years ago. With God's love, strength and the living scriptures meditations I was able to forgive myself and honor my daughter. If you have lived with the shame, regret and pain of abortion I recommend these retreats to heal your soul and truly be able to bring love to all your other relationships.

At every Rachel's Vineyard retreat, this sacred relationship between mother and child is honored and restored. Through this act of healing, a great reconciliation between mother and child, and woman and God, can be formed. Through the generous giving of so many of our supporters, we have been able to continue this important work, reaching to those in need. Especially during difficult times, such as Mother's Day, it is so important to share the message of peace and healing. In this spirit, we ask again for your generous support, and offer thanks for that which has already been so graciously given.

But we also see critical healing of family relationships. As a mother's heart is fully freed to love, it does bring love and restoration to all other relationships.

Please help us to continue serving by offering your prayers. 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 Katie@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>

You can also send a donation directly to:

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

With Gratitude,
Kevin and Theresa Burke

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"I'd rather give my life than be afraid to give it."

Lyndon Johnson

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Let's Pray Together

We express our deepest sympathy to those who have lost friends and family during the massacre at Virginia Tech. We pray for all those who have lost their sense of security and trust in a safe just world. We pray in a particular way for those parents who have lost children, and for the children who have lost siblings. It is our prayer that their grief and sorrow will be transformed over time, and that they will experience consolation and support as they struggle to heal from this tragedy.

We pray together for all the new Rachel's Vineyard Sites currently in Development, especially
San Diego, California
West Bend, Wisconsin (Interdenominational)
Indianapolis, Indiana
Nashville, Tennessee
Boise, Idaho

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his path,
to let his people know their salvation, so that their sins may be forgiven.
Through the bottomless mercy of our God, one born on high will visit us
to give light to those who walk in darkness, who live in the shadow of death;
to lead our feet in the path of peace.*
(from The Canticle)

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New DVD Video Training Series from Rachel's Vineyard

The final preparations are underway to release a new DVD series that features many of the most popular clinical teachings offered by Rachel's Vineyard. The classes were taped back in November and March and will make their debut at the June Leadership Conference. This educational training series will be available for those serving in Rachel's Vineyard, as well as an aid in creating awareness and public education about post abortion trauma and healing. We also intends to make these courses available to seminarians throughout the country. Presenters for our

first round of course instruction include Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, MSS, LSW, and Fr. Frank Pavone, MEV. Keep posted in upcoming issues of Vine and Branches for ordering information and applications for home-study courses which will be available to earn CEU professional credits. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from Our Sunday Visitor Foundation and Priests for Life.

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Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference
Carry The Vision – Illuminate the World”

We continue to move ever closer to the annual Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference, which will begin on June 26th through the 29th. This event will be followed by The Come Aside and Rest Awhile Retreat slated for June June 29-July 1.

This is a great opportunity to develop your Leadership Intelligence. You'll hone your personal leadership style, be inspired by passionate ministry teams as you forge and renew friendships in the Vineyard.

You'll experience assessments, coaching, training, case studies and self-exploration to develop your vision, confidence, perseverance and ministry purpose.

There are limited spaces available, so if you are interested in attending we recommend registering sooner rather than later. Conference Registration Packet can now be found on our website, at: www.rachelsvineyard.org Registrations can be e-mailed to Office@Rachelsvineyard.org or faxed to: 610-354-0311

We hope to see you there!

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To waken interest and kindle enthusiasm is the sure way to teach easily and successfully.
Tryon Edwards

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Amnesty International Policy Change

There's no mention of an important policy change that Amnesty International is currently considering. It's hard to even find indication of it on their website, except from secondary news sources. It seems that the Amnesty International Executive Committee prefers to keep the fact that they are considering adding abortion to their list of human rights from the public - perhaps because of the inherent contradiction that supporting such a 'right' would cause.

For decades, Amnesty International has taken a stand to protect those who are unable to defend themselves on many issues of life and death - everything from improving working conditions in third world countries to trying to end the death penalty. But now, they are considering promoting abortion as a 'necessity of life'. The countless women who are left emotionally and physically damaged by 'safe and legal' abortion are being left without protection. Remarkably, in light of Amnesty International's involvement in stopping the practice of forced abortions in China, this new policy under consideration rings especially erroneous.

Women for Life International is currently launching a campaign to help educate Amnesty International about the effects that abortion has on women, and encouraging them to continue to protect the health and safety of women worldwide by not recognizing abortion as 'beneficial' to

women. You are invited to write a letter to send to the Amnesty International Executive Committee. Molly White, the founder and co-director of Women for Life International, asks that you e-mail her molly@womenforlifeintl.com for the contact information you will need to send your letter to the "AIC." Molly is particularly asking for letters from post-abortive women and men, and those involved in their healing.

This is an opportunity that we must take to impact the status and health of women worldwide. Amnesty International has a wonderful record of supporting human rights and helping those in need. We must remind them that mothers and children worldwide need protection from coerced abortion as much as from any other menace which devalues and threatens the lives of their children.

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A Compassionate government keeps faith with the trust of the people and cherishes the future of their children.

Lyndon Baines Johnson

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Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

A new language has crept into the rulings of Supreme Court justices, demonstrated most prominently by last month's decision to enact a ban on partial-birth abortion. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, in his majority opinion that "some women come to regret their choice to abort the infant life they once created and sustain. Severe depression and loss of self esteem can follow."

This nod to the very stark reality of post-abortion trauma hails more than just a victory over a procedure that is dangerous to children and mothers everywhere - it marks the beginning of official recognition of the trauma that abortion can cause to women. It has been reported by the Texas Justice Foundation that over 2,000 affidavits of women who have been emotionally and physically traumatized by abortion were presented to the high court, and were used to form parts of the majority opinion that has ultimately ended the practice of partial-birth abortion.

The voices of those who have been injured by abortion continue to rise up against this practice and have truly begun to make an impressive impact. Through the sharing of testimony, the evidence presented by organizations dedicated to healing victims of post-abortion trauma, and a variety of studies and data not available before, the truth about abortion's negative effects is slowly being revealed. Hopefully, Justice Kennedy's sentiments and concern for women suffering after choosing abortion will continue to resound in a body that makes such weighty decisions concerning women's health.

The importance of the high court's recognition of negative emotional reactions to abortion cannot be understated. An important milestone was reached acknowledging the reality of trauma after abortion. This reflects a deeper change in the way people think about abortion - a change from seeing it as 'a procedure' to a traumatic event that can be destructive to women and men, and all those who love and support them. With this change in thought, we are much better equipped to uphold truly healthy and positive choices for women, instead of merely changing a law on the surface with no real consideration of how such policies perpetrates an assault against women and diminishes the very heart and soul of humanity itself.

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The new source of power is not money in the hands of a few, but information in the hands of many.

John Naisbitt

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Upcoming Clinical Training and Speaking Events:

- May 15-16, 2007** **Palm Beach, FL**
Kevin will be presenting at a Seminarian Training on post abortion healing for Diocese of Palm Beach
Contact: Vocations Office (561) 775-9552.
- June 26- 29, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Training Conference**
Malvern Retreat House, Pennsylvania
Theme: "Carry the Message – Illuminate the World."
Contact: Katie
Phone: 610-354-0555
E-Mail: Andrea@RachelsVineyard.org
- June 29-July 1** **Come aside and rest awhile Retreat**
A Retreat for Leaders in Life Affirming and Post Abortion Ministries
Led By Msgr. Michael T. Mannion, Fr. Frank Pavone & Theresa Burke
Malvern Retreat House, Pennsylvania
- July 21, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Clinical Training in Cork, Ireland**
Contact: Bernadette Goulding
bergoulding@eircom.net
- July 22, 2007** **Cork, Ireland**
Regional Skills Building Clinic for facilitators in Rachel's Vineyard
Contact: Bernadette Goulding
bergoulding@eircom.net
- Sept 25 – Oct 1, 2007** **Rachel's Vineyard Conferences in Australia**
Melbourne, Hobart, and Sydney
(Keep posted for details and contact information in upcoming Editions of Vine & Branches)
- October 12, 2007** **Tampa, Florida**
Clinical Training Sponsored by Diocese of St. Petersburg
Contact: Emma Boe (813) 631-4370 ext. 222
eboe@ccdosp.org
- November 2, 2007** **Baltimore Maryland**
"Regional Skill Building Clinic for Rachel's Vineyard Leadership in Baltimore, Virginia, DC, Delaware, and Pennsylvania areas
- November 3, 2007** **Baltimore Maryland**
Deacons Convocation
Right to Life Convention
Contact: Linda M. Brenegan
Respect Life Program Director
Archdiocese of Baltimore

410-547-5537
fax: 410-625-8485
LBrenegan@archbalt.org

November 30, 2007 Tulsa, Oklahoma
Pregnancy Loss and Unresolved Grief Seminar
Sponsored by Saint Francis Health Systems and Catholic Charities
Contact: Theresa Valento (918) 494-1096 trvalento@saintfrancis.com
*** Continuing Education Credits Available

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

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Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats: May- June

May 4-6, 2007 - Missoula, Montana
Contact: Word of Hope [Susan Sweatman](mailto:Susan.Sweatman@wordofhope.org) 406 549 6565
Note: Interdenominational

May 4-6, 2007 - Paterson/Morris County, New Jersey
Contact: [Marie Ryan](mailto:Marie.Ryan@paterson.org) 973 777 8818 ext 264

May 4-6, 2007 -- Springfield, Massachusetts
Contact: [Mary Petisce](mailto:Mary.Petisce@springfield.org) or [Claire Lapointe](mailto:Claire.Lapointe@springfield.org) 413 452 0661

May 4-6, 2007 -- Rapid City, South Dakota
Local host: Family Life Ministries, Diocese of Rapid City
Contact: [Carol Kling](mailto:Carol.Kling@familylifeministries.org) 605 374 5639

May 4-6, 2007 -- Amarillo, Texas
Contact: [Gwen Johns](mailto:Gwen.Johns@amarillo.org) 806 678-4673
Note: Interdenominational Retreat

May 18-20, 2007 -- Baltimore, Maryland
Contact: [Denise Douglas](mailto:Denise.Douglas@baltimore.org) 410 354 6900
Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

May 18-20, 2007 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Contact: [Stephanie Claudy](mailto:Stephanie.Claudy@cherryhill.org) 866 4 RACHEL

May 18-20, 2007 -- Philadelphia Area, Pennsylvania
Contact: [Priscilla](mailto:Priscilla@philadelphia.org) 215-906-6337
Contact: [Geri Simboli](mailto:Geri.Simboli@philadelphia.org) 610 399 0890

May 18-20, 2007 -- Launceston, Tasmania, Australia
Contact: [Anne Sherston](mailto:Anne.Sherston@launceston.org) 03 62298739

May 18-20, 2007 -- Stanwood, Washington
Contact: [Valerie Jacobs](mailto:Valerie.Jacobs@stanwood.org) 800 822 HOPE

May 18-20, 2007 -- Melbourne, Australia

Note: Interdenominational

Contact: [Anne Neville](#) 61 3 9870 7044

May 18-20, 2007 -- Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Contact: [Julie Kohler](#) 403 218 5506

Contact: Kathy Smith 1-877 597-3223

May 18-20, 2007 -- Los Angeles, California

Note: Spanish Retreat

Contact: Marcela Figueroa de Alcala 877-2-Raquel

Claretian Renewal Center

May 25-27, 2007 - Sydney, Australia

Contact: [Julie Kelly](#) 02 9440 7980

May 25-27, 2007 -- Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Note: Interdenominational

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

May 25-27, 2007 -- Taipei, Taiwan

Contact: [Georgie Hsieh](#) 886-933-42-6608

May 25-27, 2007 -- New Orleans, Louisiana

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

Contact: [Nancy Rodrigue](#) 504 831-3125

June 1-3, 2007 -- Litchfield, Connecticut

Local host: Archdiocese of Hartford

Contact: [Mary Hayden](#) 203 882 1326

June 1-3, 2007 -- Fort Worth, Texas

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

Note: Interdenom

June 1-3, 2007 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma

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

June 1-3, 2007 -- Dallas (Español), Texas

Contactar: [Aurora](#) 972 679 4760

June 1-3, 2007 -- Elkton, Maryland

Contact: [Michele Heath](#) 443-350-6196

June 8-10, 2007 -- Houston, Texas

Contact: [Traci](#) 713 379 3844

Contact: Cindy 281 286 7729

June 22-24, 2007 -- Long Island / Uniondale, New York
Contact: [Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi](#) 516 523 0586

June 22-24, 2007 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contact: [Ann Depner](#) 412 456 6955

June 22-24, 2007 -- Lubbock, Texas
Contact: [Kathy Krile](#) 806 577 5912

June 22-24, 2007 -- Portland, Oregon
Contact: [Lori Eckstine](#) 800 249 8074 or 541 521 5186

June 22-24, 2007 -- Rock Hill, South Carolina
Contact: [Martha](#) 336 287 8421 (cell)
Contact: [Kathy](#) 803 546 6010
Local host: Diocese of Charleston

June 29 - July 1, 2007 -- Rock Island, Iowa
Contact: [Maria Shores](#) 319 530 2597 (mobile)

June 29 - July 1, 2007 -- Sacramento, California
Contact: [Edie Sickman](#) 916 733 0161

June 29 - July 1, 2007 -- Bloomington, Indiana
Local Host: Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Contact: Bernadette Roy 317 831-2892
Contact: Sr. Diane 317-236-1521

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