

# VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

August/September 2008

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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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## **IMPORTANT CORRECTION- PLEASE NOTE**

Please be advised that next year's International Leadership Conference will be held on **JULY 7-10, 2009**. Previously the date was listed for June 09. Be sure to make this correction on your calendars for next year to avoid any confusion. The conference will be held at Malvern Retreat House, the same beautiful location as our previous conference.

## **SAVE THE DATE: INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**JULY 7-10, 2009**  
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### **Taking Rachel's Message to Russia**

**Diane Szurleys, Diocese of Juneau AK**

Preparations for my second trip to Russia began in October of 07 when I received e-mail from Madonna House in Krasnoyarsk Russia. My friend Catherine LeSage was telling me that she was finally ready to do the retreats. She had the place, the priest, the counseling center for backup and the participants. She and I had met 3 years before in

Magadan Russia when I went there to do the retreats. Now in their new location, the need was great and she knew how powerful this retreat was and how much these people could be helped. After much discussion and prayer, we decided on Feb. of 08 during Lent and I would stay for a month. I would do retreats on the weekends and one on one counseling during the week, also work with the Christian Counseling Center with all the information about side effects, etc.

After much prayer, preparation and 25 hours on an airplane, I arrived in Krasnoyarsk at 5:AM. The weather there is much like Alaska — cold, cold, cold— so I felt right at home. I was the guest of Madonna House and stayed in their apartment with 3 wonderful women.

The first retreat was at the apartment with 7 participants, including a priest, Fr. Maxim and women from the counseling center. The stories in Russia are different from the ones I have heard in the US because all men and women in Russia are also Abortion survivors. Their parents have used abortion as birth control for many generations. The participants not only deal with their abortion stories but also the death of their brothers and sisters, why were they not aborted, the guilt of being alive, and in some cases the guilt of not being dead because they know they were not wanted by one or both parents. We talked a lot about generational sin and generational healing so that the killing stops now, and doesn't continue for more generations.

The people are wonderful spiritual people that are at last, able to Worship God, talk about their pain and ask for help. I met men and women who hungered for a relationship with God, a Loving, Merciful, God. I witnessed the Holy Spirit touching many lives.

It is a very humbling experience to watch and witness the Power of God working right before your eyes. Fr. Max said, “God uses you and you step back and let Him work, all I see at the retreats is God.”

The second retreat was in another city, Auchtung, a 3-hour drive north of Krasnoyarsk. There were 7 women and a priest and sister. Again they also suffered from generational abortion issues. We were all brought to tears as all 76 candles were lit for the souls of the babies being remembered.

Some women can't remember the exact number of abortions because they become numb and also block out the memories because they are too painful. I was asked many times what they should do so that all their babies would receive God's blessing. I would reply, God knows all of them, and He knows your heart, light a candle for those in your heart and let God take care of the rest, they are all with Him. The peace that would come into their eyes could be felt in the room.

So much pain and darkness in the beginning and then comes Sunday, the Resurrection, smiles, joy, peace, miracles!! They are different, they have met Jesus and they know their babies are safe and with the Lord.

The people in Russia are beginning to heal, to find God's Peace and Mercy. Rachels Vineyard is a great Blessing to them and the Seeds have been planted. They will be silent no more about the killing of innocent babies.

I've been asked to return and continue the work; I'll pray about it and go if I'm called again. I never thought that such a terrible thing, killing my baby 37 years ago, would lead me to such Holy Ground. It is truly an honor to bring these retreats to people, and the gift I receive is priceless, watching God shower His Love, Mercy and Grace on His Children.

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A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

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## **Motherhood Interrupted: Stories of Hope and Healing After Abortion**

Jane Brennan brings readers into the very soul of the post abortive woman with a series of gripping autobiographical accounts of suffering and redemption in *Motherhood Interrupted: Stories of Healing and Hope after Abortion*. Eye opening and compelling, *Motherhood Interrupted* offers a clear vision of the pain, suffering and depression that follows abortion, the traumatic life circumstances that often lead to the choice, and the healing and renewal available in Jesus Christ.

Brennan's collection of stories illuminate the dark secrecy that often surrounds the trauma of abortion, offering hope to those still enduring the pain of a past abortion, and an opportunity for understanding for those readers learning about the impact of abortion for the first time.

An excellent resource for anyone who is looking to know the truth about abortion and its deep impact on women, *Motherhood Interrupted* is an honest book that takes the reader from the dark underbelly of abortion into the light and peace of renewed hope and redemption.

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*May today there be peace within*

*May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.*

*May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.*

*May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.*

*May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.*

*Let this presence settle into your bones,*

*And allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,  
praise and love.*

*It is there for each and every one of us.*

~ Prayer of St. Therese, the Little Flower

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## **Rachel's Vineyard- A Healing Experience**

### **Letter from Bishop Choby of Nashville, TN**

It is never easy for persons to return to a past traumatic experience and relive the events and all the hurtful memories associated with them. You can imagine the added anxiety in knowing that a bishop would be a participant at a "Rachel's Vineyard" weekend.

However, the weekend was a grace, both for the couples and myself. Although I was never closely associated with the experience of abortion, a niece of mine lost a baby at eleven months-ten months later than doctors anticipated. It was one of the most painful experiences of my life. I brought that to the weekend and it gave me some ability to understand the depth of sorrow expressed by the weekend's participants.

The program of "Rachael's Vineyard" was such a healing experience for all who made themselves vulnerable to share their life stories. I am grateful for the experience.

Parish priests and bishops look for ways to respond to the needs that people have for healing and reconciliation. Certainly Rachel's Vineyard is a wonderful response to those needs.

Sincerely in Christ,  
+Most Rev. David R. Choby  
Bishop of Nashville

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Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year - it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul.

~Author Unknown  
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### **United in Prayer**

Please remember the soul of Mark Hennes in your prayers. Mark recently passed away after several recent trips to the hospital.

Please also keep his wife, Barbara, in your prayers as she continues to struggle with Alzheimer's. Finally, please pray for the Hennes' four daughters and their families.

For those of you who may not immediately remember or know the Hennes', these two humble, loving, courageous servants of Our Lord started the post-abortion ministry in the Diocese of Dallas back in the mid 90's, and were able to officially begin the ministry with the first Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in 1999.

Pat Lometti, the therapist for our RV site in Fresno California, has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. Please remember her in your daily prayers.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Flood Victim

Stanley Karminski III, and his family were affected by the flooding in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Stanley is the brother of Theresa Burke and Katie D'Annunzio. Stanley and his family have lost their home and all of its contents. Stanley is disabled and a source of income was fixing neighbors cars in his garage which was also lost in the flood. Please help by making a monetary donation. Checks can be written out to Stanley Karminski, III and mailed to Margie Karminski, 340 Prussian Lane, Wayne, PA 19087. We thank you for helping this family in their time of need.

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### **Truth on TV!**

Fact: By the time most Americans reach the age of 75, they will have spent 14 uninterrupted years in front of the television with four of those years watching commercials alone.

Whether we realize it or not the media effects all of us deeply... isn't it time it has a positive effect?

Thanks to VirtueMedia, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to airing positive, compassionate commercials for life, the hearts and minds of people all over the world are being opened to the Sanctity of Life.

Research shows that in neighborhoods where these commercials air there can be up to a 70% decrease in abortion rate

View these powerful commercials and learn more at: [www.virtuemedia.org](http://www.virtuemedia.org)

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## **A Note from the Pastoral Director**

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, August 16, I spoke at “TheCall,” a massive gathering of mostly young people on the Mall in Washington DC. They came from every part of the nation, and from various denominations, and were there from 10am to 10pm in an unceasing chorus of prayer, praise, repentance, and intercession. There was song and Scripture, sharing and mutual encouragement. It was a real moment of grace for those present and for the nation.

In my remarks, I drew attention to the fact that abortion is the overriding issue of the day. In fact, a major segment of the day was devoted to the theme of pro-life. In my remarks and in my prayer, I invited all those present to lift up to the Lord all those who are captive to despair, either because they feel they must abort, or because they already did. We prayed for them, both the mothers and the fathers.

I preached that our message to those who are far off is not condemnation, but rather an urgent call to come back to the cross, and to be washed in Jesus’ blood, a single drop of which can cleanse the world of all its abortions.

There is the heart of Rachel’s Vineyard. At the center of the Vineyard is a cross, from which blood pours down and speaks more eloquently than the blood of the children that was shed. “Come to the cross!” is our message to the world, and to those suffering the pain of abortion. The young people - and the not so young - who were at “TheCall” heard that message. May each of us proclaim it more loudly than ever!

Fr. Frank Pavone  
National Pastoral Director, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries  
National Director, Priests for Life

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## **A Summer Appeal**

Your gifts of time, talent and treasure have helped make Rachel’s Vineyard the largest post-abortion healing program in the world. By giving financially, you become partners in the restoration of lives through the gift of healing. Your generosity enables us to meet the increasing demands and growth of Rachel’s Vineyard.

Change someone’s life with your contribution today!

Choose how to make your donation:

Online <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/support/support.htm>

By phone 610-354-0555

By mail Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries, 808 N Henderson Rd Ste 210, King of Prussia PA 19406

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Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do.  
~Pope John XXIII  
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## **Upcoming Events and Trainings**

### **Sunday, September 14, 2008**

Springfield, MA

*Rebuilding the Kingdom: Healing the Post Abortive Family*- An evening workshop for priests and deacons.

Contact Jean Raczkowski [j.Raczkowski@diospringfield.org](mailto:j.Raczkowski@diospringfield.org)

### **Monday, September 15, 2008**

Springfield, MA Regional Skill-Building Clinic for RV Ministry Teams

Contact Jean Raczkowski [j.Raczkowski@diospringfield.org](mailto:j.Raczkowski@diospringfield.org)

### **Tuesday, September 16, 2008**

Norwich, Connecticut Clinical Training

Contact: Sean Feeney [seanfeeney@cfsn.org](mailto:seanfeeney@cfsn.org)

### **Friday, September 19, 2008 -- Saturday, September 20, 2008**

Madison, WI-Regional Clinical Training

Contact: Mary Mead [meadmt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meadmt@sbcglobal.net)

608-221-9593 or

Cheryl Nedderson [cheryl.nedderson@straphael.org](mailto:cheryl.nedderson@straphael.org)

608-821-3086

### **Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

Arlington, VA-Clinical Training \*\* CEUs available!!!!

Contact: Jo Balsamo [projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org)

703-841-2504

### **Friday, September 26, 2008 -- Sunday, September 28, 2008**

Tasmania, Rachel's Vineyard Conference

Maryknoll House of Prayer, 15 Home Ave, Blackmans Bay

Friday: National Team Meeting

Saturday: Conference will include keynote addresses and workshops for all involved in care for people hurt by abortion.

Sunday: Forward Strategies Meeting

Contact: Josephine Dare [josephinedare3@gmail.com](mailto:josephinedare3@gmail.com) (03)62473640

### **Monday, September 29, 2008 -- Tuesday, September 30, 2008**

Fargo, North Dakota

*Presbyterate Days*- Clergy Convocation and Jubilarians' Banquet

Contact: Rev. Andrew Jasinski [andrew.jasinski@fargodiocese.org](mailto:andrew.jasinski@fargodiocese.org)

\* THIS IS A CLOSED EVENT\*

### **Tuesday, September 30, 2008**

Malvern, Pennsylvania Retreat for Men

Contact: Rev. Denis Wilde [frwilde@priestsforlife.org](mailto:frwilde@priestsforlife.org)

**Wednesday, October 01, 2008**

Fargo, ND- Nurses' Training

*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Abortion*

Contact: Rachel Sauvageau [rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org](mailto:rachelle.sauvageau@fargodiocese.org)

**Thursday, October 02, 2008**

Saginaw, MI- Overview of Post Abortion Syndrome for Clinicians and Clergy

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-860-9352

**Thursday, October 02, 2008**

Midland, MI- Right to Life Banquet

Contact: Maureen Coffey [mcoffey@rtl.org](mailto:mcoffey@rtl.org)

616-532-2300 or

Julia Hoving [northmarsh@rocketmail.com](mailto:northmarsh@rocketmail.com)

989-835-7691

**Saturday, October 04, 2008**

Northampton, PA- Celebrate Life Luncheon

Contact: Jerry McAfee [gpmcafee@verizon.net](mailto:gpmcafee@verizon.net)

610-262-7866

**Friday, October 17, 2008**

Newark, NJ- Clergy Training

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211

**Friday and Saturday October 24- 25, 2008**

Center Valley PA

DeSales University

Society of Catholic Social Scientist Annual Banquet

\* THIS IS A CLOSED EVENT\*

**Monday, December 08, 2008**

Tamarac, FL- Mary for Life Annual Pro Life Dinner

Contact: Renate Velenti

[vrenate@bellsouth.net](mailto:vrenate@bellsouth.net)

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**Upcoming Retreats**

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Hays, Kansas**

Local Host: Salina Diocese

Contact: Donetta Robben 877-447-4383 [rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org](mailto:rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org)

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota**

Contact: Nancy Blom 952-882-2072 [rvr-nancy@usfamily.net](mailto:rvr-nancy@usfamily.net)

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844 [okcrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:okcrachel@yahoo.com)

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Contact: Ann Depner 412-456-6955 [adepne@ccpgh.org](mailto:adepne@ccpgh.org)

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Tacoma area, Washington**

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE [valeriepr@aol.com](mailto:valeriepr@aol.com)

Contact: Noemi (Español) 206-450-7814

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Willimantic, Connecticut**

Local Host: Archdiocese of Hartford

Contact: Mary Hayden 203-882-1326 [mmhdfc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmhdfc@sbcglobal.net)

**August 8 - August 10, 2008 -- Wilmington, North Carolina**

Local Host: H.O.P.E. Healing of Painful Emotions

Contact: Judy or Kathy 910-799-0270 [jhahaj@lifelinewilmington.org](mailto:jhahaj@lifelinewilmington.org)

Note: Interdenominational

**August 15 - August 17, 2008 -- Independence, Missouri**

Contact: Sherrie Stanley 816-690-8549 [scherrie@gardenofgrace.org](mailto:scherrie@gardenofgrace.org)

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

**August 15 - August 17, 2008 -- Miami, Florida**

Local Host: Clamor de Vida y Esperanza Ministry

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 [clamordevida@aim.com](mailto:clamordevida@aim.com)

Note: Spanish

**August 15 - August 17, 2008 -- Saginaw, Michigan**

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652 [sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

**August 22 - August 24, 2008 -- Palm Beach, Florida**

Contact: Donna Gardner 561-602-4778 [isaiah61@bellsouth.net](mailto:isaiah61@bellsouth.net)

Retreat Location: Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

**August 22 - August 24, 2008 -- South Bend, Indiana**

Contact: Sue Brazo 269-683-2229 [ndsue33@hotmail.com](mailto:ndsue33@hotmail.com)

Contact: Sue Brazo 269-683-7176

**August 22 - August 24, 2008 -- Upstate / Greenville, South Carolina**

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 [grace4healing@gmail.com](mailto:grace4healing@gmail.com)

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 [postabortionhealing@gmail.com](mailto:postabortionhealing@gmail.com)

**August 29 - August 31, 2008 -- Amarillo, Texas**

Contact: Stephanie Frausto 806-678-4673 [ts\\_frausto@yahoo.com](mailto:ts_frausto@yahoo.com)

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

**August 29 - August 31, 2008 -- Tampa, Florida**

Contact: Emma Boe 813-631-4370 [eboe@ccdosp.org](mailto:eboe@ccdosp.org)

**September 5 - September 7, 2008 -- Forth Worth, Texas**

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org)

**September 5 - September 7, 2008 -- Romeoville, Illinois**

Contact: Kay Corcoran 866-994-GIVE [corcoran-family@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corcoran-family@sbcglobal.net)

**September 12 - September 14, 2008 -- Baltimore, Maryland**

Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 [projectrachel@archbalt.org](mailto:projectrachel@archbalt.org)

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

**September 12 - September 14, 2008 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa**

Contact: Maria Shores 563-322-1645 [hopeandhealing@mchsi.com](mailto:hopeandhealing@mchsi.com)

Contact: Vicki Tyler 309-796-4707

**September 12 - September 14, 2008 -- Los Angeles, California**

Local Host: Rachel's Vineyard Los Angeles

Contact: Christine Lowe 866-2-RACHEL [rvla.christine@gmail.com](mailto:rvla.christine@gmail.com)

**September 12 - September 14, 2008 -- Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona**

Contact: Magdalin 602-358-8709 [m.leonardo@yahoo.com](mailto:m.leonardo@yahoo.com)

**September 12 - September 14, 2008 -- San Francisco Bay Area, California**

Local Host: First Resort

Contact: Christine Watkins 510-891-9998 [christinew@firstresort.net](mailto:christinew@firstresort.net)

Note: Interdenominational

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Covington, Kentucky**

Contact: Peggy Feirstine 513-588-0080 [pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com](mailto:pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Ellensburg, Washington**

Local Host: Yakima Diocese Project Rachel

Contact: Nancy Murray 509-554-9415 [projectrachel@gmail.com](mailto:projectrachel@gmail.com)

Contact: Irene Gutierrez 509-965-7110 ext 122 [igutierrez@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:igutierrez@yakimadiocese.org)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Fairfield County, Connecticut**

Local Host: Diocese of Bridgeport

Contact: Clarissa Cincotta 203-218-0291 [jeremiah31v17@aol.com](mailto:jeremiah31v17@aol.com)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky, Ohio**

Contact: Peggy Feirstine 513-588-0080 [pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com](mailto:pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Lancaster, Kentucky**

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Lexington

Contact: Sharla Wells 877-792-3330 [sharlaky@yahoo.com](mailto:sharlaky@yahoo.com)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Linden, New Jersey**

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 [arnewrespect@sjanj.net](mailto:arnewrespect@sjanj.net)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Long Island/Uniondale (Español), New York**

Contact: Donna Crean 631-258-5062 [donnacrean@optonline.net](mailto:donnacrean@optonline.net)

Note: Español

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Prescott Valley, Arizona**

Contact: Lisa 928-713-9504 [leexavc@cableone.net](mailto:leexavc@cableone.net)

**September 19 - September 21, 2008 -- Tacoma area, Washington**

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE [valeriepr@aol.com](mailto:valeriepr@aol.com)

Contact: Noemi (Español) 206-450-7814

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Charlotte, North Carolina**

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Contact: Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol 704-370-3229 [MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org](mailto:MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org)

Contact: Deacon Tom Rasmussen [deacontom@charterinternet.com](mailto:deacontom@charterinternet.com)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL [sclaudy@camdendiocese.org](mailto:sclaudy@camdendiocese.org)

Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 [popejp2rc@verizon.net](mailto:popejp2rc@verizon.net)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Dallas (Español), Texas**

Contact: Norma 972-679-4760 [healing@racheldallas.org](mailto:healing@racheldallas.org)

Note: Español

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- DC Metro Area, Maryland**

Contact: Eugenia Hadley 301-300-1997 [mena4481@aol.com](mailto:mena4481@aol.com)

Note: Español and English retreats offered

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Pittsburgh (Western PA) , Pennsylvania**

Contact: Abigayle Koller 412-977-9521 [rachelsvineyard.westernpa@verizon.net](mailto:rachelsvineyard.westernpa@verizon.net)

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Sacramento, California**

Contact: Debbie Anderson 916-733-0161 [projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Shreveport, Louisiana**

Contact: Janice Gonzalez 318-820-1505 [vineyardshv@earthlink.net](mailto:vineyardshv@earthlink.net)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Tucson, Arizona**

Contact: Jean or Lois 520-321-4300 [reachoutforlife@aol.com](mailto:reachoutforlife@aol.com)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Contact: Mary Lee 918-585-8167 [milingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:milingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org)

**September 26 - September 28, 2008 -- Washington, DC Metro Area, Washington, D.C.**

Contact: Eugenia Hadley 301-300-1997 [mena4481@aol.com](mailto:mena4481@aol.com)

Note: Español and English retreats offered

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