

VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
December 2008

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 former 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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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

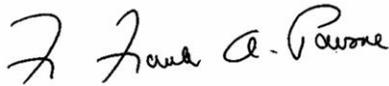
As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ and welcome a New Year, I want to share with you that the growth and promotion of Rachel's Vineyard is going to be a key priority for me in the months immediately ahead of us.

When those elected to public office are unwilling to protect families from abortion, we have to redouble our efforts to do so, and to heal the wounds. So many who need our help are still simply unaware of Rachel's Vineyard. That's going to change in 2009.

Moreover, the occasion of a New Year says a lot about our work, because it is all about recognizing that we all have a new day, a new future that does not have to be marred by the sins of the past. We do not move forward by denying the past, but neither do we allow ourselves to be enslaved by it. Rachel's Vineyard is about helping people have a "New Year's Day" all year long, as they accept the grace of healing and start again.

All of you will be in my thoughts and prayers as I celebrate Christmas Mass this year and as I look forward to a year of tremendous progress, healing, and life!

Sincerely,



Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director and Chairman of the Board, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
National Director, Priests for Life

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A Special Message from Kevin and Theresa Burke

Dear Friends,

Please take a few minutes to read the Silent No More Awareness Campaign update below this introduction. It presents a powerful and historic opportunity for all of us in Rachel's Vineyard and especially those personally touched by abortion.

This is not an event where one has to give a speech or testimony although some will do this. You can give the equally powerful witness of carrying the Silent No More signs at the March for Life on January 22, 2009.

Here's an exert from the Silent No More Awareness Campaign Newsletter:

"We have a big goal this year! And we invite you to help us achieve it! We want to gather a thousand healed people in Washington, DC this year for the March for Life. Even if one is not going to speak publicly about his/her testimony, it is fine just to be there and carry the sign, "I Regret My Abortion," or "I Regret Lost Fatherhood." A Silent No More Gathering will also happen at the San Francisco, Walk for Life. To sign up, visit www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org Come with us and make history!"

Please join Theresa and I as we gather together as the Lord's Vineyard, united with other individuals and ministries who share our mission of healing, to be blessed by our solidarity, our witness to the truth and the conversion of this Culture of death to a Culture of life!

As Fr Frank proclaims, "The victory has been won (by the cross and resurrection of Christ)...we must go out into the streets and proclaim it with confidence, charity and love."

In Christ,
Kevin and Theresa Burke

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Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award for Catholic Social Action

Dr. Theresa Burke was honored with the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Award for Catholic Social Action at the Society of Catholic Social Scientists Annual Conference and Banquet on October 25, 2008 at DeSales University in Allentown Pennsylvania. Dr. Burke also presented an overview of the Rachel's Vineyard Program during the Conference, sharing the healing message of the Vineyard with many of the scholars at the conference!

Congratulations, Theresa and thank you to the Society of Catholic Social Scientists for presenting Theresa with the award!

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“Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.” – St. Francis de Sales

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Elliot Institute Member to be featured guest on TV Show

Amy Sobie of the Elliot Institute and co-editor of *Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions and Children Resulting From Sexual Assault*, will appear on “Facing Life Head On” with Brad Mattes. She will be discussing issues relating to sexual assault and abortion. The book explains that many female victims of sexual assault do not want abortions and that the abortion experience was hurtful and not helpful. The episode will air on the morning of Tuesday 12/2/08 on some cable channels and will be repeated throughout the week. It can also be viewed [here](#).

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Save The Dates: Rachel’s Vineyard Leadership Conference

“Cultivating Seeds of Hope, Reaping the Father’s Bountiful Harvest”

Next year’s International Leadership Conference will be held on JULY 7- 10, 2009 at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA in the new and beautiful Family Life Center!

Plans are well under way as speakers are being selected, a theme has been chosen and brochures and flyers are being prepared for printing! Stay connected through Vine and Branches for more updates on the plans for next years International Leadership Conference!

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Rachel’s Vineyard TV Commercial Available NOW!

This Christmas, give the gift of healing to you entire community by purchasing and airing the new Rachel’s Vineyard commercial!

Rachel’s Vineyard site leaders, diocese, parishes, anyone with a means to get the word out on TV can purchase this commercial (available now) to be aired on public television, cable stations, local movie theatres before feature films, and local college stations.

Take a few moments to view the commercial below:

Preview commercial here: <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/video/index.aspx> and click on the “hands” link.

Click [here](#) for details on how to get your copy!

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Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a neighbor, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. - Oren Arnold

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A Christmas Appeal

This Christmas let us always remember why we celebrate: Jesus Christ came to heal the world! Please remember Rachel’s Vineyard during the Christmas season. Your generosity allows the Rachel’s Vineyard teams worldwide to provide an opportunity for post abortive people to come face to face with the same Healer we praise and glorify this Christmas!

Choose how to make your donation:
Online www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate
By phone 610-354-0555
By mail PO Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10306

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Psychiatric Journal Publishes New Research

The Journal of Psychiatric Research published a study by our friends, Priscilla K. Coleman, Catherine T. Coyle, Martha Shuping, and Vincent M. Rue that links abortion with depression, anxiety and substance abuse disorders. The abstract below gives a sneak peak to the full article available [here](#).

“The purpose of this study was to examine associations between abortion history and a wide range of anxiety (panic disorder, panic attacks, PTSD, Agoraphobia), mood (bipolar disorder, mania, major depression) and substance abuse disorders (alcohol and drug abuse and dependence) using a nationally representative US sample, the national comorbidity survey. Abortion was found to be related to an increased risk for a variety of mental health problems (panic attacks, panic disorder, agoraphobia, PTSD, bipolar disorder, major depression with and without hierarchy), and substance abuse disorders after statistical controls were instituted for a wide range of personal, situational, and demographic variables. Calculation of population attributable risks indicated that abortion was implicated in between 4.3% and 16.6% of the incidence of these disorders. Future research is needed to identify mediating mechanisms linking abortion to various disorders and to understand individual difference factors associated with vulnerability to developing a particular mental health problem after abortion.”

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An Imaginary Confession

by Father Antoninus Wall, O.P

The voice coming from the other side of the confessional screen was that of a woman. She identified herself as a wife and mother of three daughters. She told the confessor that she was in her late forties. The confession proceeded like so many others without anything out of the ordinary. When she came to the end of confessing sins committed since her last confession one month previously, she paused and then asked for permission to go into a situation which other confessors had advised her to avoid in confession unless she had a special reason to bring it up... “I did have the abortion....”

Read the full article of this powerful imaginary conversation [here](#).

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United in Prayer

Please pray for Fred and Helene Eissler and their family. Their first-born 20-year-old son (Freddie) died last week from Spinal Meningitis. He was a sophomore at the Naval Academy. His dad told me at the funeral, that one of his sisters had a vision of Freddie entering Heaven as he died. Helene (Freddie's mom) has been involved with RV in Philadelphia for many years. She is the one who coordinated the entire gala RV fundraiser 2 years ago -- and many of you sent her items for the silent auction. She is a beloved friend and sister in the Vineyard. Please pray for Freddie's 4 younger sisters -- that they be consoled in this time of grief and sorrow.

Please remember Kari Curtin in your prayers. She was recently diagnosed with cancer. Kari started one of the first Rachel's Vineyard Sites in Wichita and has been a beloved member and close friend of the Rachel's Vineyard community. Please pray especially for her this Christmas season, as she will be enduring different therapies to combat the cancer.

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Symptoms of Inner Peace

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in judging self.

A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
A loss of interest in conflict.
A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
Frequent attacks of smiling.
An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

- Saskia Davis

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It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. ~W.T. Ellis
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A Christmas Reflection

By Kathryn A. Boyle

We are all very familiar with the Christmas story. The story is told with such a poetic nature that we sometimes forget the reality of Christ's birth.

Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem in order to be counted in the census. While the betrothed couple was there, the time came for Mary, a young teenager, to give birth to a child that was not her fiancé's. All the local inns were packed and the only available space was in a barn behind an inn. Mary delivered her Baby on a bed of hay, mud, and who knows what else. When Jesus was born, they wrapped Him up tight and set him in the feeding trough in the barn. Hardly a regal entrance for the King of the Universe.

Imagine the emotional stress Joseph and Mary had been experiencing in the weeks and months before the birth of Christ. A crisis pregnancy, an engagement in jeopardy, the possibility of major embarrassment on both parts should word get out. But they both trusted completely. And on that very first Christmas in a barn behind a 1st century motel, God came to earth, in the sacred silence of the night. Imagine what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to gaze into the eyes of their own Creator. Imagine how their fear and anxiety must have melted away in that moment: all their travel plans, worries about the census, and uncertainty about the future faded to nothing in the midst of the tiny King in their arms.

This Christmas, in the midst of shopping, making plans, preparing meals, and balancing the holiday checkbook, let us remember what started the celebration in the first place: one tiny Baby, the Son of God, who calls each of us to the sacred silence of that very first Christmas to find hope, to find peace, to find salvation.

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Upcoming Events and Trainings

Monday, December 08, 2008

Tamarac, FL- Mary for Life Annual Pro Life Dinner

Contact: Renate Velenti

vrenate@bellsouth.net

Presenter(s): Theresa Burke PhD

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Scranton, PA- Pennsylvanians for Human Life Annual Breakfast

Contact: Helen Goshler

paforhumanlife@verizon.net

570-347-8299

Presenter(s): Theresa Burke, PhD

Friday, April 24, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana- Clinical Training

Contact: Sr Diane Carollo
dcarollo@archindy.org
317-236-1521
Presenter(s): Theresa Burke PhD

Friday & Saturday May 1-2, 2009
Fort Worth Texas- Clinical /Regional Training
Contact: Steve & Betsy Kopor

forgiven@racheltx.org
Presenter(s): Theresa Burke PhD, Kevin Burke MSW

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"Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts!" –Colossians 3:15
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Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL sclaudy@camdendiocese.org
Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 popejp2rc@verizon.net

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- Hartford City, Indiana
Contact: Jennie Hack 765-477-7706 francis312449@verizon.net
Contact: Jennie Hack 877-522-3300

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- San Bernardino (Español), California
Contact: Blanca Leal-McGuthrie 909-238-4037 markblanca@sbcglobal.net
Contact: Mary Huber - English 909-475-5352 mhuber@sbdioocese.org
Note: Español

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- Tampa, Florida
Contact: Emma Boe 813-631-4370 eboe@ccdosp.org

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- Wheeling, West Virginia
Contact: Tawnya Knierim 304-233-0880 ext 459 rachelsvineyardwv@comcast.net

December 5 - December 7, 2008 -- York County, Pennsylvania
Contact: Joy Crimmins 717-993-5450 crimmins@nfdc.net
Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 projectrachel@archbalt.org
Note: Monthly Support Group
Contact: Ann 717-854-8542

December 12 - December 14, 2008 -- Lisbon, Portugal
Contact: Claudia Muller 91-735-4602 claudiahmuller@gmail.com
Contact: Psicologa Maria Jose Vilaca mjvilaca@sapo.pt
Contact: Padre Fernando Paiva fmaiop@portugalmail.pt

January 9 - January 11, 2009 -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
Contact: Nancy Blom 952-882-2072 rvr-nancy@usfamily.net

January 9 - January 11, 2009 -- Santa Rosa/St. Helena, California
Contact: Valerie Johnson Fish 707-967-1101 rachelsvineyard@gmail.com

January 16 - January 18, 2009 -- Linden, New Jersey
Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark
Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 arnewrespect@sjanj.net

January 23 - January 25, 2009 -- Ann Arbor/Detroit Area, Michigan
Contact: Beth Bauer 734-369-3470 lpbbauer@yahoo.com

January 23 - January 25, 2009 -- Baltimore, Maryland
Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 projectrachel@archbalt.org
Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224
Website: www.project-rachel.net

January 23 - January 25, 2009 -- Fairfield County, Connecticut
Local Host: Diocese of Bridgeport
Contact: Clarissa Cincotta 203-218-0291 jeremiah31v17@aol.com
Website: www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com

January 23 - January 25, 2009 -- Wichita, Kansas
Local Host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita
Contact: Tama Dutton 316-269-4673 duttont@cdowk.org
Contact: Statewide only 888-456-4673

January 30 - February 1, 2009 -- Bowling Green/Owensboro, Kentucky
Contact: Debbie Ward 270-683-6933 rv.bgky@yahoo.com
Contact: Colleen 270-776-6177 info@hopeafterabortionky.com
Website: www.hopeafterabortionky.com

January 30 - February 1, 2009 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Local Host: Diocese of Camden
Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL sclaudy@camdendiocese.org
Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 popejp2rc@verizon.net

January 30 - February 1, 2009 -- Hays, Kansas
Local Host: Salina Diocese
Contact: Donetta Robben 877-447-4383 rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org
Website: www.salinadiocese.org

January 30 - February 1, 2009 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma
Contact: Mary Lee 918-585-8167 mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

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