

VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
January 2009

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.

CONTENTS:

[Eternal Mysteries](#)

[The Key to Increasing the Russian Birth Rate...](#)

[Message from the Pastoral Director](#)

[Silent No More to Gather 1000+ at March '09](#)

[New Music Video- Reflection](#)

[Cultivating Seeds of Hope, Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest Conference 2009](#)

[Study finds depression suffered by 80% of women who abort](#)

[Rachel's Vineyard Television Spot](#)

[A New Year's Appeal](#)

[Recommended Reading](#)

[United in Prayer](#)

[New Sites](#)

[Upcoming Events and Trainings](#)

[Events of Interest](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats](#)

Eternal Mysteries

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a mysterious time of year when we celebrate the dawn of a New Year and continue to celebrate the greatest event of all history...the birth of the Eternal Word made flesh, born of Mary. These words and this Holiday are familiar to us, but they hold a mystery that should draw us to our knees in awe and wonder.

I watched a television program with my son Stanley recently on the Universe. I was struck by the unfathomable vastness, wonder and majesty of creation...and the miracle that our own very tiny part of this universe is perfectly constructed to give birth to life. I also reflected that it is a gift of the Divine life within us, to have an awareness of our place in this universe, and our ability through reason and study to conceptualize, in our limited way, this universe God has created.

What a gift this life is, and to think it all started with a very tiny, exceedingly hot point of super compressed energy that expanded forming all matter, energy, space and time itself. Isn't it fascinating that like the beginning of the universe, all human life begins with a very tiny single cell that over time expands and grows into a unique individual?

You may be thinking...well this is deep waters to begin the New Year. It is true that we must focus our energies most of our days on more earth-bound matters as we go about the hustle and bustle of life...and the mystery of God is no doubt very present here as well. But the start of a new year is also a good time to reflect on the eternal truths of our existence.

At this time of year we celebrate the birth of a Savior who has reconciled humanity to God. We can reclaim our eternal inheritance as sons and daughters of our Eternal Father. Though we are anchored in time and space, our hearts will be restless until we return to the glorious and most Holy Trinity who gave birth to this marvelous Universe we live in.

Post abortive parents understand this mystery in a very special way. Their hearts will be restless until they reconnect in love with their lost children...and with the hope, won by the cross and Resurrection of Jesus that, they will one day gaze into the eternal soul of their son or daughter. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat provides a very powerful experience of that reality especially in the Living Scriptures of Saturday evening. This hope, this reality that is a gift of faith in Christ, is the heart of this ministry.

Thank you so much for all you do to bring this hope to those who are suffering after abortion. May the Eternal One bless you with His peace and love in the New Year.

In Christ,

Kevin Burke, LSW
k.burke@rachelsvineyard.org

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**The Key to Increasing the Russian Birth Rate?
Healing the Traumatic Aftershock of Abortion.
By Kevin & Theresa Burke**

The Russian government declared 2008 to be the "Year of the Family" to fight the decline in population resulting from the highest abortion rate in the world with nearly 70 percent of pregnancies ending in an abortion. Authorities in the southern Russian City of Novorissiysk scheduled a "week without abortion" in an effort to combat the country's high abortion rate.

Government policies to encourage child bearing have had little effect to reduce the high number of abortions. Despite all the pregnancy perks and childbearing incentives now being offered, women in Russia are not biting the bait to breed.

Dr Theresa Burke the founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries explores the dynamics of "Traumatic Reenactment," the repetition of traumatic themes, feelings and actions as a hallmark indicator of trauma in her book *Forbidden Grief, the Unspoken Pain of Abortion*.

Dr Burke explains:

In order to understand the Russian population problem, it is essential to understand the psychological dynamic of traumatic repetition. This is directly connected to the phenomenon of multiple abortions.

In the United States nearly half of all abortions are repeat procedures...in Russia the conservative estimate is that Russian women average between 3-8 abortions. While it is true that many Russians view abortion as a form of birth control, there is a deeper dynamic at work here. During trauma the feelings and knowledge of what is happening are so unacceptable that the mind refuses to acknowledge them. The trauma becomes fixed at a certain moment in a person's life - dissociated from consciousness - and provides the material for subsequent post-traumatic reenactment.

Without healing and grief work following the initial abortion loss and the degrading and painful procedure, women are susceptible to cope with their painful feelings through the use of drugs, eating disorders, alcohol, drug abuse and promiscuity. These behaviors frequently lead to another

crisis pregnancy, and abortion is once again seen as the best solution. Repetition is the greatest indicator of trauma.

With each abortion the individual becomes increasingly numb, more detached from their hearts, more disconnected from hopes and dreams for the future and susceptible to patterns of relational abandonment, ambivalence over motherhood, depression and anxiety. With each abortion there can be a distorted sense of mastery over the traumatic feelings...they may not be aware of feelings of loss or grief and not even be aware of a deeply entrenched self-destructive pattern of aborting new opportunities for love and life.

In many ways, women really do experience their pregnancies and their unborn children as part of themselves. When the woman destroys her pregnancy and developing child, she is also destroying an extension of herself.

If those in power want to lower the abortion rate and allow Mother Russia to recover from the ravages of abortion's toll, there is a need to drastically increase the number of healing programs like Rachel's Vineyard so that women and men can begin to heal from this complicated grief caused by the loss of so many children. Incentives won't make women want to reproduce. Only healing can do that – and bring resolution to the trauma.

Russian Retreats:

Magadan Contact: Fr. Mikel Shields Frmike@magadancatholic.org

Vladivostok Contact: Christina Pavlov 4232-44-54-04

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A Message from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

We welcome a year that will be one of growth for Rachel's Vineyard, one of grace and healing for people everywhere who are wounded by abortion.

And that includes us all. We should never think of RV as a disconnected ministry. It is more deeply connected to the well being of our entire nation than anyone realizes or admits. Every person, whether pro-life or "pro-choice," young or old, attentive to the abortion controversy or not, politically minded or not, liberal or conservative, religious or secular, or however else they may be described, has been wounded by abortion. Sometimes we know the cause of the wounds, and sometimes we don't. But we've all been hurt, and we all need profound healing.

A New Year should bring that longing and that hope. We are given a clean book, with twelve chapters, and we are each privileged to write the story that will be on the pages of that New Year. The past is past, and not even God can change the past. But He can change us today, and it is that hope that accompanies us into this New Year. Filled with that hope and with the energy it brings, let's have a year of unprecedented growth and success in Rachel's Vineyard!

Happy New Year!

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Pastoral Director and Chairman of the Board, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

National Director, Priests for Life

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Silent No More to Gather 1000 at March for Life '09

Be a part of the historic gathering of 1000+ post abortive people on the steps of the Supreme Court Building immediately following this year's March for Life in Washington DC. Join Silent No More in sharing the truth that abortion hurts everyone involved. You don't need to give a testimony to make a statement at the march, just come out and stand united with others who

recognize the pain of abortion by holding a sign; your presence alone will have a profound impact. For more information on this moving event and how to get involved visit:
www.silentnomoreawareness.org/events

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All glory comes from daring to begin. ~ Eugene F. Ware
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New Music Video- Reflection

Check out the newest video on our website- "Reflection." This beautiful presentation takes the viewer into the deepest parts of the heart of those suffering loss of a child in an abortion. View it [here](#).

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Cultivating Seeds of Hope, Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2009

This year Rachel's Vineyard will be hosting its International Conference at the Malvern Retreat House in Malvern PA. This year's theme *Cultivating Seeds of Hope, Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest* encourages us to continue the healing work of God and to share in the beautiful grace that comes with it! Please join us July 7-10 for fellowship, growth and support from powerful speakers, delightful entertainers and friends of the Vineyard from all over the world.

Conference Sneak Peak:

Check out the conference location at [here](#).

We are blessed to have a special guest performance! Check out Christin Jezak and her one-woman-show based on Mother Teresa's philosophy of 'person-to-person encounters' [here](#).

Come prepared to share your ideas and learn news ways to run more effect retreats at the Rachel's Vineyard Marketplace of Ideas.

Watch our newsletter and website for more information on guest speakers, presentation schedules and how to register.

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Study finds depression suffered by 80% of women who abort

A recent study by psychiatrist Carmen Gomez-Lavin of the University of Navarre found that as many as 80% of women suffer depression after their abortions, along with other alarming symptoms such as sexual dysfunction, drug use, and thoughts of suicide.

Read the study [here](#).

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Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given; While angels sing with tender mirth, A glad new year to all the earth. ~Martin Luther

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Rachel's Vineyard Television Spot

This New Year it's time for a fresh start! Share the joy of Christ's healing with your community by purchasing this commercial to air on your local stations. 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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A New Year's Appeal

The New Year is a time for resolutions, change and new beginnings. This New Year, why not resolve to make a donation to your favorite healing ministry! You can make a one-time donation, or resolve to give a little every month. The money you donate will fuel the continued growth of Rachel's Vineyard. Be a part of healing men and women all over the world from the pain of abortion.

Choose how to make your donation:

Online www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

By phone 610-354-0555

By mail PO Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

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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 person. ~Benjamin Franklin

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Recommended Reading

When Every Day Matters: A Mother's Memoir on Love, Loss and Life - A Memoir by Mary Jane Brant

This powerful memoir of Mary Jane Brant's experience after the loss of her beloved daughter to brain cancer offers wisdom and comfort to anyone who has or is experiencing loss, especially during the holiday season. Mary Jane shares her grief and her joy in this beautiful true story about making each moment count.

Learn more at <http://www.wheneverdaymatters.com>

Fatherless - A Novel by Brian Gail

As Brian Gail's first novel, *Fatherless*, is receiving the praise that seasoned authors dream of. The story of John Sweeney, a mischievous youngster who answers the call to priesthood and finds himself in the midst of the moral struggles of three different families, is being hailed as breathtaking, "a page turner [that will give you] a whole different perspective on the times we're living in."

Order your copy today for only \$9.95 here www.fatherlessbook.com

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United in Prayer

Please remember **Cynthia Wynn** in your prayers, a friend of the Vineyard for many years, as she battles cancer. Cynthia served as the leader of the RV team in Lubbock, Texas for many years, She also mentored many retreats throughout Texas and New Mexico.

Remember **Joe Geiger** in your prayers; he is currently having problems with his heart. Kay Marie and Joe Geiger head up Rachel's Vineyard in Richmond, VA.

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 new year, as she will be enduring different therapies to combat the cancer.

A special **Grief to Grace Retreat** will be held January 2-4 for orphaned and abused teens, please remember all the young people over the weekend as they journey through the retreat experience together.

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New Sites

Join us in happily welcoming a new site to the Vineyard! **Jason Baier** and **Roberta Bazaldua** will be facilitating Rachel's Vineyard in **North Phoenix, AZ**. Please pray for Jason and Roberta and all those who volunteer and discover God's healing power at this new Rachel's Vineyard location.

Welcome **Guido and Susan Fetta**'s new site in Doylestown PA! Please remember their developing team in your prayers.

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"May today mark the beginning of many new joys and accomplishments... and a continuation of all of the good things that you have already achieved."~ Unknown
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Upcoming Events and Trainings

Tuesday, January 22, 2009

Washington DC- 36th Annual March for Life
<http://www.marchforlife.org>

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

Tuesday- Friday July 7-10 2009

Malvern, PA- Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference
Contact: Katie D'Annunzio
610-354-0555
(more info in Vine and Branches in the coming months)

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Events of Interest

May 17-21, 2009

Abortion Recovery Leaders Symposium and Conference
Contact: Stacy Lynn Massey
949.551.9771 (f)
stacy@abortionrecovery.org

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Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

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 16 - January 18, 2009

Temple, Texas

Local Host: Hope Pregnancy Center, Inc.

Contact: Linda Tamez 254-624-1647 linda.tamez@hot.rr.com

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

January 23 - January 25, 2009

Fairfield County, Connecticut

Local Host: Diocese of Bridgeport

Contact: Clarissa Cincotta 203-218-0291 jeremiah31v17@aol.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

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

Tucson, Arizona

Contact: Jean or Lois 520-743-6777 reachout4life@q.com

January 30 - February 1, 2009

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Contact: Mary Lee 918-585-8167 mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

February 6 - February 8, 2009

Houston, Texas

Contact: Traci or Cindy 281-658-7366 rvhouston@yahoo.com

Contact: Dixine 281-286-7729 ext 10

February 6 - February 8, 2009

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 jesterth@ph.upmc.edu

February 6 - February 8, 2009

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 grace4healing@gmail.com

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 postabortionhealing@gmail.com

February 6 - February 8, 2009

Saginaw, Michigan

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652 sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

February 6 - February 8, 2009

Temple, Texas

Local Host: Hope Pregnancy Center, Inc.

Contact: Linda Tamez 254-624-1647 linda.tamez@hotmail.com

February 20 - February 22, 2009

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Contact: Susan Fetta 267-880-3631 sefetta@comcast.net

February 20 - February 22, 2009

Long Island/Uniondale, New York

Contact: Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi 516-523-0586 fgariboldi@optonline.net

February 20 - February 22, 2009

Long Island/Uniondale (Español), New York

Contact: Donna Crean 631-258-5062 donnacrean@optonline.net

Note: Español

February 20 - February 22, 2009

Longbranch, Washington

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE valeriepr@aol.com

February 20 - February 22, 2009

Sydney, New South Wales Australia

Contact: Debbie 02-9440-7980 info@rachelvineyard.org.au

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