

VINE AND BRANCHES

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries
February 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.

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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

Looking ahead to our Rachel's Vineyard training seminar in July, we'll have the pleasure of welcoming the Chairman of the Bishops' Pro-life Committee, Cardinal Justin Rigali. This is a positive development, not only because the Cardinal is so supportive and will take the time to be with us, but also because it symbolizes an important reality happening around the world. Rachel's Vineyard provides a significant service to Catholic dioceses especially when those dioceses make Rachel's Vineyard their official post-abortion ministry. Such collaboration is a good example of what the Church is all about: people are filled with the gifts of the Spirit, who causes them to be open with each other and to find ways to serve each other and the wider community. The official "structures" of the Church are only one aspect of the Church. The wider reality is that the Body of Christ has many, rich, diverse gifts, all flowing from the same Spirit and promoting unity in service.

Rachel's Vineyard, of course, operates well beyond the diocesan post-abortion ministries and well beyond the boundaries of the Catholic Church. But that, too, is precisely what the Church encourages. The Church is, at her heart, ecumenical, embracing as brothers and sisters all who profess the name of Christ. This spirit is especially urgent, of course, when it comes to the ministry of healing. People need to come to the cross to find forgiveness and peace. That same process of reconciliation, in the cross of Christ, is the process by which the divisions among the Christian churches are healed.

Let us pray for all who exercise leadership in the Church, that they may always stir into flame the gifts God has already given to all Christians through their faith and baptism.

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

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"Love is the enchanted dawn of every heart."

-Alphonse Marie de la Martine

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Reborn Babies – The Post Abortion Connection

Kevin Burke, LSW and Theresa Burke, PhD

A recent 20/20 documentary entitled “Extreme Motherhood” has been the subject of much controversy and reaction. The Today Show, radio talk shows, blogs and even the BBC in Britain have recently aired programs on the unusual phenomenon of “Reborn Babies.” The Reborns are incredible life-like reproductions of infants with the skin texture, weight, hair and other features of a real baby that are increasingly popular around the world with women of all ages. For improved realism, some manufactures feature dolls with life-like breathing and heartbeats.

The women who spend up to \$4,000.00 on their Reborn baby come from a variety of situations. Some may be infertile and long for the experience of caring for an infant. Others use them in response to personal grief as a replacement for children that have died or have moved away from home. One woman shared her joy at putting her doll in a baby carriage and showing him off to neighbors! Some have used them to offer elderly women in nursing homes an opportunity to express love and tenderness to a newborn.

All of this seems quite curious and bizarre at first glance. However, if we look at the number of women impacted by abortion around the world, perhaps this can help us to identify a deeper issue that may be nursing this phenomenon.

We know from our experience in Rachel's Vineyard with thousands of women mourning the loss of their children because of abortion, that many symptoms do arise from unresolved pregnancy loss. (See [*Forbidden Grief – The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*](#)) Connecting to one's missing children with love and tenderness is an essential part of a healthy grieving experience.

The obsession with “Reborn Babies” used by those who suffer from unresolved grief can be viewed as a form of complicated mourning – a response to years of holding back deeply repressed love and yearning for the baby that has died. But more importantly, we have observed that a mother's heart is made to love any child that she carries in her womb...no matter what the situation or fear and pressures she faced when she made a decision to abort. After abortion her heart is wounded, the love for that child remains unexpressed and unfulfilled.

The Reborn Baby phenomenon is significant if understood within the context of a culture impacted by post abortion trauma. Nevertheless, without a connection to the real source of this pain, it is only a diversion from the deeper unresolved grief. A program specifically designed to address and resolve this unique loss can be found in Rachel's Vineyard weekends for healing abortion. Here women and men can grieve their children lost to abortion in an atmosphere of emotional and spiritual safety. Once they free their hearts to mourn their child and re connect to that child with love and tenderness, the trauma is no longer of obsessive interest. The acting out or undoing of love denied can be replaced by the sure hope in faith that they will once again hold their child in heaven.

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"Love is never defeated..."

-Pope John Paul II

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New Rachel's Vineyard Music Video - Love Heals

This Valentine's Day enjoy a message of love and healing with this month's music video "Love Heals" featuring the extraordinary vocals of the cast of Rent and the heartfelt testimonies of Rachel's Vineyard retreatants. This video is sure to encourage the heart and give hope to all those in search of healing.

Watch it [here](#).

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Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2009

This summer, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries will be hosting its International Leadership Conference in Malvern Pennsylvania, July 7-10. The conference is a great opportunity to learn about the healing ministry of RV and connect with others who are engaged in the ministry. Enjoy stimulating presentations, roundtable discussions, live entertainment, fellowship and more.

Click [here](#) to view our brochure. COMPLETE LIST OF CLASSES COMING SOON!

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EWTN features Rachel's Vineyard Commercial!

EWTN- Eternal Word Television Network- the premier international Catholic television station has begun airing the Rachel's Vineyard commercial that has been featured in several past editions of Vine and Branches Newsletter. As a result we have had numerous inquiries for retreats.

The commercial is available for sale from the Kelowna team in British Columbia; anyone can purchase with the intension of having it aired on your local TV channels.

Click [here](#) for details on purchasing the commercial.

Click [here](#) to view the 30-second spot.

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"Eventually you will come to understand that love heals everything, and love is all there is."

-Gary Zukav

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A Testimony to Healing

By Anne-Marie Gosser

I did not think the wounds from my abortion could be healed. It was my closely guarded secret for 22 years. I bought Dr. Burke's book *Forbidden Grief* in 2002. I was unable to get past the flyleaf and buried it in the bottom of a drawer. In July 2006 God told me during prayer to that it was time to read the book. I knew which book he was talking about and, for once, I immediately obeyed. I did not go to sleep until I had read the entire book. As difficult and upsetting as it was for me to read it, it was also reassuring. It gave me hope. During one of my breaks in reading that day I found the website and the location and date of a retreat closest to my home

I'm not sure I can articulate the experience but I will try to tell you some of the things that have changed for me. I am no longer silent. I not only tell others but I direct them to resources for healing. Although I knew in my head that God had forgiven me I did not feel forgiven and I had never forgiven myself. I had also never imagined that my children could have forgiven me (I was carrying twins when I aborted). Not only do I know that God has forgiven me, but I have been able to forgive myself and accept forgiveness of my sons, Daniel and Joseph.

I have been able to share my testimony with the ladies at my church group, with the entire church body, with my ladies bible study group at work, a crisis pregnancy fundraiser and with a secular college class.

I am finally grieving the loss of my sons, all the years of both giving and receiving love of which I have robbed myself. At the retreat I was able to write a letter to Anne-Marie at 23 from Anne-

Marie at 45 forgiving her for her mistake and asking her forgiveness for punishing her so cruelly all these years. No one could have been as cruel to me as I have been to myself. I have never married or had children and I know this was because I could not let any man get so close that he would find out that I murdered my own children.

While forgiveness and grieving will never bring Daniel and Joseph back to me in this life, it has brought me back to spiritual life. I was dead in so very many, deep ways. God continues to reveal to me ways in which I've been dead and is restoring me.

For the past 18 months I have been attending college to complete my bachelor's degree in Organizational Management. The program is a cohort program of accelerated classes in which I was with the same community of people the entire time. I attended Rachel's Vineyard September 15, the weekend before our final class began. In our final class we were to compose our portfolios as well as give a final presentation. Our final presentation focused where we would be ten years from now and how we got there. Our cohort was large enough that some of us were asked to give them in the next to last class rather than the final evening. I was one of the volunteers; in fact, I was the first one to present. My classmates were mystified by my obvious nervousness when I stood before them, as I had grown comfortable making presentations. Rachel's Vineyard is what made it possible for me to make this presentation. After my presentation, two of the ladies in my class told me they had abortions in their pasts. I am praying that they will both attend a Rachel's Vineyard and find the healing they need so desperately. I am gently encouraging them in that direction.

Again, thank you for listening and obeying God in founding Rachel's Vineyard. It has changed my life for the better in ways I could not imagine.

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A Valentines Appeal

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries spreads the healing of Christ to those wounded by abortion in 47 US states and 22 countries worldwide. Help the ministry's continued growth by making a donation today. 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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Recommended Reading- Modesty is the Best Policy

On the college scene these days, it seems like the ol' phrase "everybody's doin' it" has never had a more literal meaning. Despite the commonality of the "random hookup" lots of people, especially young women are left with a sense of emptiness and dissatisfaction. The reality that young women are dissatisfied with their so called "sexual freedom" is reflected in the recent increase in books on that very topic: women are looking for more, but settling for less when it comes to love. The answer is a return to a virtually forgotten virtue: chastity. Check out the below titles on Amazon.com and learn the secret to what women REALLY want!

Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals How Political Correctness in Her Profession Endangers Every Student by: Anon, M.D. Read this first hand account from the Ivy League MD who saw just how the deceit of the culture at large is literally making the young men and women sick.

Girls Gone Mild: Young Women Reclaiming Self-Respect and Finding it's not Bad to Be Good. By Wendy Shalit is one of a number of books by this young woman who has single handedly begun a "Good Girl Revolution." All of Shalit books engage young women in challenging the ideologies of the MTV generation that sex is best had all the time. Shalit unveils the beauty of

feminine modesty, reminding women that there's pride in what others may mistakenly call "prudish."

Other titles by Shalit include: *The Good Girl Revolution* and *A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue*

Get the books and join the revolution at www.girlsgonemild.com

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"A hundred hearts would be too few to carry all my love for you".
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United in Prayer

Executive director of Restoring the Heart Ministries and friend of the Vineyard, **Julie Woodley**, is enjoying life with her brand new beautiful granddaughter, born January 19! Please remember baby Eleanor and parents Bonnie and Trevor in your prayers as they start they're journey together as a family!

We offer our prayers for strength and healing for **Marilyn Williams** of Saskatchewan Rachel's Vineyard, she is having some heart trouble after battling ovarian cancer.

May God shower **Kathy Druzbecki and her team** in Northwest, Indiana with gifts and blessings as they develop a new Rachel's Vineyard site.

We remember in our prayers for hope and healing, our friends **Kari Curtin and Cynthia Wynn**, both of whom are struggling with cancer. May God bless them with grace to preserver during this difficult time and touch them with His healing Hand.

We also ask God's blessing on **Sue Brazo and her family**, Sue and several members of her family are battling different forms of cancer. We lift them up into the healing arms of the Father.

Mary Kominski, an incredible friend of the Vineyard (you may remember her from *Door to Hope* as well as the Newark and Staten Island sites) lost her **father** recently. May his soul, and the souls of all the faith departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Grief to Grace - Healing the wounds of Abuse will be held in a number of different locations this year. If you or someone you care about is suffering because of past abuse visit www.griefftoGrace.org. This new program was composed by Theresa and Kevin Burke, the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, to provide a psychological and spiritual healing journey for anyone impacted by abuse to reclaim sexual dignity.

May 21-25, 2009

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

September 17-21 2009

Corpus Christi, TX

October 19-22, 2009

Atlanta, GA

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Upcoming Events and Trainings

Friday, April 24, 2009

Indianapolis, Indiana- Clinical Training

Contact: Sr. Diane Carolla

dcarollo@archindy.org

317-236-1521

Presenter(s): Theresa Burke PhD

Thursday- Friday, March 12-13, 2009

Peoria, IL-Clinical Training

Contact: Jeanne Whalen

jwhalen@cdop.org

Presenter(s) : Theresa Burke PhD

Friday, May 01, 2009 -- Saturday, May 02, 2009

Fort Worth TX- Clinical/Regional Training

Contact: Steve & Betsy Kopor

forgiven@racheltx.org

Presenter(s): Theresa Burke PhD, Kevin Burke MSW

Tuesday, July 07, 2009 -- Friday, July 10, 2009

Malvern PA- Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference

Contact: Kathryn Boyle

kathryn@rachelsvineyard.org

610-354-0555

Watch for updates on the web, newsletters and egroups!

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Upcoming Retreats

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 -- Taipei, Taiwan

Contact: Georgie Hsieh 886-933-42-6608 georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw

February 6 - February 8, 2009 -- Temple, Texas

Local Host: Hope Pregnancy Center, Inc.

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

February 20 - February 22, 2009 -- Doylestown, Pennsylvania

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

February 20 - February 22, 2009 -- Long Island/Brentwood, New York

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

February 20 - February 22, 2009 -- Long Island/Brentwood (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 -- Providence, Rhode Island

Local Host: Life & Family Ministry, Diocese of Providence

Contact: Kristin Caproni 401-421-7833 x119 rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Website: www.dioceseofprovidence.org

February 20 - February 22, 2009 -- Sydney, New South Wales Australia

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

Website: www.rachelsvineyard.org.au

February 27 - March 1, 2009 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa

Contact: Maria Shores 563-322-1645 hopeandhealing@mchsi.com

Contact: Vicki Tyler 309-796-4707

Note: Catholic and Interdenom Retreats

February 27 - March 1, 2009 -- Charlotte, North Carolina

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Contact: Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol 704-370-3229 MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org

Contact: Deacon Tom Rasmussen 828-495-7234 deacontom@charterinternet.com

February 27 - March 1, 2009 -- Richardton, North Dakota

Local Host: Bismarck Diocese

Contact: Carol Kling 605-374-5639 ckling@sdplains.com

March 6 - March 8, 2009 -- Baltimore, Maryland

Contact: Denise Douglas 410-354-6900 projectrachel@archbalt.org

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

Website: www.project-rachel.net

March 6 - March 9, 2009 -- Calgary, Alberta Canada

Contact: Norline Johnson 403-218-5506 projectrachel@rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca

Contact: Toll Free 877-597-3223

Contact: Gabriele Kalincak 403-218-5504 lfr@rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca

March 6 - March 8, 2009 -- Denver, Colorado

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-410-1710 edieg2@aol.com

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 lorgreg@msn.com

March 6 - March 8, 2009 -- Medford, Oregon

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074 e2lori@aol.com

March 6 - March 8, 2009 -- Miami, Florida

Local Host: Clamor de Vida y Esperanza Ministry

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 clamordevida@aim.com

Note: Spanish

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Allentown, Pennsylvania

Contact: Maryann Dunn M.S. 866-372-2435 mdunn@allentowndiocese.org

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: Mary Ann McNeal 404-896-6521 pathmoneil@earthlink.net

Website: www.healingafterabortion.org

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Fresno, California

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 tjen98@sbcglobal.net

Contact: Rosalinda Gutierrez - Español 888-686-8537 rosgonz20@aol.com

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Ilkley, England

Contact: Marene 07505 904 656 rachelsvineyard.leeds@hotmail.co.uk

Retreat Location: Ilkley area of West Yorkshire

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Lancaster (Interdenom), Kentucky

Contact: Anne-Marie Gosser 859-233-0511 am@whitedovepottery.com

Note: Interdenom

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Linden, New Jersey

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 arnewrespect@sjanj.net

March 13 - March 15, 2009 -- Los Angeles, California

Local Host: Rachel's Vineyard Los Angeles

Contact: Christine Lowe 866-2-RACHEL rvla.christine@gmail.com