

# Vine and Branches

*The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries*

*June 2009*

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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.*

*Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is available on the web at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) and through our 24/7 help line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.*

## Contents

[Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2009](#)

[The Prodigal Daughter's Prayer](#)

[Britain's Repeat Abortions on the Rise](#)

[A Note from the Pastoral Director](#)

[Rachel's Vineyard Music Video- Unwritten](#)

[Elliot Institute Turns 25- Become a Partner Today](#)

[Walking Pilgrimage to Shrine of Czestochowa](#)

[A Summer Time Appeal](#)

[Welcome New Sites](#)

[United In Prayer](#)

[Grief to Grace- Healing the Wounds of Abuse](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Events and Trainings](#)

[Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats](#)

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*"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June." Al Bernstein*

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## **Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conferences 2009**

**July 7-10, 2009 Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference**

**"Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest" Malvern, PA USA**

Rachel's Vineyard 2009 Leadership Conference: Reaping the Father's Bountiful Harvest is right around the corner! With just a few weeks left before July's conference, make sure you have reserved your spot! Secure your bed in the beautiful AIR CONDITIONED Family Life Center at Malvern Retreat House.

Speakers include Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, Father Frank Pavone, Janet Morana, Msgr. Mike Mannion, Jim and Joy Pinto, Denise Rowinski Mengak, Lori Eckstine, Michelle Krystofik and many other dynamic leaders in the field of post abortion healing! To learn more, visit our website [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) or click the link below.

Click [here](#) to view our brochure. Click [here](#) to view a wonderful array of course descriptions to intrigue every level of experience!

**August 14-16, 2009 Rachel's Vineyard Conference "The Healing Journey After Abortion"  
Leeds, England**

Rachel's Vineyard in the United Kingdom and the Diocese of Leeds are offering a three-day conference with Theresa and Kevin Burke. Topics covered will include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Re-enactment, an overview of Rachel's Vineyard, and a seminar on the Silent No More Awareness Campaign with co-founder Janet Morana, as well as how to minister to men and families suffering from post-abortion heartache. A special seminar for clergy will be offered on Friday August 14th.

For more information on the seminar in England or to register please contact:  
Deacon Charles Conner [charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk)

Click [here](#) to view our brochure.

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## **The Prodigal Daughter's Prayer**

Dear Jesus, I hear you. I lived this parable. I'm the prodigal daughter.  
Young and foolish, I sinned against my heavenly Father. When I failed to protect my baby's life, I entered into death.

The road back to life started forty years ago. My brother, unlike the brother in the parable, embraced me, and started me on my journey home. My parents and family loved and supported me. My husband of thirty-six years walked with me and we were blessed with children. Yet the torment continued.

I confessed and tried to be good but the sorrow and guilt remained. Over the years, the anguish receded but it always returned. I could not forgive myself and did not feel worthy of my gifts. But this changed in the past year.

Through listening to the words of Jesus, I came to believe in our Father's love and mercy. I accepted His pardon. Like the lost son, I enjoyed my homecoming. I realized my doubt and despair were disrespectful to our Lord's desire to find me and give me life again. I celebrated in my heart and soul.

" Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now I'm found,  
Was blind but now I see."

Dear Lord, thank You for loving my baby in Heaven and thank You for waiting for me with open arms. Thank You for your saving grace and thank you for Rachel's Vineyard where Jesus brings His Word and His healing.

Glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen

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*June 21st is the first day of summer!*

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# Britain's Repeat Abortions on the Rise

A recent article that appeared on LifeNews.com revealed that the number of abortions in the United Kingdom are the lowest they've been in three years, the downside: while the overall numbers are dropping, repeat abortions are actually on the rise. As many as 1/3 of the abortions performed in the UK are repeats, leading many to believe that women are using abortion as a means of birth control.

Is it possible that the repetition that 1/3 of post abortive British women are trapped in is more than just a measure of "birth control"? Dr. Theresa Burke would say yes, repeat abortions are about something much more than just birth control. Repetition is the greatest indicator of trauma. Many women who experience abortion will go on to repeat the same trauma again and again two, three, seven, twelve times. Repeat abortions can be a form of traumatic reenactment. As a traumatized person struggles to understand and integrate the traumatic experience, they are doomed to repeat it over and over. This is why healing the original wound and working through the trauma is essential to those stuck in the cycle of repeat abortions.

In her book *Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*, Dr. Burke states the "cycle of repeat abortions is part of a self-defeating behavior pattern that [can begin] after the first abortion" in Chapter Eleven, entitled "Repeat Abortions." What is frightening about the phenomenon of repeat abortions, is that in England of the 64,715 women who had multiple abortions, 3,801 had had between two and seven and 1,500 were performed on girls younger than 18 years old who had already experienced abortion as well.

"The repeat abortion numbers were so shocking that even Health Minister Dawn Primarolo had to admit that more must be done to drive down the number," the article continues. The answer here is clear: heal the trauma, stop the need to repeat it. If we continue to open the doors of the Vineyard to those who are wounded, repeat abortions can become a thing of the past.

To learn more about traumatic reenactment and repeat abortions order your copy of *Forbidden Grief* here.

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*Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.* - Sam Keen  
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## A Note from the Pastoral Director

Brothers and Sisters,

There are many factors that account for the continued, marvelous growth of Rachel's Vineyard retreats throughout the world. The simplest and most powerful reason, however, is that they work. The power of personal experience, the persuasive force of a witness to God's healing, is what continues to propel this ministry forward. It's no exaggeration to say that it's a page out of the Gospels. People came away from the Lord Jesus able to see, to walk, to live – and others saw the fruit of the healing, and believed!

There's more good news here. If the growth of Rachel's Vineyard is because it works, then the decline of abortion is because it doesn't work. Abortion is a dead end, an empty promise, a bad product, and more and more people are coming to know that through bitter personal experience, as well as persuasive testimony. The key is to get as many people as possible to realize that through the testimony of others rather than through their own experience. This is why many who have found the path to healing in Rachel's Vineyard go on to give testimony through the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. I urge you to use those testimonies in reaching others. In particular, see the video testimonies at the Campaign's YouTube channel, [www.YouTube.com/silentnomorecampaign](http://www.YouTube.com/silentnomorecampaign).

You are in my prayers each day and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in July!

Sincerely,

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

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*A life without love is like a year without summer. -Swedish Proverb*  
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## **Rachel's Vineyard Music Video- Unwritten Natasha Bedingfield**

Read powerful comments on the transformative power of the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. This uplifting video features the inspiring hit "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield and offers a hopeful look at a future without the pain of abortion trauma.

Watch it [here](#).

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*Friendships are the sunshine of life. - John Hays*  
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## **Elliot Institute Turns 25- Become a Partner Today**

Rachel's Vineyard congratulates The Elliot Institute for 25 years of effective and dedicated service to the protection of men, women and children from the pain caused by abortion. For 25 years the Elliot Institute has been a leader in abortion aftermath research and has empowered the public with powerful ad campaigns to help raise awareness of the trauma caused by abortion.

In gratitude for their hard work, consider becoming a partner, making it possible for the Elliot Institute to continue its much-needed work for the next 25 years and beyond.

### **To become a Sustaining Partner:**

1. Call 1-888-412-2676, or
2. Send an email to [amy@afterabortion.info](mailto:amy@afterabortion.info), or
3. Send your request by mail to: Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348, Springfield, IL 62791.

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## **Walking Pilgrimage to Shrine of Czestochowa**

Join post abortive men and women and friends August 6-9, to walk this yearly pilgrimage in reparation for abortion. This four day rain or shine event with offer daily Mass, confession, counseling and reflection and fellowship.

Contact Patty Decker: [mstpattydecker@aol.com](mailto:mstpattydecker@aol.com)  
OR  
Theresa Bonopartis: [lumina@postabortionhelp.org](mailto:lumina@postabortionhelp.org)

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*Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. – Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*  
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## **A Summer Time Appeal**

This is the time of year for barbeques, lemonade and carefree relaxation. What a better time of year to donate to Rachel's Vineyard! Share the restful spirit of summer by making healing possible for others through your generosity.

Choose how to make your donation:

Online [www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate)

by phone 610-354-0555

by mail PO Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

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## **Welcome New Sites**

Rachel's Vineyard welcomes several new sites:

**Lisa Shorba** and **Susanna Jones-Hart** will be facilitating the first ever Rachel's Vineyard site in beautiful **Hawaii**...there's no better place to heal! Remember this new team in your prayers.

We welcome all of our new site facilitators and their teams and offer prayers of thanksgiving for their service to the Vineyard!

**Stephanie Christian** will be facilitating a team in **Jamaica**, please remember her and her team in your prayers.

**Lynnette Knapp** will be facilitating a site in **Traverse City, MI**, remember her and team as they begin offering healing to their community.

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*The greatest oak was once a little nut who held its ground. -Author Unknown*  
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## **United in Prayer**

Please offer your heartfelt prayers for the Poor Clares who recently lost their Abbess after she was injured during the earthquake in Italy. It is a terrible tragedy for an order to lose their abbess. **Guido Fetta's** sister, Sr. Mary Chiara is a member of this community in Virginia and shared the news of the loss of their Abbess as well as the extensive damage to one of the friaries in Italy. Guido helps on the Doylestown Rachel's Vineyard retreats.

Join us in praise and thanksgiving for **Kari Curtins** improving health! She is now **CANCER FREE!** Many of you have been praying for Kari throughout her battle, now we can join her in prayers of grateful praise! Thanks be to God and thanks to all who offered prayers on Kari's behalf.

Please join **Wilma Lombardo** in prayers for healing and strength. Recently diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer, Wilma will be beginning the difficult road to health as she fights the cancer.

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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](http://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.

A special thanks to all those who worked hard as participants and volunteers at the Grief to Grace retreat May 21-25 in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. The retreat was blessed with much healing, praise God!

September 17-21 2009  
Corpus Christi, TX

October 26-29, 2009  
Aston, PA

Palm Beach Florida TBA

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## Upcoming Events and Trainings

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

Malvern PA- Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference

Contact: Katie D'Annunzio

[katie@rachelvineyard.org](mailto:katie@rachelvineyard.org)

610-354-0555

Watch for updates on the web, newsletters and egroups!

**Friday, August 14, 2009 -- Sunday, August 16, 2009**

Rachel's Vineyard Conference - Leeds, UK

Speaker(s): Theresa Burke, PhD and Kevin Burke, MSW

Contact info: Deacon Charles Conner [charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:charlieco7@yahoo.co.uk)

Event details: Friday 8/14 designed for Clergy

**Friday, October 02, 2009 -- Saturday, October 03, 2009**

Clinical Training - Baltimore, MD

Speakers: Kevin and Theresa Burke

Contact Info: Denise Douglas

410-354-6900

[projectrachel@archbalt.org](mailto:projectrachel@archbalt.org)

**Friday, September 25, 2009 to Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and Clinical Training - Honolulu, HI Speaker(s): Theresa Burke, Ph.D

Kevin Burke, MSS/LSW

Contact Info: Lisa Shorba

808-469-5470

[lisaals@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaals@hotmail.com)

Event Details: Rachel's Vineyard retreat 9/25-27/2009

Clinical Training 9/29/2009

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# Upcoming Retreats

## **June 5 - June 7, 2009 -- Eugene, Oregon**

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074 [e2lori@aol.com](mailto:e2lori@aol.com)

## **June 5 - June 7, 2009 -- Springfield , Massachusetts**

Contact: Mary Petisce 413-452-0661 [m.petisce@diospringfield.org](mailto:m.petisce@diospringfield.org)

Contact: Claire Lapointe 413-452-0661 [sr.claire@diospringfield.org](mailto:sr.claire@diospringfield.org)

## **June 5 - June 7, 2009 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma**

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

## **June 5 - June 7, 2009 -- Washington, DC Metro Area, Washington D.C.**

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

## **June 10 - June 12, 2009 -- Providence, Rhode Island**

Contact: Kristin Caproni 401-421-7833 x119 [rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org)

## **June 12 - June 14, 2009 -- 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)

## **June 12 - June 14, 2009 -- Litchfield, Connecticut**

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

## **June 12 - June 14, 2009 -- Sacramento, California**

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

## **June 12 - June 14, 2009 -- San Francisco Bay Area, California**

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

## **June 19 - June 21, 2009 -- Mobile, Alabama**

Contact: Elizabeth Burgess 251-434-1550 ext 18 [bburgess@cssmobile.org](mailto:bburgess@cssmobile.org)

## **June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Amarillo, Texas**

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

## **June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Ann Arbor/Detroit Area, Michigan**

Contact: Beth Bauer 734-369-3470 [lpbbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:lpbbauer@yahoo.com)

## **June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Cork City, Ireland**

Contact: Bernadette 087-859-2877 [bergoulding@eircom.net](mailto:bergoulding@eircom.net)

Contact: Dr. Rita O'Connor 061-468-570

## **June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Dallas (Español), Texas**

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

## **June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Fort Worth, Texas**

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

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 469-767-8669 [misericordia@racheltx.org](mailto:misericordia@racheltx.org)

**June 26 - June 28, 2009 -- Melbourne (Interdenom), Victoria Australia**

Contact: Anne Neville (03) 9870 7044 [anne@opendoors.com.au](mailto:anne@opendoors.com.au)

**July 10 - July 12, 2009 -- Allentown, Pennsylvania**

Contact: Maryann Dunn M.S. 866-372-2435 [mdunn@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:mdunn@allentowndioocese.org)

**July 10 - July 12, 2009 -- Fresno, California**

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 [tjen98@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjen98@sbcglobal.net)

Contact: Rosalinda Gutierrez - Español 888-686-8537 [rosgonz20@aol.com](mailto:rosgonz20@aol.com)

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Baltimore, Maryland**

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

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Crookston, Minnesota**

Contact: Ruth Ruch 701-219-3941 [ruch@i29.net](mailto:ruch@i29.net)

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

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

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Paterson/Morris County, New Jersey**

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-777-8818 x264 [rachel@patersondiocese.org](mailto:rachel@patersondiocese.org)

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- Trenton, New Jersey**

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 [judywarren543@msn.com](mailto:judywarren543@msn.com)

**July 17 - July 19, 2009 -- York County, Pennsylvania**

Contact: Joy 717-788-4959 [Rvpamd@gmail.com](mailto:Rvpamd@gmail.com)

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

**July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Cedar Falls, Iowa**

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

Contact: Vicki Tyler 309-796-4707

**July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Dallas (Español), Texas**

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

**July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Denver, Colorado**

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-410-1710 [edieg2@aol.com](mailto:edieg2@aol.com)

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 [lorgreg@msn.com](mailto:lorgreg@msn.com)

**July 24 - July 26, 2009 -- Indianapolis, Indiana**

Contact: Bernadette Roy 317-831-2892

Contact: Sr. Diane 317-236-1521 [dcarollo@archindy.org](mailto:dcarollo@archindy.org)

Contact: Toll-free 800-382-9836 x1521

**July 31 - August 2, 2009 -- Atlanta, Georgia**

Contact: Mary Ann McNeil 404-717-5557 [pathmcneil@earthlink.net](mailto:pathmcneil@earthlink.net)

**July 31 - August 2, 2009 -- Omaha/Lincoln, Nebraska**

Contact: Heather 402-871-4812 [helpingrachel@yahoo.com](mailto:helpingrachel@yahoo.com)

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