

Vine and Branches

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries June 2010

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 and through our 24/7 help line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

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A Note from the Pastoral Director

By Fr. Frank Pavone

Dear Friends,

Last month we observed Mother's Day and this month we have Father's Day.

These are special times in the Vineyard, as memories surface and regrets come into focus. They are also times for healing to advance, or for people to come to realize they need to be healed.

These are times to proclaim the beauty of parenthood and the gift of welcoming life. They are times to remind people of the wounds caused when moms and dads give way to the fear of being moms and dads.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The tragedy of life is not what we suffer...the tragedy of life is what we miss." So many think of what they have missed when Mother's and Father's Day roll around. May we in the Vineyard be more ready than ever to console them!

Before I close, just a personal note – The Vatican recently appointed me to be a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. This is an entity that Pope John Paul II established, and it consists

of scholars and activists from around the world who assist the Church on life issues. This new position, which I can fulfill without relinquishing any of my other roles, will present all of us with even more opportunities to bring the blessings of Rachel's Vineyard to the entire Church!

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

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Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference-Save the Dates

The next Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference will take place July 18th-21st, 2011. Mark your calendars now and save the dates for an educational and inspirational gathering that you won't want to miss!

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A Father's Day Appeal

Father's Day is a time of joy and love and thankfulness for our fathers. You can help men to redeem their father's heart after the pain of abortion on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat by giving a gift this Father's Day.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those affected by abortion through your contributions and prayers.

Here's how to make a donation:

Online: www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate

By Phone: 610-354-0555

By Mail: P.O. Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

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Why Abortion for Rape Victim Makes the Situation Worse

From the Elliot Institute

An 11-year-old girl in Mexico who became pregnant through rape, allegedly by her stepfather has decided to continue her pregnancy amidst great controversy.

Some abortion advocates have argued that the girl in Mexico is too young to continue the pregnancy and should have an abortion, with some even suggesting that it be done despite her expressed wish to have the baby.

But a book about women who became pregnant through rape or incest -- including young girls in situations similar to this -- suggests that, rather than helping the girl recover, abortion is more likely to cause her further psychological harm.

Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault, is based on a survey of 192 women who became pregnant through rape or incest and either had an abortion or continued the pregnancy.

Victims and Victors includes personal stories from 20 women who recalled their experiences and explained how the outcome of their pregnancy affected them.

One woman who became pregnant by her father at the age of 15 said that she refused an abortion after becoming pregnant but, at her father's request, was held down on a table and given the abortion anyway.

"I was told that an abortion would solve my problem, when it was never really the problem in the first place," she wrote years later. "I was told, 'Your parents know what's best,' when they obviously were only concerned about their own reputations. I was told, 'You made the right decision,' when I was never given a choice. More important, where was my baby's choice?"

Indeed, the survey on which the book was based found that many of those who had abortions did so due to pressure, demands or even force. And in almost every case in which the pregnancy resulted from incest, it was the girl's parents or the perpetrator who made the decision and arrangements for the abortion, not the girl herself. None of the incest victims reported having any say in the decision.

To read the rest of this article please [click here](#).

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Freedom Rides Campaign to Start in Birmingham July 23

Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the team of Priests for Life believe it is time for a "Pro-life Freedom Ride," a peaceful, visible expression of the commitment of people around the country to work for freedom for the unborn. The rides will choose cities with strategic significance for the movement. While pro-life activists ride the buses, all pro-life people nationwide will be invited to participate simultaneously in concrete activities that will call for freedom on various levels: freedom from the lies that permit abortion, freedom from the despair that leads to and follows abortion, freedom from the fear that keeps people from fighting abortion, freedom from the political oppression that robs the unborn of their rights before the law.

Where: Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia

When: Friday, July 23 – Saturday, July 24

For More Information on the Pro-Life Freedom Rides Campaign visit:

www.Prolifefreedomrides.com

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Manitoba U Study Links Abortion and Mental Illness/Suicide

By Patrick B. Craine-LifeSiteNews.com

Researchers at the University of Manitoba have published findings of a study showing a link between abortion, mental illness and suicide.

The researchers, from the departments of psychology and psychiatry, as well as obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, found that abortion was associated with mood disorders, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, and suicide attempts.

They report that depression and drug dependence followed abortion in about half of the women studied. Additionally, women with a household income of \$75,000 or more were more likely to report an abortion than those with household incomes under \$25,000.

They used data from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Drug Abuse to look for correlations between a number of factors, including abortion, anxiety, substance abuse, eating disorders, disruptive behaviour and suicide attempts. They then checked for evidence of mental disorders following abortions.

“This was the first study to examine associations between abortion and several mental disorders,” says Dr. Jitender Sareen, psychiatry. “We found a higher likelihood of lifetime mood disorder in women who had experienced an abortion compared with those who had never had an abortion.”

Sareen pointed out, however, that the data, while identifying a correlation, was unable to speak to the question of causation. “A woman with a mood disorder might be more inclined to have an abortion, while conversely, an unplanned pregnancy and abortion could precipitate a mood disorder,” he said.

“Studies like this are so validating for men and women who are suffering,” said Angelina Steenstra, national coordinator of Canada's Silent No More Awareness Campaign, who indicated that, based upon her experience, the disorders identified by the researchers are the direct result of abortion.

Silent No More Awareness has brought together countless men and women, who have shared their personal stories about their abortions and how they negatively impacted their lives.

Steenstra, who obtained an abortion when she was 15 after being date-raped, and has since suffered from infertility, said she certainly experienced the effects identified by the study. “At the moment the baby died through abortion, I knew something terrible happened and I was never going to be able to undo it,” she told LifeSiteNews. “I knew that I had participated in the taking of another human life.”

“I was plummeted into a depression that lasted for years, until I actually started making the connection that the depression was related to the aftermath of abortion,” she said. “I didn't deal with it, I avoided the truth.”

To read the rest of this article please [click here](#).

Reprinted with permission from LifeSiteNews. For more articles visit www.LifeSiteNews.com

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New Educational Series

An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion is now available through Rachel's Vineyard. The series is called *Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief*.

The set includes a collection of professionally produced DVD's of many of our presentations that we use in our clinical and pastoral trainings along with a number of talks by Fr Frank Pavone including "The Parish-Home for Healing, Healing for the Abortionist," and "Facing the Need for Healing."

A Course Guide has been developed to use with the DVD set that provides an outline of each talk to help facilitate discussion as well as a course syllabus and sample exams. It also includes suggested reading and discussion questions for each lesson. This set was made possible by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor.

Suggested Donation: \$60.00

[Click here](#) to order or for more information.

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Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats:

Healing the Wounds of Abuse- Reclaiming the Gift of Sexual Dignity

Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse will be held in a number of different locations this year. If you or someone you love 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 sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect.

Aston, Pennsylvania

June 6-10, 2010

info@griefftoGrace.org

New Orleans, LA

June 24-27, 2010

Contact: Nancy 985-859-7038

Kelowna, British Columbia

November 18-21, 2010

G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

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United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

For the repose of the soul of **Charlotte Meinecke**, mother of Anne Arthur, of Rachel's Vineyard Germany. We pray that Anne and her family will be comforted in Christ's love during this time of loss.

We also pray for **Anne Arthur** and her retreat team in Hildesheim, Germany as they prepare for their first Rachel's Vineyard retreat on July 9-11. Anne has recently completed translating the Rachel's Vineyard Manual into German. We pray that they be guided by the Holy Spirit during this time of preparation.

We pray in thanksgiving:

For our new retreat sites in **Singapore; Farmington, NM, and Temple Hills, MD**. Please keep these site leaders and teams in your prayers as they begin Rachel's Vineyard retreats in these new locations.

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Rachel's Vineyard T-Shirts

Christianshirts.com now offers Rachel's Vineyard T-shirts! 10% of profits go to Rachel's Vineyard. Two different designs are offered. [Click here](#) to view one design and [click here](#) to view the second.

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Leadership Talks Still Available on CD

All of the talks from the Rachel's Vineyard Leadership conference in Malvern, PA were recorded live by Vincent & Barbara Sumoski (Love Tape/CD Ministry) and are available on CD for purchase. There were 45 excellent talks which may be purchased individually as an entire set. Each CD is a conference special price of only \$7.00 and includes FREE shipping and handling. Other conference special incentives are available on the order form. Order forms may be obtained upon request at rvcds@sumoski.com, 601-779-8989.

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Rachel's Vineyard Bumper Stickers

Don't forget to check out our new Rachel's Vineyard bumper stickers! Our bumper stickers are a great way to spread the word about our healing ministry.

To order our bumper stickers please [click here](#).

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Check it Out

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Full of Grace: Miraculous Stories of Healing and Conversion through Mary's Intercession

Last month, we highlighted this book and wanted to include more information on where to find the book. *Full of Grace* tells of Christine Watkins's dramatic story of miraculous healing and conversion to Catholicism, along with the stories of five others, three of whom who have had abortions: a homeless drug addict, a lonely youth, (who writes an incredible letter to his aborted child), a Nobel Peace Prize-nominee, a nightclub stripper, and a cocaine abuser.

To find out more, or order the book, go to www.christinewatkins.com

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20th Anniversary Edition: *She's a Child Not a Choice*

Human Life Alliance has released a 20th anniversary edition their advertising supplement entitled *She's a Child, Not a Choice*. Please [click here](#) to read or order copies.

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OVERus~Supports Rachel's Vineyard

OVERus is a certification mark—similar to kosher, fair trade, or organic—but it identifies brands that respect Christian values. The goal is to enable you to practice good stewardship when shopping: you can just look for our logo. OVERus is now supporting Rachel's Vineyard with a portion of its proceeds. Rachel's Vineyard encourages you to take a look at how your purchases can support Christian values.

For a list of certified brands, please see our Shopping Guide:

[Click here](#).

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Other Conferences/Events of Interest

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Conference on the Vocation of Women
Women's Formation and Leadership for a Better Society
Cazenovia, NY
June 15-24, 2010

Sponsored by AVOW: Advocating the Vocation of Women

For more information please contact:

Karen Stein at karentkc@aol.com

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ARIN SHARE Symposium

Abortion Recovery InterNational-“Come Aboard”

Anaheim, CA - July 20-22, 2010

For more information please visit: <http://www.sharesymposium.org/>

Or e-mail at info@abortionrecovery.org

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Upcoming Retreats

June 4 - June 6, 2010 -- Charleston, South Carolina

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

Contact: Stephanie 912-201-4059

June 4 - June 6, 2010 -- Fort Worth, Texas

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 forgiven@racheltx.org

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

Website: www.racheltx.org

June 4 - June 6, 2010 -- Fresno, California

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

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

June 4 - June 6, 2010 -- Providence, Rhode Island

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

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Hays, Kansas

Contact: Donetta Robben 877-447-4383 rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Lancaster (Interdenom), Kentucky

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

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Litchfield, Connecticut

Local Host: Archdiocese of Hartford

Contact: Mary Hayden 203-882-1326 mmhdfc@sbcglobal.net

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Long Island/Brentwood, New York

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

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Long Island/Brentwood (Español), New York

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

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Northwest Territories, North West Territories Canada

Contact: Pat Regan 867-872-0026 pat_j_regan@yahoo.com

Contact: Phyllis MacFarlane 867-920-2129

Retreat Location: Yellowknife, NT

June 11 - June 13, 2010 -- Tampa, Florida

Contact: Emma Boe 813-631-4370 eboe@ccdosp.org

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Ann Arbor/Detroit Area, Michigan

Contact: Beth Bauer 734-369-3470 lpbbauer@yahoo.com

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL sclaudy@camdendiocese.org

Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 popejp2rc@verizon.net

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Contact: Joanne Forgue rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Phoenix, Arizona

Contact: Jason Baier 602-334-7651 jasonb@fatherhoodforever.org

Contact: Roberta Bazaldua 602-471-1944 roberta.bazaldua@gmail.com

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Portland, Oregon

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074 ProjectRachel@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org

June 18 - June 20, 2010 -- Wellington, Wellington New Zealand

Contact: Suzanne O'Rourke +64 (04) 974 9691 suzanne@voiceforlife.org.nz

Contact: Wendy Hill +64 (04) 974 8693 info@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Baltimore, Maryland

Contact: Denise Douglas 410-625-8491 projectrachel@archbalt.org

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 800-286-4224

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Cork City, Ireland

Contact: Bernadette 087-859-2877 bergoulding@eircom.net

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

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Grand Rapids, Michigan

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824 mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

Contact: Toll-free (MI only) 800-800-8284

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Melbourne (Interdenom), Victoria Australia

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

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Sacramento, California

Contact: Debbie Anderson 916-733-0161 projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org

June 25 - June 27, 2010 -- Washington DC Metro Area, Washington D.C.

Contact: Eugenia Hadley 301-300-1997 mena4481@aol.com

Note: Español and English retreats offered

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