

Vine & Branches

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

November, 2010



You are subscribed as **katie@rachelsvineyard.org**

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 providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's 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. 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 line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

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Setting the Captives Free

By Kevin Burke, LSW

If you watched any of the news coverage of the Chilean miners rescue you were surely touched and inspired by the drama of the events. Alongside the joyful images of freedom and re union we heard commentary by psychological experts about the after effects of their captivity and the need to be very attentive to these men in the days/months and years after their trauma.

Why is this important? Because it is very natural that they would suffer psychological consequences from this traumatic experience of captivity.

Apart from the dramatic nature of the event itself, it was also striking how people were moved ...emails and phone calls poured in from around the world to CNN, Fox and the other news stations. People expressed a sense of solidarity with the miners, and were quite moved by what they were witnessing. This is a beautiful and important revelation of our common humanity as we share a sense of solidarity with the victims and joy in their rescue.

But there is another important connection that such public and emotionally powerful events like this can facilitate.

People experience darkness in their lives; periods when they can feel very much like those miners trapped and buried beneath the earth. This darkness can last not just for months, but for years, decades and even a lifetime. They can be living in dark caves of trauma from various kinds of physical and sexual abuse and like the miners experience painful psychological symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares and depression well after the traumatic event.

We know from our work in Rachel's Vineyard that many of the mothers and fathers that have experienced abortion live in prisons of shame, grief and guilt due to their participation in the death of their unborn child(ren). They still go about the daily routines of their lives, and on the surface might appear to be functioning quite well. However a dramatic event like the Chilean miners journey from darkness and possible death, to the light of freedom deeply touches a collective trauma and darkness...yet one that lies deeply hidden, buried in the hearts of so many post abortive women and men.

As they view the fantastic images on their televisions of the miners being transported from that collapsed mine to the light of freedom, they are connected to their personal

trauma but also their hunger to be released from darkness to light, from anxiety and depression to freedom and peace. Most importantly, just as the miners experienced those dramatic reunions with their loved ones, the post abortive mother and father long to have their hearts set free to fully embrace and love their lost children, their wives, families and their Creator.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could create the same excitement and solidarity with the unborn children in the darkness of their mothers' wombs? Wouldn't it be amazing to see an outpouring of love and joy inviting those wounded by their participation in abortion and living in darkness to be raised up out of their shame, guilt and grief and come to the light? What a joy it would be to see their hearts free to love more deeply and to embrace their children... both born and unborn with love.

That is the heart of our mission in Rachel's Vineyard, and also in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. Through the power of God and the selfless efforts of so many wonderful volunteers from across the U.S. and around the world who share the good news of reconciliation and freedom to those trapped in the dark cavernous prisons caused by abortion.

May the bravery of those miners and the efforts of those who freed them inspire us to work tirelessly to end the tragedy of abortion in our land, and reach out with love to the unborn child in the darkness of the womb and also with the good news of hope and healing to those who still suffer in darkness.

Argentina's First Retreat

Lala Rey Méndez is the site leader for the first Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Argentina. The first retreat will be held December 3-5, 2010. She is 57 years old and a mother of seven, grandmother to two. She shares her story below about how she first heard of Rachel's Vineyard, why she felt the need to be involved with the ministry and how she successfully brought Rachel's Vineyard to Argentina.

"A little time before my mother died she told me on the phone that my father made her abort a baby. She knew this would upset me greatly because I was a Catholic who had just come back to the church with 5 children of my own and abortion was a taboo issue in my home country, Argentina. Never would I think that something like that could have happened to someone close to me, I knew so little... and she was so hurt. She was post- abortive by the book. We grew up in a very negative environment, my father was a sailor and was absent for long periods of time which made her suffer a lot and she turned into a very depressed woman. We had a terrible relationship but it was very different with my father, he was the supportive and nice guy who everyone loved, so when she told me about her abortion I could not believe it and shut my head and heart down thinking she wanted to damage my father's image and justify herself. I think I hated her for a long time after that. After her death and also growing older myself, I could understand a little more about her pain and loneliness because my husband was a sailor too and I experienced loneliness and sadness many times myself. I still couldn't accept the story about her abortion. Years passed by and in 2005 I spent two years in Washington D.C.. I went through my first Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and found so much peace accepting the facts and acknowledging of all the pain, anger, shame, loneliness and sadness. I grieved for my sister and also for my mother who I lost to post abortion trauma, it was so deep. I then helped with four more retreats as a member of the Washington D.C. team clearly, I witnessed how difficult life could be after the wrong choice."

1) What first made you want to start a Rachel's Vineyard in Argentina?

I decided to bring RVR to Argentina because as a girl I suffered all the mistreatment one can suffer from a Post Abortive mother not knowing why. I had to learn from other mothers how to love and accept love. I didn't want other children to have to go through the same amount of pain that I went through and this is my way of reaching out to

others to prevent that.

2) How long did it take from the first idea of bringing Rachel's Vineyard to Argentina to making it a reality today?

I came back to Argentina in July, 2007. For three long years I have been working on it. At the beginning I was just praying and asking the Lord to show me the way. As my dioceses is a small one and everyone knows everyone, I was told not to do it in my home town so I decided to do it in the Capital, Buenos Aires which is 700km (435 mi) from Bahía Blanca where I live.

Some people contacted me through the website. They contacted Rachel's Vineyard, then Eugenia Hadley, who serves on the Washington D.C. team and has helped many Spanish speaking teams start, connected me with others who were interested in helping.

Finally I met Fr. Claudio who saw Fr. Víctor from Priests for Life on TV. He contacted him and as I had met Fr. Víctor in DC (we did some retreats together), he gave Fr. Claudio my email address and so we began working and are now organizing the first Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Argentina.

3) What are some of the struggles that you worked through and what are some of the triumphs that you experienced while trying to start Rachel's Vineyard in Argentina?

Some of the struggles included the fact that I was by myself. Finding a community to work with was difficult. People want to do things their own way and did not know what Rachel's Vineyard is. Also, distances and high costs for traveling and lodging made things a bit tricky especially with no help financially.

The triumphs came when we found the right people to work with and now we are almost a full team. We met "Grávida" too. A group of pregnancy centers all over the country that invited me to talk about Rachel's Vineyard Retreats at their 3rd biannual meeting of volunteers on August, 15th.

Please keep LaLa and the rest of the Rachel's Vineyard Argentina team in your prayers as they prepare for their first retreat. Fr. Victor, from Priests for Life and Eugenia Hadley will be traveling to Argentina to assist with the first retreat. We wish them many blessings and safe travels!

"Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future."

~Oscar Wilde

Rachel's Vineyard in Scotland and the Faroe Islands

We are very excited that Rachel's Vineyard ministries has spread to the Faroe Islands! The population of these Islands is 48,642. Since 1948, the Faroe Islands have been a self governing region of the Kingdom of Denmark. It has its own parliament and its own flag. It is not however, a member of the European Union. Faroese is the national language and is rooted in Old Norse, Nordic languages are readily understood by most Faroese, and English is also widely spoken, especially among the young people. 80% of the population belong to the established church, the Evangelical-Lutheran, and 1% are Catholic.

Recently, Bernadette Goulding, site leader for Ireland's Rachel's Vineyard retreat, traveled to the Islands to help get the retreats off the ground. There is only one Catholic Church on the Islands, and Bernadette stayed with the 'Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.'

Bernadette was hosted by Pro-Life group, Pro-Vita. She had many speaking engagements, radio interviews, and a Christian TV interview. She also gave a public lecture at a Hotel in Torshavn, which was well attended. Pro-vita was pleasantly surprised at the turn out, as their meetings usually only attract around half a dozen

people.

Bernadette shared: "I often ask God what He is up to? I never expected to become a Missionary for Rachel's Vineyard, but I must say I have a fire in my heart for this work. It is awesome that God can use our sins to make better people out of us, He can make miracles out of our mistakes."

In continuing her call as a "Rachel's Vineyard Missionary", Bernadette will travel to Glasgow, Scotland next to facilitate their first Rachel's Vineyard retreat on the 11th of November. She and will be hosted by Cardinal Winning's ' Sister's of the Gospel of Life'.

We would like to thank Bernadette for all of her love and hard work in the vineyard. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues her "missionary" work.

Rachel's Vineyard in Italy

A story featuring the work of Monika Rodman in bringing Rachel's Vineyard to Italy was recently printed on the Zenit News website. [Click here](#) to read about it.

A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

Once again, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries was well represented – and in fact an integral aspect of – the Freedom Rides. For the second time in our nation's history, a Freedom Ride was held for our unborn brothers and sisters, in the tradition of the Civil Rights Movement. Theresa and Kevin Burke joined me, Janet Morana, Dr. Alveda King, and various women and men who have lost children to abortion as we rode the freedom bus from Knoxville to Chattanooga, TN.

"The Freedom of Healing" was a key theme of the ride and the events that surrounded it. The ceremony of healing at the National Memorial for the Unborn in Chattanooga was profoundly moving, as moms gave their "Silent No More" testimony and then placed plaques in honor of their children on the wall of remembrance. More details are at www.ProLifeFreedomRides.com

The call to our nation – and indeed to the world -- for healing would not be possible without Rachel's Vineyard. God bless you all for being part of it!

incerely,
Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director and Chairman, Rachel's Vineyard
National Director, Priests for Life
Follow me at twitter.com/frfrankpavone

A Thanksgiving Appeal

November is a time to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. This Thanksgiving, consider offering a donation to Rachel's Vineyard Ministries. You can help to make someone else's holiday season a joyous one by grace and healing offered through our retreats.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those hurting after abortion through your contributions and prayers. We offer thanks and gratitude for all those who have supported Rachel's Vineyard this past year.

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

Counselors in the Vineyard

The following is an excerpt from Kevin Burke's book, *Sharing the Heart of Christ*. For more information on the book, or to order, please [click here](#).

Jessica C. Slovensky, M.Ed., LPC, NCAC II, has over 15 years experience working in the Mental Health and Chemical Addictions field. Jessica is a member of the Respect Life Ministry at St. Benedict Catholic Church. We asked Jessica to share from her work in post abortion ministry as a professional counselor:

What can you share with other counselors that you have found helpful in reaching out to this population?

Recognize that if someone is post abortive they may not connect their presenting problems to their abortion. It is very important to understand the grief associated with the loss of a child from abotion. It is essential to understand the trauma involved in the abortion experience. It is also vital to understand that she did not make this decision alone and that her relationships are estranged as a result. Also, know that she will attempt to carry all the weight of the sin, and the grief and shame alone-she will try and control it this way as she will continue to attempt to punish herself for this 'choice'.

While individual counseling is important, post abortive women and men need to know they are not alone. It is imperative that our treatment plan include a group component so they will understand they are not alone, that they are not crazy and to get validation for their feelings and fears. Everyone wants to belong...this is their group. This is where they are understood. Remember, there are countless group experiences for all kinds of issues from Alcoholism, sexual addiction, eating disorders, etc. but you rarely see a group for PAS (Post Abortion Syndrome). Sadly, they American Psychological Association asserts Post Abortion Trauma does not exist...so how would one even find a group for something that 'doesn't exist'?

What is it like serving on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat team as a therapist? What have you found unique to that role? How did you have to adapt as a counselor to serve on the team?

It was a different experience to move out of the role of directive counselor, to begin part of a retreat team. But I soon learned that being a support team member on the retreat was amazing. i was able to see clinically what was going on...to understand the dynamics and subtle nuances of anxiety or fear and non-verbal communication. I was able to be honest and offer comfort without having to analyze it. It was a time of 'experience' not education, although education certainly occurs during the retreat. I was able to let them "be" in the moment and know that without a doubt, God would pull them through the pain and the anxiety through the Living Scriptures, the retreat process, and through the support and understanding of post abortive team members.

It has been a tremendous personal, spiritual and professional blessing for me to be involved in the retreats. Being a member of a team approach to helping one heal from abortion is like the different parts of Christ. We all have certain gifts that God has bestowed upon us. We use them for His glory. It is also nice to realize that each of us does not have to figure it all out on our own. We are also able to obtain different perspectives from various team members.

How has the retreat helped you in your therapeutic relationships with individuals suffering after abortion?

The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat responds to the core issue, not just the presenting symptoms. I learned the value and power of experiential meditative work. I saw, immediatly, the change in people once they walked through a meditation and

experienced the healing power of Christ. I have never in my life seen such quick and effective results with three days of intensive core work. I feel like I've just been spinning my wheels with clients for years and that I never really got to the heart of the issue using just cognitive work.

Once the retreatant has experienced such a great healing, other areas of her life become clear. She understands herself and others better. Issues that were once so confusing often times become crystal clear so this really helps in subsequent therapy. Things truly begin to make sense...her habits and patterns become understandable and for the first time probably since her abortion, she is validated and loved even when the truth is revealed. It becomes truly an 'ah-ha' moment...actually, it becomes many 'ah ha' moments! So the group and retreat work really complements and enhances the counseling experience.

I have found that I am softer as a clinician. My approach was more cognitive behavioral and not as emotive. This has allowed me to be gentler and kinder and not as heavy hitting.

"The hero is one who kindles a great light in the world, who sets up blazing torches in the dark streets of life for men to see by. The saint is the man who walks through the dark paths of the world, himself a light."

~ Felix Adler

A Story of Healing

When I was 17, about a month before my 18th birthday, I found out that I was pregnant. I couldn't believe it. Complete fear and shock went through my body. I immediately began to cry uncontrollably. What would I do? I felt sick. I went into total shutdown mode. Reality no longer applied. This couldn't be real, could it?

I was numb. I was frightened and too terrified to tell my father. He had always told me he would throw me out of the house if I got pregnant. Going to him would only make me a homeless person on top of everything else. So, I called my mother in New York. Her immediate response was that I would fly there and have the abortion done. Simple. She would take care of all the arrangements - I just had to pay for it.

My mind was racing and I further numbed myself with alcohol. I denied any acknowledgement of what was about to commence. I simply determined it wasn't really happening and that the child inside me was not really there. It was a defense mechanism.

I arrived in New York and within a day, was at an abortion clinic. While I waited in the small room with other women, I tried justifying what I was doing.

Going under, I was scared, but felt there was no way out, now. I didn't want this and I didn't want to be there...I kept pushing those thoughts to the very back of my mind. Hoping that I could eventually push them out completely. Never did I imagine that they would be there, waiting for me, as soon as I awoke and then still, for the rest of my life.

Waking up, I heard my own voice...it was screaming. I had tears running down my face, I grabbed at my abdomen and screamed for my baby!!! I screamed and screamed for her. They all tried to calm me down, but all I could do was ask for my baby. I complained of pain and they could not calm me. It was as if I knew...I knew at that very moment the horror of what I had just committed. I knew and there was nothing I could do to change it. Immediate remorse and regret. I was changed forever.

As we were walking out of the building and I was leaning on my mother for support, she announced that we would never speak of this again. No need to talk about it -we would just forget it and move on. I was shocked...I needed to talk about it. I felt my chest compressing and a weight was placed there...a weight that wouldn't be removed

for another 17 years.

I spent a lot of time trying to push the events of that day out of my mind. I suffered from nightmares and a spiraling self image. I wanted my baby and couldn't have her. I was worthless and everyone knew it. I wanted to feel safe...to be safe...to have someone come in and make it all better. Enter my ex-husband. He initially came with all those wonderful things...he took care of me...he gave me safety...I didn't have to make anymore decisions - it was easier this way.

Fast forward to our marriage. It was cold and demeaning. I wasn't allowed to be a person, I was there to do as I was told. I was watched and all of my decisions...ALL of my decisions were to be made by him. It spiraled out of control and my self esteem was beaten so low that I nearly forgot who I was before we met. I am at fault for that part because I allowed him in...I allowed him to take control and then, I allowed him to believe it was ok.

After a year, I began to snap out of the haze that had been my existence for so long. Our relationship and marriage failed and then, I went onto several failed relationships afterwards. I didn't understand love - I didn't even really love myself...not enough to think I deserved better than what I got.

Slowly, I began to get pieces of myself back. With every piece, I was able to gain more confidence. With every piece, my bad decisions became less traumatic. Eventually, I found that I could take care of myself and decided to live on my own. It was a good step - a necessary step. Did I make all the right decisions? No. But, I made better ones and learned more quickly from mistakes.

Enter my husband...the man to whom I've been married for nearly 10 years now and with whom I have built a healthy and wonderful life. Not for lack of trying to mess it up on my part, but luckily for me, he is a good and patient man. He saw my pain and looked past it...he's the first person who saw ME and helped me to realize that I was worth every good thing I had previously denied to myself.

After several years of marriage, he convinced me to attend a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. He knew it was time for me to finally deal with the pain of my abortion...a pain that had always haunted me and a pain that was becoming more and more visible to him every day. He attended with me and to my amazement, participated in all the activities fully. Not only did I receive the most compassionate and loving healing through that weekend, but in breaking out of those chains that bound me, I was also able to be completely and trustingly open to my marriage for the first time. What freedom! I actually felt in control of my pain...it no longer controlled me. I was free and on the road to a true recovery.

Christine Monteith now serves on the Rachel's Vineyard retreat team in Tulsa, OK. She can be contacted at mondabi2000@aol.com.

Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2011-Save the Dates

The next Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference will take place July 18th-21st, 2011 in Malvern, PA. Mark your calendars now and save the dates for an educational and inspirational gathering that you won't want to miss! We are moving into high gear in the planning of our conference. If you'd like to suggest any topics that would be helpful to your ministry, please email Kelly Smith at kelly@rachelsvineyard.org. We'll do our best to provide speakers and workshops that will be targeted to your needs.

"Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures."

~ Mother Teresa

Upcoming Events/Trainings

Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia

November 1, 2010

Marymount Dollar Dinner

Speaker: Theresa Burke, Ph.D

Contact: Andrew Waring

Andrew.Waring@marymount.edu

Providence, Rhode Island

November 6, 2010

***Rachel's Vineyard/Post-Abortion Training**

Speaker(s): Kevin Burke, LSW

Theresa Burke, Ph.D

Contact: Carol Owens

401-421-7833 x118

rl.outreach@dioceseofprovidence.org

Vienna, Austria

International Theological Institute

November 15-21, 2010

Speaker(s): Kevin Burke, LSW

Theresa Burke, Ph.D

Contact: Ginger Mortensen

+43 (2253) 21 808-13

ginger.mortensen@iti.ac.at

The ITI will be hosting a week of training, lectures and continuing education on post abortion trauma and healing.

Other Details: Fr. Frank Pavone and Janet Morana from Priests for Life will also be presenting.

**Regional Training*

Dr. Theresa Burke offers Regional Skill Building Clinics to those who serve in Rachel's Vineyard Ministries who are looking to expand their knowledge of the retreat process, to sharpen their facilitation skills and to update the team on any new developments in the ministry as well as sharing best practices.

A Regional Skill Building Clinic satisfies the required amount of continued training noted in the Rachel's Vineyard Licensing agreement.

For details and more information on how to host a regional training for sites in your area please contact Kelly Smith at Kelly@rachelsvineyard.org

Hispanic Outreach

Fr. Victor Salomon and Ms. Eugenia Hadly of Rachel's Vineyard recently presented for the Hispanics and the Culture of Life in the USA and Rachel's Vineyard training conference in the Diocese of Phoenix, AZ. Carmen Portela of the Rachel's Vineyard Spanish speaking Phoenix site wrote very highly of Fr. Salomon and Eugenia: "Father Salomon and Ms. Eugenia Hadley's workshop was excellent. We had the participation of about 150 people for the main conference and more than 30 people in the all day Rachel's Vineyard workshop."

Carmen continues: "The ease and authority with which Father Solomon talked about his mission to proclaim the Gospel of Life and how each of us must respond affirmatively was grasped deeply in our hearts and helped us realize that we must be part of the solution and not the problem, we must pray and act to defend life."

"The way Ms. Eugenia Hadley explained the process of healing made the workshop very interesting and very complete. We were inspired greatly to live every dynamic we learned from the retreat. The meditations deeply touched the hearts of the participants and they were very fruitful spiritual exercises."

"It also helped us understand that the vast majority of women who have had an

abortion, have suffered abuse or other traumas before the abortion. Thanks to the presentation by Father Victor Salomon of Priests for Life we have renewed our spirits and we received a clear guide to defend the unborn and help women and men who need to heal the wounds that have been left by abortion."

"Father Salomon was very articulate about the importance of acting to promote the respect for life and the hope of healing. In the Diocese of Phoenix we share with you the urgency and the need for Rachel's Vineyard worldwide. This ministry is essential to help all those women, men and entire families who are victims of abortion."

Fr. Victor and Eugenia Hadley have been invited to speak at the 1st Bi-national Respect Life and Evangelization Hispanic Congress to be held on June 10, 11, and 12, 2011. For more information please visit www.BProLife.org .

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 love is suffering because of past abuse visit www.griegtograce.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.

Kelowna, British Columbia
November 18-21, 2010
G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

Aston, Pennsylvania
March 21-25, 2011
info@griegtograce.org

Rachel's Vineyard Social Networking

Click the links below to visit Rachel's Vineyard social networking sites. Join today and send to your friends and family!

Facebook Fan Page: www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard
Facebook Cause: www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard
Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

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 including "Traumatic Reenactment," "PTSD," and "The Genesis of Abortion." 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.

Here is some recent praise for the DVD from Lynda Munroe of the Ottawa, Canada site:

"I've been meaning to pass on how our team has appreciated the Dvd's. We have viewed & discussed some as a team, & our prayer team has viewed the one giving an overview of the actual retreat which was excellent for those who had not participated in one. Also, our pastor viewed the Fr Pavone clergy ones. We intend to view a couple more with our team before our next retreat end of November. I highly recommend them."

Book Review-*The Horn of Samuel*

The Horn of Samuel, by David Allen follows his trial against Planned Parenthood. To learn more about the book or to order it, visit www.hornofsamuelbook.com .

Live Action DVD

The group "Live Action" has put out a new DVD featuring undercover investigations of the abortion industry. Live Action is a youth led movement dedicated to building a culture of life and ending abortion. They use new media to educate the public about the humanity of the unborn and investigative journalism to expose threats against the vulnerable and defenseless. You can request a copy of the DVD by e-mailing info@liveaction.org or calling (323) 454-3304. You can learn more about Live Action by visiting www.liveaction.org .

Feminist Fanaticism

Check out this interesting article by the daughter of feminist author of *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker. [Click here](#) to view "How my mother's fanatical feminist views tore us apart."

"God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners."

~Soren Kierkegaard

United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

For **Edna Henry**, who serves as the therapist on the Diocese of Bridgeport Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, and her family. Edna recently lost her husband, **Joe** to cancer. We pray for strength and peace in Christ for Edna and her family in this time of loss.

We pray in thanksgiving:

For the continued healing of baby **Kaitlyn Michele**, daughter of a team member on the **Linden, NJ** retreat team. Also, that her parents feel the love of Christ in a special way during this time.

For **George Griffiths**, husband of **Lore Griffiths** of the **Romeoville/Joliet, IL** site and his successful brain tumor surgery. May his health continue to improve and may he continue to be strengthened in the Lord.

Pope Benedict told us at the White House in 2008:

"Freedom is not only a gift, but also a summons to personal responsibility. Americans know this from experience – almost every town in this country has its monuments honoring those who sacrificed their lives in defense of freedom, both at home and abroad. The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate.

It also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate. In a word, freedom is ever new. It is a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over for the cause of good."

Other Conferences/Events of Interest

San Antonio, TX

November 6, 2010

Suffering, Healing, and Compassion in Medicine;

A Converging Roads Conference for Health Care Professionals, Catechists, and Clergy

Contact: Chris Stravitsch

(210) 734-5137 ext. 1440 or

Register online at: www.convergingroads.com

CEUs Available

Washington, D.C.

December 3, 2010

50 Years of "The Pill" in America: A Comprehensive Analysis

Sponsored by Human Life International

Contact: info@hliamerica.com or (785) 256-0132 or

[Click here](#) to visit the registration page.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Baltimore County (Interdenom), Maryland

Local Host: Serenity Pastoral Counseling

Contact: Pam Bell 410-977-2571 serenitypcc@comcast.net

Website: www.serenitypcc.com

Note: Interdenominational

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Boise, Idaho

Contact: Gerry and Susan Guzman 208-938-9797 gsguzman@msn.com

Contact: Terry Lennox 208-938-4976 terrylennox@cableone.net

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Clarks Summit/Scranton, Pennsylvania

Contact: Denise Rowinski Mengak 570-822-7118 x307 drowinski@csswb.org

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Dallas, Texas

Contact: Caryn Stevens 214-544-2273 healing@racheldallas.org

Website: www.racheldallas.org

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Edmonton and Rural Area, Alberta Canada

Contact: Jennifer 780-963-4048 jensbranches@live.ca

Contact: Marlene Javorsky javofarms@gmail.com

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Lubbock, Texas

Contact: Kathy Krile 806-577-5912 lbb_rachelsvineyard@hotmail.com

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Miami (Español), Florida

Local Host: St John Neumann Catholic Church Clamor de Vida y Esperanza Ministry

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

Note: Spanish

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Nashville, Tennessee

Contact: Phil Trevathan 615-525-8239 info@hopeafterabortiontn.com

Contact: Colleen 270-598-0443 info@hopeafterabortionky.com

Contact: Debbie 270-683-6933 rv.bgky@yahoo.com

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Omaha/Lincoln, Nebraska

Contact: Heather helpingrachel@yahoo.com

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Portland, Oregon

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

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Puglia, Piemonte Italy

Contact: Italia-Sud Monika e Domenico Montanaro 39.099.7724.518
info.vignadirachele@yahoo.it

Contact: Italia-Nord Valeria D'Antonio 011-39-347-262-5321
valedantony@katamail.com

Website: www.vignadirachele.org

Note: (sede itinerante)

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Springfield, Massachusetts

Contact: Mary Petisce 413-783-8619 srmmarysj@comcast.net

Contact: Claire Lapointe 413-452-0661 sr.claire@diospringfield.org

Retreat Location: Chicopee & Stockbridge

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Taipei, Taiwan

Contact: Georgie Hsieh 886-2-933426608 georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw

November 5 - November 7, 2010 -- Wellington Region, Wellington New Zealand

Contact: Suzanne O'Rourke 64-04-973-0904 suzanne@voiceforlife.org.nz

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: Mary Ann McNeil 404-717-5557 pathmcneil@earthlink.net

Website: www.healingafterabortion.org

November 12- November 14, 2010 -- Glasgow, Scotland

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

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Lancaster, Kentucky

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Lexington

Contact: Sharla Wells 877-792-3330 sharlaky@yahoo.com

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact: Kathleen Miller 702-737-1672 katm419@aol.com

Note: Interdenominational Retreat and Catholic

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Las Vegas (Español), Nevada

Contact: Maria Vasquez 702-283-8379 shalom_m@msn.com

Note: Español

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Longbranch, Washington

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

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Madison, Wisconsin

Local Host: Diocese of Madison

Contact: Mary Mead 608-221-9593 meadmt@sbcglobal.net

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Melbourne (Interdenom), Victoria Australia

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

Website: www.opendoors.com.au

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Pittsburgh (Western PA), Pennsylvania

Contact: Abigayle Koller 412-977-9521 rachelsvineyard.westernpa@yahoo.com

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

November 12 - November 14, 2010 -- Tulsa, Oklahoma

Contact: Mary Lee 918-508-7142 mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Baltimore, Maryland

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

Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 410-299-9597

Website: www.project-rachel.net

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Doylestown, Pennsylvania

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

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Hildesheim, Germany

Contact: Christiane Kurpik chrkur@web.de

Contact: Anne Arthur amecarthur@yahoo.com

November 19 - November 19, 2010 -- Jacksonville/St. Augustine, Florida

Contact: Donna Augustine 904-221-3232 rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Katy, Texas

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston

Contact: Mary Lee 254-383-1717 ml.mason@att.net

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Linden, New Jersey

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark

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

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Northwest Indiana, Indiana

Local Host: Angela House

Contact: Kathy Druzicki 219-558-0625 kdruz@att.net

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Orlando/Central Florida, Florida

Contact: Karen Reilly 321-662-5097 karenreilly57@gmail.com

Retreat Location: San Pedro Center

Website: www.sanpedrocenter.org

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Providence, Rhode Island

Local Host: Life & Family Ministry, Diocese of Providence

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118 rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Website: www.dioceseofprovidence.org

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Richardton, North Dakota

Local Host: Bismarck Diocese

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

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- San Juan, Puerto Rico

Contact: Diana Lopez 787-619-3965 centromirna@yahoo.com

Note: Puerto Rico - Mirna - Vinedo de Raquel

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Contact: Martin Mergen 1-800-700-7867 mmergen@sio.midco.net

November 19 - November 21, 2010 -- Wheeling, West Virginia

Local Host: Catholic Charities of West Virginia

Contact: Tawnya Knierim 304-233-0880 ext 459 rachelsvineyardwv@comcast.net

November 26 - November 28, 2010 -- Ann Arbor/Detroit Area, Michigan

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

November 26 - November 28, 2010 -- Ottawa, Ontario Canada

Contact: Terry or Lynda Munroe 613-806-5522 rvr_ottawa@yahoo.ca

Note: Interdenom, English

December 3 - December 5, 2010 -- Baltimore County (Interdenom), Maryland

Local Host: Serenity Pastoral Counseling

Contact: Pam Bell 410-977-2571 serenitypcc@comcast.net

Website: www.serenitypcc.com

Note: Interdenominational

December 3 - December 5, 2010 -- Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: Lala Rey Méndez 0291 154 74 4500 lalareymendez@gmail.com

Retreat Location: "Casa de Ejercicios de Las Esclavas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús"

December 3 - December 5, 2010 -- Los Angeles (Español), California

Contact: Amparo Kinnsch 877-2-RAQUEL

Note: Español

December 3 - December 5, 2010 -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Contact: Joanne Forgue rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844

Note: We have available: ongoing, confidential "before and after the retreat" spiritual support meetings called Layers of Healing.

December 10 - December 12, 2010 -- Fort Worth, Texas

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

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 817-886-4760 misericordia@racheltx.org

Website: www.racheltx.org

December 10 - December 12, 2010 -- Tampa, Florida

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 emmaboe@aol.com

Retreat Location: Bethany Retreat Center, Lutz, FL