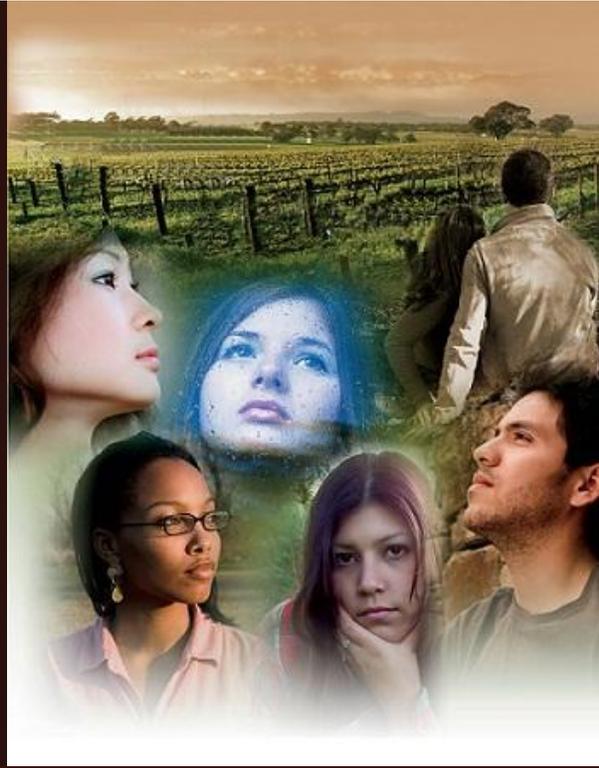


# *Vine & Branches*

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

July, 2011



*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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) and through line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.*

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## The Early Project Rachel Model: *Ministry by Professionals*

By Kevin Burke, LSW

In February 2011 Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard was invited as one of three experts to address the *Pontifical Academy for Life* in Rome on post abortion research. During her presentation to the Academy of Life, Boston psychiatrist and fellow presenter Dr. Joanne Angelo used the opportunity to warn the international gathering of Pro Life Scholars against using the Rachel's Vineyard retreat model. Dr. Angelo added that "*Project Rachel was the approved Catholic outreach for post abortion healing*"...emphasizing the word *Project*, as if there was some inherent incoherence between Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard.

The following day Theresa and Dr. Angelo both had the privilege of meeting Pope Benedict XVI. As they waited to meet the Holy Father, providentially they sat together. Theresa asked Dr. Angelo about her comments expressing surprise that she would have such negative things to say about Rachel's Vineyard in front of the Academy. Why did she make such a big distinction between *Project Rachel* and *Rachel's Vineyard*? Theresa reminded Dr. Angelo that Rachel's Vineyard is an integral and trusted resource of many Project Rachel programs in the United States. More and more bishops are using Rachel's Vineyard internationally, and obviously, it is also respected at the level of the Vatican.

In order to better understand the tension that sometimes exists between these two models, some background history on Project Rachel may prove enlightening.

### **Ministry by Professionals**

The original model of Project Rachel instituted by the founder Vicki Thorn in 1984 and articulated to this day by Dr. Joanne Angelo involved referral of post abortive women to professional counselors or to Priests for one on one counseling and pastoral care. It was thought that given the deep psychological issues and grave spiritual matters facing the post abortive women, only counseling professionals or pastoral specialists (Clergy) were qualified to provide safe and effective service to this population. Groups, retreats and certainly any program with post abortive women in positions of leadership, were greatly suspect as potentially causing women emotional damage and presenting

unacceptable levels of liability risks to diocese.

One characteristic of the traditional psychotherapeutic relationship (also reflected in many clergy relationships with post abortive women in the early days of Project Rachel), was the development of an intimate, often *longer term relationship* where the individual comes to depend on the singular caregiver for support and guidance.

This presented a number of drawbacks in ministry with post abortive clients.

### **Sensory Based Treatment**

In this excerpt from **Sharing the Heart of Christ**, ([click here](#) to order) we examine the limits of "talk therapy" with those who have suffered trauma:

*Traditional talk therapy may well be ineffective, and perhaps detrimental if it serves as the **exclusive** form of treatment for those who have suffered traumas according to Daniel Sweeney, Ph.D., a Professor of Counseling at George Fox University in Portland. [1]*

*...As trauma specialist Bessel Van der Kolk, MD shares, "Trauma by definition involves speechless terror: patients often are simply unable to put what they feel into words and are left with intense emotions..."*

Experts in the field of trauma conclude that treatment with clients must be multidisciplinary including group therapy, cognitive behavioral therapies, and psycho-educational groups. Specialists in neuroscience recommend that trauma therapy should stimulate the right-brain through creative imagination, ritual and prayer. A *sensory based* experience prevents individuals being re-traumatized or dissociating during counseling, as can occur in ongoing talk-therapy treatment. It is important to keep people "grounded" so they can process and move through the deeply painful event.

That's exactly what Rachel's Vineyard is able to accomplish through the use of music, ritual, breathing, movement, and a stimulation of all 5 senses: sight, touch, taste, hearing, smell. Hence the importance of the retreat "props" such as rose petals, lighting candles, water, the cup of bitterness and blessing, music etc. that serve to engage the senses and calm the participant as they access painful emotions and memories.

Many professionals and laity working with those suffering traumatic loss now have a better understanding of why a program like Rachel's Vineyard has been so successful and popular among post aborted women and men, the consumers of the pastoral care. They are the best judge of what makes them feel better and heals their relationship with God.

### **Therapist Protect their *Vulnerable* Patient**

Therapist *without a trauma-effective multidisciplinary treatment approach* which incorporates a retreat like Rachel's Vineyard can expect that many of their post abortive patients will continue to suffer with the painful symptoms of trauma. They

may understandably, but wrongly conclude like Dr Angelo that in order to protect their vulnerable clients, *they must protect post abortive women* from what they perceive as an unprofessional and emotionally intensive program like Rachel's Vineyard, which they believe would damage them in their vulnerable emotional state. Sadly this denies a healing resource that for many clients would bring deep healing, peace and a significant reduction and often elimination of symptoms.

However there may be another factor at work in the distrust of some therapists toward a program like Rachel's Vineyard.

Valerie Jacobs, MA is the Project Rachel Coordinator from the Archdiocese of Seattle. She has a Master of Arts in Psychology is from Antioch University Seattle and a registered counselor in Washington since 1993. Valerie has served the Archdiocese for 17 ½ years in post abortion ministry and began to offer the Rachel's Vineyard retreat in May of 1998. As she witnessed the effectiveness of the retreats she wondered if therapist referring their clients might feel threatened by this powerful healing program. The experience of women and men on her retreats presented a stark contrast to the psychotherapeutic approach which she found ran the risk of becoming co-dependent on the client's continuing need for long term therapy.

Valerie shares:

*"The testimony of my lead facilitators, professional counselors, repeatedly stated how the retreat weekend moves individuals further along in three days than they ever witness in months (or years) of one-on-one work. A number of retreat participants who were referred to us by their counselors were able to discontinue individual counseling after the retreat because of the depth of healing and resolution. I've often wondered how these therapists felt about referring any other clients to us for fear of losing their business!"*

### **Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard - Ministry Synergy**

**Synergy:** *The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects.*

Fortunately, the counselors and clergy in Valerie's Project Rachel referral network discovered that the retreat and individual therapy are highly *complementary* components of healing for many people. Valerie shares:

*Ultimately it is up to that individual to determine their continuing counseling needs. Whether both are needed varies with each individual. I would never advise a Rachel's Vineyard retreat participant to discontinue with their individual therapist. In fact, I always encourage them to consider (or remain in) the supportive relationship to process the retreat experience and continue to sort through remaining life issues. Occasionally I suggest some one-on-one counseling sessions in preparation for a retreat. We advise participants that follow up counseling may be very beneficial to unravel secondary issues: marital, drug/alcohol, past physical and/or sexual abuse, other mental health or family of origin issues and offer resources for them to consider.*

Many Project Rachel programs like Seattle are offering a more comprehensive model of

post abortion ministry that reflects the value of support group and retreat models complementing the pastoral care of clergy and support of counselors. The participation of clergy and counselors serving on each Rachel's Vineyard retreat team, (and often referring the women and men in pastoral care to the retreats, *and when appropriate including their spouse*) creates a healthier model of ministry.

In this model you find mutual accountability and respect for one another's unique role in the healing process. In addition, this development in the Project Rachel Model responds to some of the problems inherent in the traditional approach that were reported to us in our national consultation and training in the last 15 years:

*There is less likelihood of a co- dependent dynamic developing in the clergy/pastoral care relationship or therapeutic relationship, as caregivers in the network interface with the retreats, serve on teams and use them as a referral resource. We have found this creates a dynamic, safe and effective ministry synergy.*

We have found that this increase in accountability and interface in ministry between clergy, laity, professionals, and at times networking with outside service providers like Rachel's Vineyard, reduces some of the inherent risks and liability concerns we discovered in the exclusive one-on-one clergy/counselor referral model. Most importantly, this is in the best interests of the post abortive women, men, couples and families in need of reconciliation and healing.

### **Opening the Door to Healing in Christ**

Dr Joanne Angelo's assessment of Theresa and Rachel's Vineyard reflects a failure to see the possibilities in other treatment resources, and *to trust the experience of the consumers of post abortion healing services...even if many of these women and men do not have degrees in counseling or psychiatry.*

Valerie Jacobs rightly points out the true source of healing:

*All of us working in the Lord's Vineyard understand the source of power in the Rachel's Vineyard retreat model. It is nothing that any of us do beyond creating an environment and an open door for the Holy Spirit. Individuals truly meet Christ in the heart of their personal darkness and in their abortion wound. He is the only true and complete source of light and healing.*

As she prepared to greet the Pope, Theresa shared with Dr Angelo that she would offer a prayer for a spirit of collaboration rather than criticism. It is only fitting that a retreat program that facilitates such an intimate healing encounter with Jesus should be carried out by those who are always seeking to foster healing and collaboration within the Church.

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[1] The Neurobiology of Psychic Trauma and Treatment Considerations. *Christian*

## A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

What a blessing it is to be entering into another of our Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Training Conferences. These gatherings are times of grace, of learning, of building relationships, and indeed of healing, just as the RV retreat itself is. And it is very significant that we will have during this conference an opportunity to bring some of the Regional Coordinators of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign together with the RV teams. There is a natural partnership between the two, and we want that to grow more and more.

Besides a keynote talk on the Biblical meaning of "healing," I will be leading some discussions about fostering relationships with Project Rachel, with priests, and with the institutional Church. There can be difficulties and many misunderstandings in this area. To help avoid some of these misunderstandings, it's important to understand the nature of the institutional Church and the roles of some of its offices.

Of particular note is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This is a mechanism to foster communication and collaboration among the bishops; it does not in any way replace the role of the individual bishop, or of any particular ministry in the Church (like RV!). Moreover, it is not the role of the USCCB to offer a stamp of approval on particular ministries. The Conference offers its encouragement to all who work for the Church's mission, urges them to work together collaboratively, and recognizes that the call to such work originates not with them, but with our baptism!

May the Lord, who inspires every good work, continue to guide and strengthen us!

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank Pavone  
Pastoral Director and Chairman, Rachel's Vineyard  
National Director, Priests for Life  
Follow me at [twitter.com/frfrankpavone](https://twitter.com/frfrankpavone)

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## Rachel's Vineyard Yellowknife

By Pat Regan

Hosting a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Canada's North presents some unique challenges! Our diocesan retreat house is located near the city of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Our team members live in three different communities situated

hundreds of miles apart. Team planning sessions happen over the phone. We asked Janet Kormish of Kelowna who mentored us on the weekend, to bring certain retreat supplies with her which are not available in the North. We are very grateful to Janet for her support.

The Mackenzie highway connects some communities but most northerners travel by "bush plane". Jeanne Leguerrier (hospitality) and I are from Fort Smith, a community of 2,600 on the Alberta / NWT border. It took us 4 hours to drive to our closest neighboring town of Hay River through 272 scenic kilometers (170 miles) of wilderness of which 1/3 is gravel road with flying rock that can cost you a new windshield! No stores, restaurants or coffee bars. We saw nothing except trees, black bears, whooping cranes, a fox, a wolf and 3 herds of wood bison (buffalo). Imagine 17 bison, measuring 6 feet tall and 1500 lbs, walking in a row towards your vehicle! When *they* decide to move out of your way, you can then drive slowly through the herd with the assistance of some very large angels!

Fueling up in Hay River on the south shore of Great Slave Lake (the second largest lake in Canada) we continued the remaining 468 km (291 mi) drive to Yellowknife encountering 4 smaller herds of bison. At Fort Providence, Jeanne and I rode the ferry across the mighty Mackenzie River (2600 miles long) and ate our home-packed lunch at a roadside picnic site. After 10 hours travelling, we reached the retreat centre, which is located on picturesque Trapper's Lake where we were lodged in cozy log cabins.

Our Living Scriptures took place in the "Tepee", a room which is constructed in the style of a traditional Aboriginal dwelling. During the meditations we could hear the lapping of water and the call of a loon. Eleven Aboriginal (Indigenous) women from 4 different villages participated in our June 3-5 retreat weekend. Their desire for reconciliation and healing and their openness to the process prepared the way for a great out-pouring of God's mercy and love. When asked what the most meaningful part of the retreat was, one participant said, "Getting to know Jesus. He's forgiving, loving and will not abandon you or punish you for your sins."

These women have experienced freedom in learning Truth and accepting forgiveness. They have become a source of hope for all post-abortive women as they are now able to witness to the message that there is help. Another retreatant even stated, "I didn't know there were people out there to help." Not only can they witness to the fact that help is out there, but also that healing is within their reach, as one woman said, "It helped a lot knowing that you are not alone. The meditations, songs and prayers made a real difference, making me realize where the pain is coming from. Now I know which part of my body needs healing." These women of God are now keen to share their experiences with their sisters and friends so that people in their communities will know that Rachel's Vineyard and healing from abortion is available to all Northerners.

I am very grateful that "Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ." Romans 8:35. No dusty roads, no distance nor bison. Though life may hand us our fair share of obstacles and empty wastelands, we can trust in God to know that He will always provide healing in the end. I pray God's blessing on Rachel's Vineyard and all the people it serves.

## Meet Our Staff

We welcomed Kathleen Corrigan to the Rachel's Vineyard staff family at the beginning of June as our newest Administrative Assistant!

### **Tell us a little about yourself.**

It all started on a beautiful spring day in Edison, NJ. On April 20, 1988 a beautiful, pink, little Kathleen Corrigan was born. Now let's fast forward a little...

I grew up in the lovely town of Easton, PA. When I was little my mom signed me up for dance classes as something to do, but over time that "something to do" turned into a love and passion for the art of dance. So much, in fact, that I attended the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts (LVPA) and graduated as a Dance major. I continued my education at the prestigious DeSales University and graduated with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in Theology. I continued dancing throughout college with the DeSales University Dance Department and Monarch Dance Company (a local modern dance company). After college, I really had it on my heart to continue on to do a year of service somewhere. And so, the Lord led me to a magical place where children run ramped called Camp Gray Catholic Camp, a Catholic summer camp and year-round retreat center, in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. I spent nine months at Camp Gray running Confirmation, Leadership, Teambuilding, Spiritual, and Environmental Stewardship retreats for young people between the ages of 10-18. I returned from Wisconsin in May 2011 and shortly thereafter, began working as an Administrative Assistant at the Rachel's Vineyard International Headquarters and I love everything about it!

### **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I really love to shop in all of my free time. It's pretty bad. But for those times where I find myself low on cash, I like to catch up with good friends over a cup of coffee, sip on a glass of wine with my mom, spend time with my wonderful boyfriend, run, dance, ride my bicycle, do anything outdoors, read a good novel, listen to Al Green, challenge myself with crossword puzzles, and cook (just to name a few).

### **What led you to Rachel's Vineyard?**

I was actually led to Rachel's Vineyard by my good friend and fellow administrative assistant Amanda Miner. When a job opening became available, she kindly referred me to Dr. Burke and Katie D'Annunzio. Apparently, they got a pretty good impression of me because here I am working for them!

### **What is your job description?**

As an administrative assistant, I handle a lot of phone calls, emails, and other correspondences from many Rachel's Vineyard team members and women and men seeking healing. Right now, I have been working a lot on our Leadership Conference that is coming up in a few weeks by making sure all of those signed up have all of the information they need to get here and assigning all participants to the rooms they will

be staying in (so now you know who to blame if you're attending the conference and unhappy with your room!). I am also in charge of arranging Theresa and Kevin's teaching itinerary for speaking engagements. Out of all of this, however, I would have to say the most important aspect of my job would involve making coffee every morning and providing comic relief for all those who work so diligently in our office.

### **What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

I would have to say the most rewarding aspect of my job is being a part of such a beautiful organization. Rachel's Vineyard has helped thousands of women around the world to reconcile with themselves, others and with God. They also have the opportunity to grieve the loss of their children and by doing so, open their hearts to the gifts of love and mercy and come closer to the Lord through it all. The fact that I get to play even a small part in this powerful work is such a blessing and incredibly rewarding.

### **What is the most challenging aspect of your job?**

I would definitely have to say hiding the smell of coffee from Katie in the morning. Without a doubt. The challenge is insurmountable.

### **Any closing thoughts to share with us before you get back to work?**

This is only my second week on the job, so I still have a lot to learn, but it has been wonderful so far! In just a week and a half I have had the pleasure of speaking with some of the dedicated staff at Priests for Life, heard the incredible testimonies of pro-life warriors, and helped Dr. Burke plan one of her classes. I am so happy to be working in a place that does such good work and that offers me so many learning opportunities. I am looking forward to working more in depth with so many wonderful people and learning all that I can from Rachel's Vineyard!

[Click here](#) to view Kathleen's official biography and picture!

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"I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments."  
~Psalm 119:45

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## **Aftercare Retreats in Canada a Great Success!!**

By Fr. Ben Cameron

On May 12th, I flew from New York (where I had given a series of classes for the Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery in the Bronx) to Kelowna, British Columbia. Kelowna is a beautiful city located on the banks of Okanagan Lake in the southern part of the province. I was met at the airport by two old friends from Rachel's

Vineyard Leadership Conferences – Janet Kormish and Marie Clarke.

Our retreat that weekend was held at the beautiful Seton House of Prayer, which is located on a hillside overlooking the valley and the lake – a wonderful setting for a retreat! We had 29 retreatants (26 women and 3 men) for our “semi-silent retreat.” Why do I call it “semi-silent”? Because I knew that with a group of men and women who had been through post-abortion healing, that we would need time to share our experiences, our trial, struggles and joys with one another. Our retreat was an “after-care” retreat primarily for those who had already made a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat. We had Mass each day, conferences on Friday evening, Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, and a closing conference on Sunday morning. We had lots of time for silent reflection and prayer, for spiritual direction and/or confession, all-night Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday night (which anyone who has made a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat knows is a powerful time of intimacy with our Eucharistic Lord Jesus), and we had some “Question and Answer/Discussion” times after the conferences. Sometimes I thought that the best insights were not those given by me as the retreat master, but those shared by the retreatants during the discussions!

As with any good retreat, I came away somewhat tired from the work of giving the retreat, but spiritually refreshed and encouraged by the deep spirituality and commitment to holiness that I saw in the women and men who made the retreat. One lady actually drove 9 ½ hours from Edmonton, Alberta to make this retreat – talk about commitment!

After the retreat in Kelowna, I had several quiet days to rest there at Seton House, and I enjoyed the hospitality of some of the folks there. Thank you, Margaret & Russ! Thank you, Marie! May God bless your kindness to me!

On Thursday, May 19th, I took a flight from Kelowna to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where I was to give another “Rachel’s Vineyard After-care Retreat.” This retreat was held in the little town of Bruno, at an interesting little school called the “St. Therese School of Faith and Mission.” It is a one year program for deeper learning and living of the Catholic Faith, and has been called to a “novitiate for the laity.” Anyway, St. Therese School allowed us to use one of their wings for our retreat.

This second retreat group was organized by Bonnie Cameron (no known relation to myself), and the group was a bit smaller than the one at Kelowna – 10 ladies total, but that was a good thing since it left time for every one of the retreatants to meet with me individually. Like the first retreat, this one was an excellent spiritual retreat – very inspirational for me as a priest to witness the deep spirit of prayer among these women. I am always edified by the spirituality, the humility and the love that I find among the women and men who have made Rachel’s Vineyard retreats for healing after abortion, and to see the wondrous effects that Our Lord’s Love and Mercy can work in the souls of those who had received these deep wounds – may the Lord Jesus be praised for His Grace and Mercy!

Between these two retreats, we now have seven new members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy in Canada! Thank you, ladies, for a great time in your beautiful country, for two great retreats, and above all, for joining us in our united pursuit of holiness. Holiness is, indeed, the only true remedy for the evil of abortion in our society – and who better to become saints than those who have once been wounded by

abortion?

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## Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2011

Please [click here](#) to view the Promo Video for the July 18-21, 2011 Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference!

Please keep our upcoming International Leadership Conference in your prayers as it quickly approaches. Keep the safety of all those traveling to the conference as an intention. We pray that the conference will be very fruitful for many who labor in the vineyard.

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"But you must be careful so that your freedom does not cause others with a weaker conscience to stumble." ~1 Corinthians 8:9

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## Miscarriage Loss

By Fr. Frank Pavone

The wound comes from well-meaning people. "Well, it wasn't that far along." "You can always have another child." "Lots of people go through this."

Miscarriage is a tragedy that so many people misunderstand. They are not quite sure how to console a friend or relative who has suffered this loss.

While there are no magic formulas, there is one fundamental truth that needs to stay front and center: a miscarriage is the loss of a child who is just as real and has just as much value as any other child of any age. A woman who has a miscarriage is a parent who has lost a child, as is the father of the child as well.

In a society which continues to have a legal and cultural blind spot for the unborn, many suffer from the illusion that miscarriage doesn't grieve a parent as much as the loss of, well, a "real child." And that is precisely what hurts so much. We can never console someone in grief if we imply, even remotely, that the person they lost wasn't real.

Dr. Byron Calhoun, President of the American Association of Pro-life Ob-Gyns, has observed that prior to 1970, the loss of a child before or during birth was often treated in medical literature as a "non-event," but that now there is a growing awareness of the grief associated with such loss. In fact, Dr. Calhoun has developed a hospice program for unborn children.

As the medical community advances in sensitivity and understanding of these points, so must we all. Our love, our compassion, our sharing in the grief of such losses, can

bring healing to the parents who have suffered miscarriage. The naming of these children who have died is one significant way of acknowledging their reality. The counting of these children matters too, so that if a parent is asked how many children he/she has, the child who died before birth is counted as one of them.

I recall the first pro-life billboard that we set up in 1990 here in our community of Staten Island, New York. It depicted a developing unborn child. One of the first phone calls I received about it was from a woman who had lost a child by miscarriage. "I can't tell you how consoling your billboard is to me. Thank you." That was all she said.

Perhaps the reason it was consoling was that someone was saying publicly what she knew privately: that was a real child. The life of that child matters, no matter how short it was. The death of that child matters, no matter how many may not cry. And the love I have for that child matters, even if nobody else knows.

Lord, comfort all parents who grieve the loss of their children of any age. Take them into Your loving arms, and give us strength until the day You give them back to us in heaven. Amen.

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## Save the Date-Holy Land Pilgrimage

Save the Date for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land! Join Kevin & Theresa Burke, Janet Morana of Silent No More, Priests for Life, Teresa Tomeo of Ave Maria Catholic Radio and the Catholic View for Women, Steve & Janet Ray, Producers of the Footprints of God documentaries and certified guides on this beautiful journey. The pilgrimage will take place April 22-May 1, 2012. Please [click here](#) for more information and the registration form.

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"Do not be afraid to be saints. Follow Jesus Christ who is the source of freedom and light. Be open to the Lord so that He may lighten all your ways." ~Bl. Pope John Paul II

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## An Independence Day Appeal

The 4th of July is a joyful time that celebrates our freedom as a nation. You can help someone this 4th of July to experience the freedom that comes with healing after the pain of abortion by supporting Rachel's Vineyard.

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

Here's how to make a donation:

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

By Phone: 610-354-0555

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

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## Catholic Tea-Celebri-TEA

Theresa was chosen as Catholici-TEA's "Celebri-TEA" of the month for July! Check out Theresa's featured "Celebri-TEA" interview with mycatholictea.com and shop their wonderful teas while you're there!

**Catholicism is filled with numerous examples of men and women who have seen and/or heard the Good News, and then took action to transform their lives in such a way that they've truly become the light of the world. If you could physically sit down to tea with anyone of our great Catholic Saints, or soon to be Saints, then who would you select? Why? What questions would you ask him/her?**

"I would love to have tea with St. Teresa (The Little Flower) and Mother Teresa. I chose them because I have always felt very close to them, they are my patron saints! I would really enjoy the experience of their presence: their sense of humor, their quirky ways, their stories about little things that happened to them and surely any saintly wisdom would be wonderful!! I am particularly interested in how they persevered when many people were out to abort their love or mission. I would LOVE to hear about those challenges. When we think of great saints, we typically think they have some extraordinary grace that gave them super human powers to endure life. I certainly believe that can happen, but I think it's probably much more common that they were very real, just like us, in their humanity. I am most curious about the particular emotions they experienced and how they disciplined themselves, who they felt comfortable sharing with and why, did they grieve alone? -" Tips for the torture" as it was, and how they dealt with the opposition they received, especially from the church, their communities and the long suffering required by most saints. Once they get to heaven, I'd love to know how that cross-filled spiritual journey helped them in the soul - and I would love to know if they believe God could have possibly planned an easier way!"

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the interview.

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## Upcoming Events/Trainings

**NightVision Music Festival - Olathe, CO**

**Friday, July 08, 2011 - Saturday, July 09, 2011**

Dr. Theresa Burke, along with Fr. Frank Pavone and Dr. Alveda King, will be speaking at the NightVision Music Festival in Colorado on Friday July 8th.

For more info: <http://www.nightvisionphm.com/>

**Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference - Malvern PA  
Monday, July 18, 2011 -Thursday, July 21, 2011**

See the [registration](#) brochure on our homepage for more information.

**Rachel's Vineyard Clinical/Regional Training\*- Corpus Christi, TX  
Friday, September 23, 2011- Sunday, September 25, 2011**

Speaker: Theresa Burke, PhD

Contact: Deacon Stephen Nolte 361-882-6191 ext. 638

**Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) Conference- Philadelphia, PA  
Thursday, October 6, 2011 -Sunday, October 9, 2011**

Speaker: Theresa Burke, PhD

For more information [click here](#).

**Right to Life Banquet - Saginaw, MI  
Tuesday, October 18, 2011**

Speaker: Theresa Burke, Ph.D.

Contact: Saginaw County Right to Life [sagcountyrtrl@yahoo.com](mailto:sagcountyrtrl@yahoo.com)

Details: Fundraising Banquet from 6-9pm

*\*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  
Amanda Miner at [assistant@rachelsvineyard.org](mailto:assistant@rachelsvineyard.org)*

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"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."  
~Albert Camus

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Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

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Getaway Weekend: April 20-22, 2012  
*Mariawald Renewal Center; Reading, PA*  
<http://www.mariawaldrenewal.com/>

For all who labor in the Vineyard. All team members welcome!

**~Rejoice~Refresh~Renew~Relax~Recharge~Reinvent~Reconnect~**

Come away and rest a while: that is the focus of this weekend. No heavy schedules--a time to rest, reflect, and be with others who share our passion and work in Rachel's Vineyard.

Our goal is to do basic preparation for a nurturing weekend. We all do a little bit and serve each other. The facility is small and intimate and we will have the entire place.

We are a work in progress and are open to your suggestions.  
There is a limit of **48 participants** so register early!!

For more information, please contact Joy Crimmins: 717-788-4959  
[RVpamd@gmail.com](mailto:RVpamd@gmail.com)

*"Amnesia of Sin"*  
By: Theresa Mary

"We may not be able to remember our 'Amnesia Day,' but we all have memories of our childhood, our teen years, and adulthood, memories of those moments—both good and bad—that help us grow. In *Amnesia of Sin*, Theresa Mary brings us on the incredible journey through her life, sharing those memories that have formed her as a strong woman of God. Join her for wild Amnesia Day parties, travels around the world to witness miracles and receive messages from the Blessed Mother, a wedding day blizzard, shop talk, heartbreak, motherhood, and so much more. You'll find a friend who can make you laugh and cry and who can impact your life in these pages."  
(tatepublishing.com)

***Amnesia of Sin* is available in Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, and Borders bookstores.**

## Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy Retreat

"Rachel's Vineyard Aftercare Retreat," introducing the call to holiness and the spirituality of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy:

Date: October 21-23

Place: Casa Maria Convent and Retreat House (Sisters Servants of the Eternal Word), in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cost: \$135 per person or \$270 per couple

The retreat house has room for 33 retreatants, and reservations can be made by calling:

Sister Louise Marie at (205) 956-6760.

## Women Hurt

The Women Hurt group recently launched in Ireland. The initiative which was launched via a nationwide billboard campaign, website and youtube video gives a platform for women who have had abortions to share their stories of how abortion impacted negatively on their lives and how they subsequently sought help and healing.

Check out Bernadette Goulding of the Rachel's Vineyard Ireland retreat site in this youtube video about her abortion testimony! [Click here](#) for the youtube video. Also, please leave a positive comment on the video if you'd like! You can check out more information at <http://womenhurt.ie> .

## The Catholic View for Women

Don't miss the next episode of *The Catholic View for Women* on EWTN airing on Friday, July 8 at 3:00am and 6:30pm ET!! The topic is "Contraception Deception". Visit the website for more information at [www.thecatholicviewforwomen.com](http://www.thecatholicviewforwomen.com) !

### *"Board of Health wants birth control talk after abortion"*

Check out this article on repeat abortions in New York and what the Board of Health is looking to do to fix the problem. [Click here](#) to read the article.

## 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](http://www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard)

Facebook Cause: [www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard](http://www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard)

Check out our new Youtube videos!: [www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard](http://www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard)

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"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."  
~Martin Luther King Jr.

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## United in Prayer

*We pray for the following intentions:*

For the repose of the soul of **Diane Marinacci** of the **Richmond, VA** Rachel's Vineyard site. Diane recently passed away after a battle with cancer. We pray that her team and family be comforted in this time of loss.

For **Monika Rodman's** (facilitator for the Rachel's Vineyard site in **Italy**) 79 year old father **Ray** who was just diagnosed with esophageal cancer. For wisdom and discernment for Ray and **Dorthea**, Monika's mom, about treatments, the grace to be led to excellent physicians, strength for the journey, courage and a fighting spirit should discouragement and fear strike, peace of heart, trust in God's purposes and healing in the ways only known to Him.

For a couple in **Fresno, CA** who has asked for prayers for a special intention.

*We pray in thanksgiving:*

For the new Rachel's Vineyard site in **Bogota, Columbia** facilitated by **Yahayra Montenegro**. Please keep Yahayra and team in your prayers as they labor in Rachel's Vineyard.

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## Other Conferences/Events of Interest

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### American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals- Annual Meeting

Duluth Minnesota is the site of the 30th Annual Meeting of the AAFCP, July 20-23, 2011. The theme of this year's meeting is "Superior Women's Health." This meeting offers us the opportunity to discover new developments in FertilityCare, Natural Family Planning (NFP), and Natural Procreative Technology (NaPro, NPT) as well as new ideas for marketing our services, building professional networks, obtaining third party reimbursement, and continuing education so we may best serve our clients and community. Please [click here](#) for more information.

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## Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

### **Roanoke/Blacksburg, VA**

Contact: Linda 540-525-7513 [RoanokeRachelsVineyard@gmail.com](mailto:RoanokeRachelsVineyard@gmail.com)

**Friday, July 08, 2011 -Sunday, July 10, 2011**

### **Allentown, PA**

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

**Friday, July 08, 2011 -Sunday, July 10, 2011**

**Houston (Interdenom), TX**

Website Address: [www.GulfCoastHealing.org](http://www.GulfCoastHealing.org)

Contact: April 281-236-8719 [april@gulfcoasthealing.org](mailto:april@gulfcoasthealing.org)

Contact: Stephanie Walker 713-690-2210 [steph@gulfcoasthealing.org](mailto:steph@gulfcoasthealing.org)

**Friday, July 08, 2011 -Sunday, July 10, 2011**

**Hankinson, ND**

Local Host: Diocese of Crookston, MNLifeCare Center of Thief River Falls, MN

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

**Friday, July 08, 2011 -Sunday, July 10, 2011**

**Paterson/Morris County, NJ**

Retreat Location: Morris County

Local Host: Paterson Diocese

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

**Friday, July 15, 2011 -Sunday, July 17, 2011**

**Fort Worth, TX**

Website Address: [www.racheltx.org](http://www.racheltx.org)

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

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

Language: English

**Friday, July 22, 2011 - Sunday, July 24, 2011**

**Denver, CO**

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)

**Friday, July 22, 2011 -Sunday, July 24, 2011**

**Lake Charles, LA**

Local Host: Diocese of Lake Charles

Website Address: [www.lcdiocese.org](http://www.lcdiocese.org)

Contact: Kathy Owen or Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317

[rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org)

**Friday, July 29, 2011 -Sunday, July 31, 2011**

**Dallas, TX**

Website Address: [www.racheldallas.org](http://www.racheldallas.org)

Contact: Fonda Luersman 972-916-0652 [healing@racheldallas.org](mailto:healing@racheldallas.org)

**Friday, July 29, 2011 -Sunday, July 31, 2011**

**Sacramento, CA**

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

**Friday, August 05, 2011-Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**Miami (Español), FL**

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

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 [clamordevida@aim.com](mailto:clamordevida@aim.com)

**Friday, August 05, 2011-Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**York County, PA**

Local Host: Diocese of Harrisburg

Website Address: [www.cannainnbandb.com](http://www.cannainnbandb.com)

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

**Friday, August 05, 2011 -Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**Mesa, AZ**

Local Host: St. Timothy

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 [karenord.rv@gmail.com](mailto:karenord.rv@gmail.com)

**Friday, August 05, 2011 -Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**Doylestown, PA**

Retreat Location: National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa – Ave Maria Retreat

Contact: Cindy 484-947-5130 [missionfarm29@yahoo.com](mailto:missionfarm29@yahoo.com)

**Friday, August 05, 2011 -Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN**

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313 [rvr-nancy@usfamily.net](mailto:rvr-nancy@usfamily.net)

**Friday, August 05, 2011 -Sunday, August 07, 2011**

**Tampa, FL**

Retreat Location: Bethany Retreat Center, Lutz, FL

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 [emmaboe@aol.com](mailto:emmaboe@aol.com)

**Friday, August 12, 2011 -Sunday, August 14, 2011**

**Katy, TX**

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston

Contact: Mary Lee 254-383-1717 [ml.mason@att.net](mailto:ml.mason@att.net)

**Friday, August 12, 2011 -Sunday, August 14, 2011**

**Cedar Falls, IA**

Contact: Kris Gaspari 515-306-7838 [rvofia@me.com](mailto:rvofia@me.com)

Contact: Vicki Tyler 563-359-3119

**Thursday, August 25, 2011 -Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**Granbury, TX**

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

**Friday, August 26, 2011 -Sunday, August 28, 2011**

**Palm Beach, FL**

Retreat Location: Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center

Website Address: [www.ourladyofflorida.org](http://www.ourladyofflorida.org)

Contact: Donna Gardner 561-602-4778 [isaiah61@bellsouth.net](mailto:isaiah61@bellsouth.net)

**Friday, August 26, 2011 -Sunday, August 28, 2011**

**Longbranch, WA**

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE [valeriepr@aol.com](mailto:valeriepr@aol.com)

Language: English

**Friday, August 26, 2011 -Sunday, August 28, 2011**

**Amarillo, TX**

Contact: Christina Casas 806-679-3370

Contact: Stephanie Frausto 806-678-4673 frausto@dioama.org

**Friday, August 26, 2011 -Sunday, August 28, 2011**

**Phoenix (Español), AZ**

Contact: Carmen Portela 602-354-2031 cportela@diocesephoenix.org

Contact: Josefina Mata 602-402-0867 josefina@canyonstatebox.com

Contact: Margarita Marquez 480-820-3593 margarita1960@msn.com

Contact: Rosie Villegas-Smith 602-234-2156 vocesporlavida@ymail.com

**Friday, August 26, 2011 -Sunday, August 28, 2011**

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