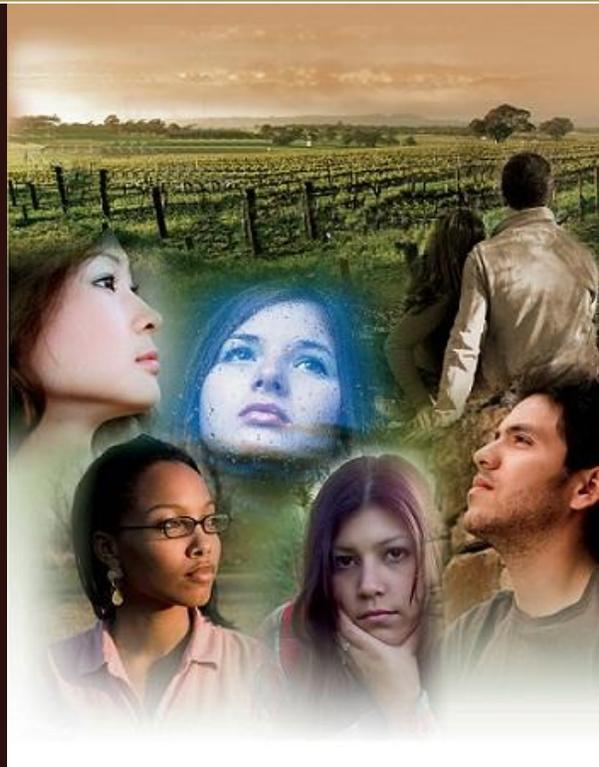


## *Vine & Branches*

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

November, 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 abortion providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a resource for clinical training, education, and healing models.*

*Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We work in partnership with Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.*

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

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## Where Two or More are Gathered: Silent No More at the March for Life

By Kathleen Corrigan

*My March for Life experience was extraordinary! Remarkable how many women & men across the nation came to spread awareness on the devastating effects of abortion. I was uplifted in spirit by everyone's bravery & courage. -Tanya Gallegos (Rachel's Vineyard of Mesa, AZ)*

One of the many beautiful parts of the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat program is what happens in the days and months after the retreat weekend. Many of these women and men become involved in ongoing spiritual growth and study, parish based or social service ministry, or counseling to improve self and relationships. Some discover they are called to an important ministry of public witness, the Silent No More Awareness Campaign (SNMAC.)

From the SNMAC website:

*The Silent No More Awareness Campaign is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. Our hope is that the emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. Believing that women deserve better than abortion we pray this effort will make abortion unthinkable as every culture develops ways to help women and men embrace their pre-born children.*

For many years Rachel's Vineyard and SNMAC (both part of the Gospel of Life family of ministries) have developed a close relationship that has proved a blessing for each organization. Through this collaboration, many have received healing they did not expect and an opportunity they never dreamed of—to help call the wounded to healing and inspire others to stand for life.

Each year, SNMAC and Rachel's Vineyard stand together with other post abortion ministries and with other women and men healed of their abortion loss, as a powerful presence at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Many members of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign are former participants of a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend. They stand en masse with signs powerfully declaring the hurt and regret that abortion has fostered in them and together march on to be a voice of hope and peace to all who think abortion is the only answer.

Some of those involved with both Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More have sent us their personal testimonies on how they experienced the March for Life:

*"I have been part of the Atlanta Rachel's Vineyard team for ten years. Last January I made the trip from Atlanta to D.C. to be part of Silent No More in the March for Life. It was one of the most memorable days of my life. I was one of many who gave their testimony that day. It was an honor to be part of such an important event. I am always grateful to be able to share my story and the message of hope and healing. Silent No More gives me the opportunity to voice that message, in particular to members of the military and their families."*

-Jody Duffy (Rachel's Vineyard of Washington, DC)

*"March for Life experience was extraordinary! Remarkable how many women & men across the nation came to spread awareness on the devastating effects of abortion. I was uplifted in spirit by everyone's bravery & courage. I overcame my fear of hiding my secret and now I am free from that burden. I shared my story with others who graciously supported me. Thank you SNMAC, to Fr. Frank Pavone for supporting our cause throughout the years!"* -Tanya Gallegos (Rachel's Vineyard of Mesa, AZ)

*"I spoke at the March for Life in Washington D.C. one year and found it very supportive to be amongst others who felt the same pain as I did subsequent to their abortion experience. It showed me that there wasn't something wrong with me because I was grieving the loss of my child. It also showed me that I wasn't alone in my suffering because of this painful experience and I was able to glean some hope and comfort from the sharing of others."*

-Scott Miller (Rachel's Vineyard of Calgary, Alberta, Canada)

*My March for Life experiences have been amazing!!! I first went through a Rachel's Vineyard weekend which took my healing to a much deeper level, equipped me to be SNM, and totally changed my life. At the March for Life, I felt very empowered and so incredibly blessed to be among those who gave all the glory to God, by standing tall and speaking publicly of His saving grace, mercy, forgiveness, and restoration. Each time I speak, I get further healing by publicly acknowledging the lost life of my only child, Lily Rose, giving her the honor and dignity she deserves. In future events I will have Rachel's Vineyard brochures to hand out to those passing by as we line the sidewalk before the Capital. Many faces were wet with tears and yet had a glimmer of hope in their eyes seeing that healing is possible and that they are not alone in their silent suffering."*

-Pamela Drazinski-Carney (Rachel's Vineyard of Pittsburgh, PA)

*"I have attended the MFL several times and spoken as a member of SNM. During these times, what moved me the most is when they walk in complete and we gather in*

*solidarity as the suffering yet healing body of Christ on the steps of the Supreme Court. We stand in line along the sidewalk, prior to people sharing testimony. Others continue to walk by. Another lady and I were standing there watching people with tears streaming down their faces saying, "thank you." It moved me almost to tears as well. I knew many of these women (and men) were post-abortive just from the looks on their faces. I prayed that they found healing ministries. There are few times in my life where I find Christ in community and one of the best places to see Him is at the MFL and hearing testimonies from so many men and women who are all scarred with an abortion decision but healed from forgiveness and redemption that only Jesus Christ himself can offer. Wow!"*

-Abigail Koller (Rachel's Vineyard of Western PA)

*"Both times I marched, I was so very blessed by the experience. I was so happy to be a part of the wonderful group giving light and truth to the horrible effects abortion has on women. Giving my personal testimony was a very important part of my healing process. Being a part of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and marching with the March for Life inspires others to break the silence and expose the truth that women and men are not helped by abortion, but quite the contrary. There are thousands and thousands of people at the march each year, and it is televised on EWTN, and in part by C-Span so potentially hundreds of thousands, even millions of people can see this sea of individuals who want to see an end to abortion, as well as personal testimonies about the pain, regret and horror of abortion. It is truly a life-changing event."*

-Pam Messina (Rachel's Vineyard of Richmond, VA)

*"I spoke at the 2010 March for Life in Washington. To speak at the Supreme Court steps during the March for Life meant one more step to liberation from the pain that kept me silent for so long. It was a great feeling of freedom to stand in such a place and tell all those who passed by that women are lied to, that this "right to choose" is a very wrong "right", and that it affected my whole life. Speaking out committed me even more to helping women and men break free from the layers of guilt, denial and sorrow of their abortions, and hopefully to show that accepting God's forgiveness can and will change you in a very positive way."*

- Cathy Trowbridge (Rachel's Vineyard of Peoria, IL)

This year will be no less extraordinary. The Silent No More Awareness Campaign will be joining together, as usual, to march to the steps of the Capitol Building as a joint testimony to the devastation of abortion and the hope of healing, changing a life with every step. Many will share their individual testimonies as well on the steps of the Supreme Court.

There is also a Walk for Life in San Francisco every year and there has been a growing number of Silent No More men and women who participate. Susan Swander of the Rachel's Vineyard Oregon team has participated and shares her experience:

*"The Walk for Life in San Francisco this past January was an awesome experience for me. I managed to walk the whole 2 1/2 miles. I haven't walked that long at one time in probably 10 years or more. But, I did it - the whole walk. I offered up my pains for an end to abortion and for the women and men suffering after abortions."*

*At the end of the walk, I shared a short version of my abortion story along with several other Silent No More women. The weather was incredible in San Francisco the whole*

*weekend - mid 60's, clear, sunny, just amazing. As I stood there by the marina telling my story, I looked up at the bright blue sky with a few white clouds floating by; it was beautiful. San Francisco was a place I did a lot of my early damage - promiscuity & drinking, etc. in my younger years. It was just remarkable to stand there and speak of all that openly and give that part of my past to God. It was really freeing. It was like coming full circle with a part of my life. I'm so grateful that I had that opportunity."*

We encourage you, as a supporter of Rachel's Vineyard, to consider supporting the Silent No More Awareness Campaign at the March for Life and/or the Walk for Life this year. The more people that are gathered together, the powerful voice to call our nation to become a culture of life. Whose life will you change by your presence?

*"Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." -Matthew 18:19-20*

If you have not yet joined the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, please consider doing so. Click on the following link to learn more and join [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org) . Keep an eye out for more information on how to join SNM at the March/Walk for Life this year on their website. If you do not feel called to share your testimony publicly, you can also join Silent No More anonymously here: <http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org/regret/index.aspx>

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"Christians were instructed to serve others, and the thanksgiving was for the grace of God and the fact that God offered a way for man to return to a positive relationship with Him." -John Clayton

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## Secrets in The Family: A Mother Reflects on Her Daughter's Abortions

By: Andrew Chew

*\*The following is written by Andrew Chew from the perspective of a woman whom he recently interviewed.*

I will never forget the day I learned about my daughter's abortions.

It was late at night; my husband and I were both fast asleep when the phone started ringing, jolting both of us awake. I got to the phone first and all I could hear when I answered the call was the voice of my daughter's friend yelling, asking us to come down right away to the park near our house because K, my daughter and her boyfriend were having a fight, and it was really bad.

We didn't have time to think and we didn't know what was going on so we just bolted from our house and ran to the park as fast as we could. When we found them a few

minutes later, I did not recognize the person who looked like my daughter: she had become this wild, raging, and furiously angry creature. She was screaming at her boyfriend but the terrible sounds she was making didn't seem to just come from her mouth. The way she shook and trembled, it looked like her whole body was screaming.

Her boyfriend was yelling too but when he saw us coming, he quickly turned to us and said, "I need to talk to you. I need to tell you that your daughter is a liar. She's been lying to you all this time. I just want to tell you the truth." That got K even more mad. She tried dragging us away from him, but as she did so, he stabbed his finger at our daughter and cried, "Do you know that she's had two abortions?"

I remember looking immediately at my daughter's face. I guess I was desperately hoping for her to say something, for her to deny it; I was hoping for a sign, anything at all that would signal that what he said wasn't true, but all I heard was the sound of a horrible, awful silence.

My husband was able to take the boyfriend aside, calm him down and a little while later, everyone left the park. I think I must have been in shock as we walked home because I felt totally numb. Abortion wasn't even in my vocabulary then; it was a taboo topic. I guess I'm what you would call these days a prude about sex and sexuality: do the right thing, respect yourself and others, and virginity till you tie the knot. I have always tried my best to "walk the talk" and to show my daughter how to do the same. As a mother, I had always believed I was modeling all these things to K. So to think about not just one but the two abortions my daughter had gone through – it just blew my mind.

When we got home, my daughter didn't want to talk but I felt so utterly lost that I desperately needed to know something, anything: Who was the father? When did it happen? How did it happen? What had been going on all this while? And over the next few, very long days, small fragments of the story began to surface.

Both abortions had taken place within the span of two years. The father was the same for both of them, someone from a previous relationship. The first time she got pregnant, they aborted without telling anyone. But during the second pregnancy, they approached some friends of theirs, an older, married couple they both knew and trusted, for advice. This couple told them that they were not ready to have a baby and told K to go for an abortion.

I guess hearing this was one of the things that hurt me the most. I was hurt because the daughter I loved so much, whom I had tried to shield from harm all her life, had suffered so much. I was hurt because I had lost two grandchildren. But most of all, I was hurt because I felt like a complete and utter failure as a mother. Why hadn't she talked with me? I had always believed in and prided myself on the openness and trust I thought we had in our relationship. Was it all really a lie? Why hadn't she come to me, her mum, for advice, for help, for counsel? That was what I didn't understand then – I still don't understand it now – and it tore me to pieces.

The days and weeks after that night in the park were the darkest of my life. I couldn't talk to anyone, not my daughter, not even my husband. I felt as if I had sunk to the bottom of the ocean and there, utterly alone in the terrible blackness, I was being smothered by a thick, heavy shroud of burning hot shame.

It was a couple of months later when I got a call from one of my closest friends telling me about Rachel's Vineyard, a new ministry she was involved in that helped people to heal from the wounds of abortion. She also shared about her own abortion experience for the first time. During that call, all I did was listen. But the next evening, it was my turn to pick up the phone; I was ready to talk. I think so many people have secrets like this in the family and it just needs someone to voice their heart cries, someone to give permission to talk, for other people to start telling their stories too. And that's what I did.

At first, we thought that the upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreat was for my daughter but after talking it over with K, it was quite clear that she wasn't ready to take that journey yet. But I was. I needed some way to deal with the turmoil I was feeling in my heart, mind, and soul, so I signed up for the retreat instead.

I was uncomfortable at first being the only person there who hadn't actually had an abortion, but that feeling gradually faded away. Over that weekend, God began teaching me how to breathe again, how to see light again. I discovered to my surprise that I had a connection with the two babies that had been aborted. They are my two grandchildren. I was glad that I could acknowledge that. I was able to name them – my Hope and Grace – mourn them, and release them.

Through the stories of my fellow retreatants, I began to understand my daughter better, what she could have been going through, and why she might have made the choices she did. It gave me hope that I could learn how to love her the way she needed to be loved, and that I could somehow help her rediscover her own preciousness, that very beautiful and fragile thing that had been lost and shattered in all the darkness of her life.

And over that weekend, I was finally able to confront my sense of failure and let it go. I learned the very simple and very profound truth that my daughter is not me; she is who she is and the choices she makes are her own. That was very releasing for me.

I still have so many questions, and I know there won't be any answers until my daughter is ready to give voice to her own heart cries. But at least I can now breathe again while I wait and, even though the night isn't over yet, I have learned to see through the darkness and perceive the light beyond.

*Andrew is a member of the Rachel's Vineyard team in Singapore. He is also a professional writer and photographer. To contact Andrew, please email him at [andrewchew@advocateimages.com](mailto:andrewchew@advocateimages.com).*

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"Gratitude ... goes beyond the "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy." --Henri J. M. Nouwen

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## In Memoriam–Diane Richard: French Translator of Rachel’s Vineyard and Grief to Grace

By Theresa Burke, Ph.D. Founder, Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries has recently lost another brilliant, passionate, dedicated laborer and dear, wonderful friend. Diane Richard lost a long battle to cancer on August 6, 2011. Diane and her husband, Jean-Marc, have been the site leaders for the Pointes-aux-Outardes Rachel’s Vineyard, near Quebec, since 2007.

As a tribute to Diane and in grateful thanksgiving for the gift she has been to our ministries of Rachel’s Vineyard and Grief to Grace, for the healing of sexual abuse, I would like to take the time to publicly remember her and her many selfless works as a laborer in the Lord’s vineyard.

Once Diane learned about Rachel’s Vineyard, she began diligently working on the French translation of the retreat manual. When I got word that Anne-Helene O’Malley was moving from Colorado to her native country of France, I introduced the two so they could join forces and work together as French ministry partners. Diane and Jean Marc worked with to refine the French translation which is now bearing fruit in France. They even traveled to France two years ago to help Anne-Helene run the FIRST Rachel’s Vineyard retreat in France at the request of Bishop Nicholas Brouwet. Some of you may remember that in May 2011, I spent a week in Paris before heading off to Vienna where I trained the RV teams mentored by Jean Marc and Dianne. If you missed the story in June’s Vine and Branches, [click here](#).

In addition to her work in Rachel’s Vineyard, Diane spent the last few years of her life, as she battled cancer, translating *Grief to Grace*, my retreat program for healing the wounds of abuse, into French. In July of 2006, Jean Marc and Dianne attended the second Grief to Grace retreat and facilitator trainings in Malvern, PA, though the retreat had to be translated into French before they could offer it in Quebec. At the time I was still making many changes and revisions. A few years later, however, the minute I was finished the final manuscript (which took a few years of patience on Dianne’s part) I sent her the final version and she began to work diligently until she could no longer see to type. Jean Marc shares that it is 95% complete all thanks to her efforts! What a labor of love and sacrifice! We won’t have any trouble finishing the rest. For those who speak French:

Le dernier 5 % sera un morceau de gâteau ! Très facile pour nous de terminer ! Grâce au travail acharné et l'amour de Diane! (The last 5% will be a piece of cake! Very easy for us to finish! Through hard work and love for Diane!)

Grief to Grace is a week- long retreat, so it was a massive undertaking! For more information on Grief to Grace click here: [www.griefftograce.org](http://www.griefftograce.org), then click on Information Packet for the latest news.

Diane's husband, Jean-Marc, so beautifully shares about his bride's passing:

*Diane has finally gone to see Our Lord on August 6th around 10:15. She suffered so much pain right up to the end that it was a big relief for her and all the family. What a struggler she was. The center part of her body was totally covered with cancer, but what was keeping her alive, it was that her inner organs were functioning very well. I spent the last 6 weeks with her in a special home for people at their last days on earth. She had a 5 star funeral with a big representation of all the people we had dealt with over the years. She was sure she was going to die on the feast of St. Ignatius as she had lived so much like him; but the Lord wanted more, she died on the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Besides, I did not know, but she had her funeral on the feast of Saint Laurent, the patron of Deacons who had died a martyr, burned very slowly to give him more pain, somewhat like her. She worked so hard accompanying our future deacons right up until our last meeting in June. Nobody thought she would ever show up with the condition she was in, but she dragged herself to give her last teaching. She died in prayers and in peace with me only, as our children had to go back to their families.*

A few days after Diane's death, Jean-Marc, a cancer-survivor, was called into his doctor's office where he was informed that his own cancer cells were back and had expanded to his liver, which was 100% attacked on the inside. There is no operation or chemotherapy possible. He has been given only a couple of months before he joins his bride in eternal joy and peace with Christ. He is in good spirits and, like his wife, is doing all he can until he can't do anymore. Jean-Marc has recently finished assisting with deaconate training in his diocese. He says, "I am totally ready and happy to leave if it is God's will."

Let us come together as a community during this time and storm heaven, asking for the most powerful intercessions of our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph her husband and patron of a happy death, and Jean-Marc's beautiful bride, Diane, in asking that the Lord continue to grant Jean-Marc peace and joy during this time of anticipation of eternal life. Let us also thank our Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed on our ministries, whose fruits are eternal and will continue into the future in Canada, France, and Rwanda, Africa (another French speaking nation) that will use this extraordinary gift from the Lord, thanks to the "yes" of one very special woman. Merci to Jesus for this beautiful woman and an extraordinary French legacy!!!

Let's unite our prayers for Jean Marc now, as a ministry. May their service to the Lord grant them eternal favor with Him forever!

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## A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our Priests for Life family of ministries, of which Rachel's Vineyard is an integral part, we also have a Youth Ministry called Stand True. Each October, this ministry conducts a "Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity," on which students across the globe spend the whole

day in silence. When spoken to, they do not respond, but simply hand the person a flier that conveys pro-life information. Each year, lives are saved on that day as a result, and this year was no exception.

But along with the lives being saved, hearts are being healed from the wounds of abortion. So many of the classmates of these students have had abortions, and the Day of Silent Solidarity helps to spread the message of Rachel's Vineyard. These young people find out for the first time that there is such a thing as a healing retreat that can address their wounds and fill their emptiness. They learn that despair is not the only option left, but rather that their despair can be replaced by hope.

We thank Bryan Kemper, the Director of Youth Outreach for Priests for Life, for the way he spreads the word and work of the Vineyard among young people worldwide!

Blessings to all of you!

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

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## A Thanksgiving Day Appeal

Thanksgiving Day is a day in which we remember to thank God for the many blessings he has so generously bestowed on us. It is also a time to especially remember those who go without. Many people go everyday without the knowledge and comfort of God's love and mercy. You can help them to discover His infinite blessings by donating to 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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## Abortion: The Real Human Ecological Disaster

By Fr. Jeffrey D. Stephaniuk, Rachel's Vineyard Saskatchewan

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

– Mother Teresa

"Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

To paraphrase Mother Teresa, post-abortion ministries are like flowers; there can never be too many of them. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is an example of the godsend that is

liberating an increasing number of people from their post-abortion prisons of self-condemnation, self-hatred, wild out-of-character actions, and feelings of abandonment by God, family and country. During a Rachel's Vineyard weekend, participants are finally given the permission they have been denied in the past to grieve the death of their child or children lost through abortion. By the end of 2011, this process of discovering a profound love for one's aborted child and allowing that child to bring one back to God will have been conducted at 1000 retreat sites and in 35 countries.

This past July, during the Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference in Malvern, Pennsylvania, entitled "Disciples of Love: Witnesses of Hope," Dr. Theresa Burke, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries explained the current state of this psychological and spiritual healing program after abortion in this manner:

"It's an exciting time for Rachel's Vineyard and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign as we continue to grow. Our organizations are transforming the harsh realities of "GLOBAL MOURNING" as we provide a voice of hope, love and truth to those who have suffered the loss of their children through abortion. The movement of post abortion awareness and healing is at a real point of illumination as more and more research exposes the damage; as more and more testimonies reveal the truth, and as the expansive growth of healing retreats throughout the world are skyrocketing souls into freedom."

### **Living Scripture and the Divine Physician**

Dr. Burke has developed a model of healing which involves trained professionals, ordained clergy, and post-abortive-and-healed team members. The program is centred on the uniquely designed "Living Scripture" readings and exercises, and a humble reliance on the true presence of the Holy Spirit using each person on the retreat to effect the work of healing God Himself makes possible. Living Scripture readings and exercises during Rachel's Vineyard add this dimension: the Divine Physician appears according to how the Holy Spirit moves, leading the team and participants to awe and wonder at the healing that occurs. After a retreat they often express profound humility and gratitude for witnessing the renewal of life in people made dead by their participation with abortion.

Dr. Burke has described the job of the team in working with the post-abortive retreat participant as analogous to the job of the group of people who bring the paralytic to Jesus for healing. They are so concerned about his healing that no technical problem stands in their way, not even how to reach Jesus; they take apart the roof of the house in order to bring him to Christ, as the ancient and cherished account recalls. "The retreat team united, in a state of grace, will be good instruments of the Holy Spirit," she explained, witnessing to the many times on past retreats in which she has observed great healing among retreat participants.

The miracles of Jesus were performed in public in order to increase the faith of the weak, change the hearts of the skeptics, and to reward those with faith, the scriptural, "according to your faith let it be to you" (Matthew 9: 29) As re-enacted during the retreat through the Living Scripture exercises, healing is offered, not imposed, and the acceptance, the "Do you believe this?" must come before the healing. The "Lord, I accept your living water" is spoken as an authentic statement when the groundwork has been done, testimonies of others have been heard, and your own work of re-examining

past wounds has been embraced. In this context, the biblical "Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord" has tremendous meaning for those living with past trauma, when the wound is revisited for the purpose of being healed.

### **Dr. Martha Shuping, M.D. and *The Four Steps To Healing***

The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat model was developed as an alternative to the limitations of "talk therapy" with deeply traumatized individuals. The gentle guidance of talk therapy, leading to self-discovery and independent action, being presented with as much information as possible and then choosing for oneself a plan of healing, has its limitations when the healing required is the result of abortion and post abortion trauma. Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist and member of the Rachel's Vineyard Medical Board, explains the distinction between one-on-one therapy and the retreat group weekend in her book on post-abortion healing:

"Therapists who are accustomed to sitting back and listening passively may want to try a more action-oriented approach than they would ordinarily use."

The Rachel's Vineyard Medical Board was announced during the 2011 Leadership Conference, "to present to the medical and therapeutic community a more structured method of communicating about the issues of trauma and healing after abortion." At the level of professionals speaking to other professionals, experience and training open the doors of credibility by those who explain and defend Rachel's Vineyard Ministries to other practitioners. Dr. Shuping, for example, speaks with authority when she promotes the retreat model specifically for highly traumatized individuals of pregnancy loss through abortion:

"Certainly, women who have been traumatized by abortion need to be listened to and affirmed. But they may also be at a loss when it comes to the steps necessary for their healing. Because of the secrecy surrounding abortion, the normal support systems for problem-solving are often inadequate or non-existent. While women may be inundated with advice on how to handle divorce, weight loss or other problems, they are unlikely to find day-time talk shows or mainstream magazines that tell them how to cope with their abortion. Additionally, women who would normally turn to their family or friends with their problems may not feel that they can come to them with grief over the termination of their pregnancy." Martha Shuping, M.D., and Debbie McDaniel, M.A. LPC, *The Four Steps to Healing*. [www.taborgardenpress.com](http://www.taborgardenpress.com)

### **"No longer imprisoned by unhealed trauma dictating your life"**

The retreat offers an "action-oriented approach" unavailable in talk therapy, what Dr. Burke refers to as going "beyond the dependence of one-on-one counseling." The retreat exercises have a proven track record of assisting participants break through their anger to a deep grieving, and from fear of condemnation to a liberating experience of compassion. The group offers the wisdom of other retreat participants, who have things to say when they hear each other's stories, because someone else "might have been longing to hear it herself her whole life."

For example, abortion denies motherhood, so during the retreat, participants are given permission to express emotions as a mother that they were told did not exist. Trauma that has had a numbing effect on an individual for years and years after the abortion

are released in powerful ways during Rachel's Vineyard. So much tenderness is expressed that one of the consequences after the retreat is that when one returns home, their existing family becomes the beneficiaries of this release and healing. A parent realizes, perhaps for the first time in their lives, a profound love for their child and the reciprocal love of the child for them.

Abortion is a modern re-enactment of martyrdom, "meeting death at men's hands" as expressed, for example, in the Book of Maccabees, where the death of seven brothers and their mother is very reminiscent of abortion, killed as they are by being pulled apart limb from limb. In contrast, the healing and liberation after abortion is the fulfillment of the hope God himself offers both the post-abortive individual and the aborted child. "The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace," Blessed Pope John Paul II has written in *The Gospel of Life*. "You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost, and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child who is now living with God."

The traumatic image in a parent's memory of what happened to their child during the abortion is acknowledged, worked through, and healed. The only reason to trigger something, as Dr. Burke teaches, is to heal it, get over it, and recover from it. The acute awareness that their last physical memory of their child was of a dismembered baby violently destroyed and irreverently disposed as medical waste is replaced by the image of one's child, complete with his or her own name and character, in heaven with Christ. With healing, another image has replaced the traumatic image, and the person is reassured of "God's promise that we shall be raised up by him." (2 Maccabees:6)

### **Conclusion: Convergence of pro-life ministry on the status of pre-natal life**

The care and dignity afforded those overwhelmed by abortion through the creation of Rachel's Vineyard is expressed in Dr. Burke's reflections on its contribution to the ministry of the Church: the work of God is holy ground, the cherishing of the memory of aborted children, tending tenderly to those who have been so severely wounded by abortion, and praying for an end to abortion. On this point, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is in complete agreement with pro-life education groups such as the Canadian Centre for Bio-ethical Reform, ([www.unmaskingchoice.ca](http://www.unmaskingchoice.ca)), the leading educational organization currently engaging the general culture on abortion. As Stephanie Gray has written, the "hidden nature of abortion has gotten us to where we are today: widespread acceptance." The secrecy of abortion is addressed in a powerful manner of healing during Rachel's Vineyard, where the vulnerable and powerless now have someone to believe them, believe in them, and give them permission to grieve what previously was a "forbidden grief." What has been aborted is no longer politicized into insignificance, but rather is now seen for what he or she has been all along, another human being, a child, my child. As Dr. Burke proves through Rachel's Vineyard, and Stephanie Gray explains in the courtroom of public opinion through the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, abortion "is wrong because it intentionally kills an innocent human being. *That* is why it hurts women."

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## Julia Holcomb, Ex-Fiance of Steven Tyler Shares Her Testimony

Julie Holcomb recently sat down and shared her testimony and her healing experience at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Watch the video [here](#).

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## Spanish Version of "Forbidden Grief" Now Available!

The Spanish version of "Forbidden Grief" By Dr. Theresa Burke and David Reardon is now available! Please [click here](#) for more information or to order!

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"Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world: It is not he who prays most or fasts most, it is not he who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it." --William Law

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## Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

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### Priests for Life Action Alert Box

The Priests for Life website now has a brand new homepage, complete with an ACTION ALERT box. The Action Alert box will inform you of new ways that you can take action to save the lives of the unborn. Click the following link to check it out: <http://www.priestsforlife.org/index.aspx>

### "Extreme Makeover: Women Transformed by Christ, Not Conformed to the Culture" By: Teresa Tomeo

"An experienced television news reporter, Tomeo pulls together the latest research on social behavior and trends to demonstrate that women are harming themselves and their chances for true happiness by adopting the thoroughly modern, sexually liberated lifestyle portrayed in magazines and movies. Packed with not only persuasive statistics but also powerful personal testimonies, Extreme Makeover shows that it is not the slogans of the sexual revolution and the women's liberation movement that free and dignify women, but the beautiful teachings of the Catholic Church." [Click here](#) to order

or for more information.

## New Website for Men Struggling with Pornography

On this site, one can learn about the addictiveness of porn, and how porn affects men, women, children and teens. It also discusses the recovery process and how Catholic spirituality is a crucial part of the process. Log on to [www.IntegrityRestored.com](http://www.IntegrityRestored.com) to learn more. Please also share this information with you family, friends, colleagues and the people you serve.

Getaway Weekend: April 20-22, 2012  
*Mariwald Renewal Center; Reading, PA*  
<http://www.mariwaldrenewal.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)

## The Catholic View for Women DVD

Don't miss the 6 episode pilot season DVD of *The Catholic View for Women* now available! [Click here](#) to order or visit [www.thecatholicviewforwomen.com](http://www.thecatholicviewforwomen.com) for more information about the show.

## 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)

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." -- Colossians 3:17

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## United in Prayer

*We pray for the following intentions:*

For the less fortunate and all of those who go without this Thanksgiving. We pray that God may provide for them this holiday season, that He may assure them of His abounding love, and that they may remember to be thankful for even the least of what they have.

For **Terry Krenz**, a member of the Bismarck, ND RV team, as she begins chemotherapy for an ovarian tumor. We pray that God may give her strength and support as she battles cancer and that He may bring her to a quick and full recovery.

For the repose of the soul of **Joe Geiger** of the **Richmond, VA** team. We especially pray for Joe's wife **Kay Marie** as she copes with this loss. Joe and Kay Marie were some of the pioneers for Rachel's Vineyard.

For the repose of the soul of **Msgr. Marty O'Brien**. Msgr. O'Brien ministered in the Archdiocese of Newark and had served for both Rachel's Vineyard and Grief to Grace retreats. We pray that Msgr. Marty be welcomed by the angels into everlasting life.

For **Joseph Samrany** who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. May he and his family find peace and hope in Christ during this difficult time.

For **Danielle** who is early on in her 3rd pregnancy after a heart breaking miscarriage and a blighted ovum pregnancy. May God continue to bless her and her baby with a healthy pregnancy.

*We pray in thanksgiving for:*

All that the Lord has so generously bestowed on each of us and on Rachel's Vineyard. We also thank Him for the blessings that have come to many through Rachel's Vineyard Ministries and for all of the many supporters of this work.

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"Do not think that my love for you or the good qualities you are endowed with may have me desire that you be just little saints. No, I greatly desire that you become great saints." ~ St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria

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## Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

### **Dallas (Español), TX**

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

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 214-725-0008 sanacion@racheldallas.org

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **Tulsa, OK**

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

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **Lafayette, LA**

Contact: Karol D. Meynard 337-261-5607 kmeynard@diolaf.org

Contact: Trista M. Littell 337-261-5607 tlittell@diolaf.org

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **York County, PA**

Retreat Location: Canna Valley Inn

Local Host: Diocese of Harrisburg

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

Contact: Joy Crimmins 717-788-4959 Rvpamd@gmail.com

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **Madison, WI**

Local Host: Diocese of Madison

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

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **Boise, ID**

Nazareth Retreat Center [www.nazarethretreatcenter.org](http://www.nazarethretreatcenter.org)

Local Host: Holy Apostles Catholic Church

Website Address: [www.holyapostlesmeridian.net](http://www.holyapostlesmeridian.net)

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

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

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

### **Brisbane, QLD Australia**

Contact: Gwen 0407 175 508 wellspringministries@tpg.com.au

Contact: Lisa 0410 122 481 rvqld@live.com.au

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 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, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

**Fort Worth, TX**

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

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

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

Language: English

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

**Springfield, MA**

Retreat Location: Chicopee & Stockbridge

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

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

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

**Clarks Summit/Scranton, PA**

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

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

**El Paso, TX**

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

Contact: Lupe Aguilera 915-867-8016 rachelsvineyard@elpasodiocese.org

**Friday, November 04, 2011 - Sunday, November 06, 2011**

**Vienna, Austria**

Contact: Sylvia Jimenez prolifecongress@gmail.com

Contact: Claudia Brandhuber c\_brandhuber@yahoo.de

**Friday, November 4, 2011- Sunday, November 6, 2011**

**Georgetown, DE**

Contact: Teresa Bolden 302-856-4344 caringheart@sussexpregnancy.com

**Friday, November 11, 2011- Sunday, November 13, 2011**

**Melbourne (Interdenom), VIC**

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

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

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

**Orange County (Interdenom), CA**

Retreat Location: California Pro Sanctity Center

Local Host: The Order of St. Martin

Website Address: <http://www.abortionhelprachelsvineyardoc-ca.com>

Contact: Sandy White 949-322-8575 ocrvinterdenom@gmail.com

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

**Leeds, England**

Retreat Location: Ilkley area of West Yorkshire

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

Contact: Marene 07505 904 656 info@rachelsvineyard.org.uk

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

**Cork City, Ireland**

Website Address: [www.rachelsvineyard.ie](http://www.rachelsvineyard.ie)

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

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

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Las Vegas, NV**

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

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Tampa, FL**

Retreat Location: Bethany Retreat Center, Lutz, FL

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

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Williamsburg, VA**

Retreat Location: The Well Retreat Center - Hampton Roads/Virginia Beach Areas

Local Host: St. Joan of Arc Church, Yorktown, Virginia

Website Address: [www.stjoan-va.com](http://www.stjoan-va.com)

Contact: Linda Riva 757-887-3144 lindajr2@yahoo.com

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Wellington Region, WEL**

Contact: Suzanne O'Rourke +64 4 974 8691 suzanneor@gmail.com

Contact: Wendy Hill +64 (0)4 974 8693 whtalkpregnancy9@gmail.com

Contact: Wendy Hill +64 (0)27 733 2990 info@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Mesa, AZ**

Local Host: St. Timothy

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 karenord.rv@gmail.com

**Friday, November 11, 2011 - Sunday, November 13, 2011**

### **Sydney, NSW**

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

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

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

### **Charleston, SC**

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

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 famlifecor@earthlink.net

Contact: Stephanie 912-201-4059

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

### **Orlando/Central Florida, FL**

Retreat Location: San Pedro Center

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

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

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

### **Linden, NJ**

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 arnewrespect@sjanj.net  
**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Nashville, TN**

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

Contact: Mary 615-385-1860 info@hopeafterabortiontn.com

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

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Lubbock, TX**

Contact: Kathy Krile 806-577-5912 lbb\_rachelsvineyard@hotmail.com

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Omaha/Lincoln, NE**

Location: Locations vary by retreat

Contact: Heather 402-253-9936 helpingrachel@yahoo.com

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Taipei, Taiwan**

Contact: Georgie 02-27290265

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

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**San Juan, Puerto Rico**

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

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Longbranch, WA**

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

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

Language: English

**Friday, November 18, 2011 - Sunday, November 20, 2011**

**Buenos Aires, BAA Argentina- Bahía Blanca, Prov. de Buenos Aires**

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

**Friday, November 25, 2011 - Sunday, November 27, 2011**

**San Jose, (Interdenominational) CA**

Contact: Maria Klein 650-988-9400 maria@dxdt.com

Language: English

**Friday, December 02, 2011-Sunday, December 04, 2011**

**Sacramento, CA**

Contact: Annette Evans

916-733-0161 projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org

Language: Spanish

**Friday, December 02, 2011-Sunday, December 04, 2011**

**Allentown, PA**

Contact: Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ 866-372-2435 mcole@allentowndiocese.org

**Friday, December 09, 2011- Sunday, December 11, 2011**

**Baltimore County (Interdenom), MD**

Local Host: Serenity Pastoral Counseling

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

Contact: Pam Bell 410-977-2571 [retreats@serenitypcc.com](mailto:retreats@serenitypcc.com)

Denomination: Interdenominational

**Friday, December 09, 2011 -Sunday, December 11, 2011**

**Kansas City, MO**

Contact: Sr. Maria Stella 816-363-9489 [rvkcmo@gmail.com](mailto:rvkcmo@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 09, 2011 - Sunday, December 11, 2011**

Note: Location: Franciscan Spirituality Center Independence, MO

**Camden, NJ**

Contact: Margarita Moran [prjectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net](mailto:prjectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net)

Location: Pope John Paul II Retreat Center

**Friday, December 16, 2011 - Sunday, December 18, 2011**

**Madrid, CM**

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

Contact: Pilar Gutierrez 34-916343741 [info@nomassilencio.com](mailto:info@nomassilencio.com)

Language: Spanish

**Friday, December 16, 2011 - Sunday, December 18, 2011**

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