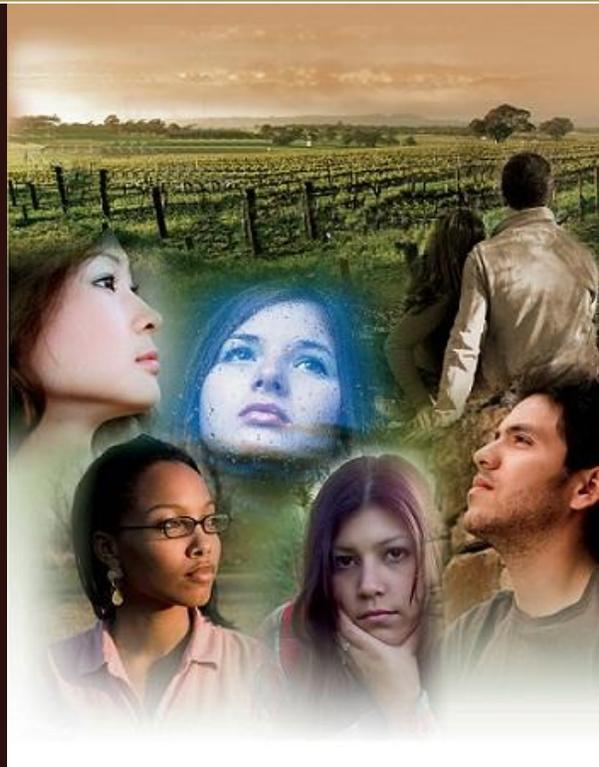


Vine & Branches

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

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

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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter the season of Advent, we have many reasons to increase our hope in the Lord who heals us and all those wounded by abortion. Advent is a season of hope. The purple color used by the Church in this season represents the color of the sky just before the dawn breaks.

We live in the shadow of death, the culture of abortion. But those shadows are temporary. This evil is broken by Jesus Christ, and he is the one whose coming the worldwide ministry of Rachel's Vineyard both proclaims and makes present in the lives of so many people.

Let me thank you also for all your prayers for me. I have been spending a temporary period in Amarillo at the request of my bishop, but please be assured that it is all for positive purposes. I'm doing great. I have been doing my pro-life work from here, am a priest in full good standing with the Church, and have received assurances from the bishop that he wants the work of Priests for Life and RV to flourish.

And it will.

Blessings to all of you!

Fr. Frank Pavone

National Director, Priests for Life

Pastoral Director and Chairman, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

"I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the

year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."

~Charles Dickens

Psychiatrist Dr. Martha Shuping Presents at the International Congress on Post-Abortion Support in Santiago, Chile

By Dr. Martha Shuping

Dr. Martha Shuping, M.D., member of the Rachel's Vineyard Medical Advisory Board, and Eugenia Hadley, trainer and consultant for RV Spanish speaking teams, recently spoke in Santiago, Chile, at the third annual Congreso Internacional de Acompañamiento Post-aborto (International Congress on Post-abortion Support). The Congress included post-abortion ministries from ten Latin American countries, and several U.S. groups including representatives from Rachel's Vineyard Ministries and the Silent No More Awareness Campaign. The Congress was held at the Catholic University of Chile and was attended by faculty and students, clergy, government officials, and counselors and others who serve in abortion recovery ministries.

The Congress drew attention to the impact of abortion on women, men, and families. Presentations covered a range of topics including a research presentation on the mental health effects of abortion by Dr. Priscilla Coleman, Ph.D, with other presenters focusing on the response of the Church in addressing the need for healing for those affected.

Dr. Shuping presented an overview of the research on men and abortion, and included insight from her experience in facilitating Rachel's Vineyard retreats. She said, "I have had some men on most retreats that I have conducted, and the men have always experienced the retreat as helpful." She added that although men may be more reluctant to disclose their feelings, they have the freedom to choose whether they wish to listen or to speak. They are free to choose their level of participation."

Dr. Shuping also cited several published studies that show increased risk of separation and divorce after abortion. She said that men attending the Rachel's Vineyard weekend with their wives has helped to heal marriages.

In addition to the main Congress which was attended by about 500 people, a two-day pre-conference in Santiago allowed time for representatives from the many abortion recovery ministries to teach each other from their own experiences and research.

Dr. Shuping presented an overview of Rachel's Vineyard, the largest post-abortion ministry in the world, and Eugenia gave a power point presentation which explained each retreat exercise.

Dr. Shuping also presented on a Men and Abortion panel, focusing on practical aspects of including men in abortion recovery programs which were originally started to meet the needs of women. While some still view abortion as a women's issue, the reality is that men and women both need recovery from the impact of abortion.

Ministry teams included representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaraguar, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States.

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!

A Christmas Appeal

The holiday season is an especially hard time for those who have lost children through abortion. Please help us continue the International healing work this Christmas by donating to Rachel's Vineyard. May God bless you and your loved ones in a special way this Holiday season.

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

By Phone: 610-354-0555

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

Rachel's Vineyard Continued Training

One of the requirements for all Rachel's Vineyard team members is to attend a training once every three years. We now have a wonderful resource that not only saves the money required to travel to a training, but is one of the most comprehensive tools for training. Our DVD set *"Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief; An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion"* when used with team members qualifies for their three year training. It is also just a fantastic resource to have on hand for clergy training, personal interest, or informational sessions for the general public. Here are some comments from those who have gone through the DVD series:

"The DVD presentations were excellent. This is a marvelous outreach-great talks and lots of information"

"Very informative. I could listen to them many times over."

"It was inspiring, and I learned many lessons. Very educational"

"Fantastic - Clarity - Solid information"

"Excellent-I really learned a lot. Now I can be more sensitive"

"Great knowledge"

"Very heavy emotionally, but so important to know. Most meaningful was the discussions after viewing the DVD presentation, followed by refreshments. Most helpful was the detailed information regarding post-traumatic stress and reenactment."

"I learned a great deal and feel more equipped to help my brothers and sisters in a healing capacity"

"Well organized, and absolutely wonderful. I looked forward to coming to the weekly evening sessions."

"Very appreciative of the opportunity to experience this process. I also appreciated the fact that if someone was triggered they could have prayer support."

"Good comprehensive, informative presentation. Most meaningful were the table discussions following the DVD presentations."

The set includes many classes on brain trauma, post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic reenactment from Dr. Theresa Burke, Kevin Burke, LSW, and Fr. Frank Pavone. The DVD set comes with a course guide and additional course guides can be ordered as well. Please [click here](#) to order or for more information.

Have a Very "Married" Christmas

By Amanda Conklin

Let's face it; everyone's family drives them a little nuts around the holidays. It's humorous to think back to Christmas breaks of years past in high school and college where I wanted nothing more than to hang out with my friends until I was practically so bored that I *wanted* to go back to school. This year, as I celebrate my first Christmas season as a wife, I find myself wishing I had treasured those quirky times I had home with family a little more.

It's been almost two months since I've become Mrs. Seth Conklin and while becoming adjusted to the fact that I have an extension to my family now, the holiday season couldn't feel more special. Something that has stood out in my mind since our wedding day was when someone shared that we should always remember to ask for the graces given to us on that day throughout our marriage. As I prepared to have my family over for my first Thanksgiving dinner, believe me, I was invoking those graces daily.

I knew that no matter how much I prepared, how nice all of my new appliances looked and how perfect the centerpiece matched my table runner that something would inevitably go awry. But that's OK. After all, our very Savior's birth and the events leading up to it weren't "perfect" by human standards. Mary wasn't expecting an angel

to come to her and tell her that she was carrying the Son of God in her womb. I'm sure that it would have been easy for Saint Joseph to sneak out the back door after the angel revealed the unexpected news to him. And if you get a little upset because your children broke out the Christmas toys all over the living room 15 minutes before for the in-laws arrive, think of how irritated Mary and Joseph could have been when she was forced to give birth in a manger.

So whether you're married or single, whether you're hosting or attending, remember this Advent season how sometimes the little unplanned things can lead to the most beautiful gifts of all.

Amanda Conklin is the administrative assistant for the Rachel's Vineyard International headquarters.

Priests for Life Retreat Coverage

Sometimes one of the hardest aspects of having a Rachel's Vineyard Catholic retreat is trying to get a priest who can find someone to cover his weekend priestly responsibilities. If your priest is having trouble getting coverage, Priests for Life can help. Priests for Life priests travel all over the country and cover the weekend responsibilities so that your parish priest can be fully attentive to the retreat and fully present to the retreatants. Availability is based on our priests' travel schedules so be sure to call early.

If you'd like a priest to help cover your priest, please contact Susan at the Priests for Life travel office at susan@priestsforlife.org or call 718-980-4400 and ask for the travel department.

"Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves." ~Eric Sevareid

In Memoriam: Joseph Geiger

Dearest brothers and sisters in the Vineyard,

It is with deep grief and sadness that I share that we have suffered a great loss within Rachel's Vineyard Ministries. Joe Geiger passed away on Friday October 21st, 2011. Many of you met Kay Marie and Joe at the recent July RV Leaders Conference, and many past Leaders Conferences. Kay Marie and Joe Geiger were one of the first Rachel's Vineyard sites in the USA to get started in Richmond, Virginia. Joe and Kay Marie have been like "ministry parents" to me, supporting me through many obstacles

in the ministry. Please pray for Kay Marie, as this is an excruciating time of loss and sadness for her and the thousands of people their ministry has touched. Together the Geigers have mentored and empowered countless RV leaders and facilitators.

Please pray for Joe's soul and for the consolation and peace of the Lord to touch all those who grieve his passing. He lived life with a heart of love, laughter and service. May the babies he snuggled against their parent's hearts come rushing to greet him! Well Done, Thy Good and Faithful Servant!

Much Love in Christ,
Dr. Theresa Burke
Founder, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Here are some loving comments that many made on our Rachel's Vineyard Leadership e-group:

"My husband and I were very touched to meet Joe and Kay Marie again, this summer at the conference. We ate a couple of meals together. They are both the most loveliest people in the world, so kind and loving and their love for each other just shines through in all of their interactions. I'm very sorry to hear about Joe's death and extend our deepest sympathy to Kay Marie. I had just checked messages tonight and saw the sad news. We prayed for Joe and Kay Marie and their family." Blessings, Mary and Howie Mead

"So incredibly sad to hear this news.... Kay Marie & Joe were at the very first RV conference (more than a decade ago now!) and I was totally impressed by their dedication, passion and witness. I learned from them (and trust I have passed it on to teams I worked with & mentored over the years) that prayer, prayer and then more prayer comes first!

I was frankly a little shocked (being new) that their team met regularly all year for prayer and fellowship to put on one or two RV weekends, (at that time) and only as I grew in experience did I come to see the need myself. Anyone who has done more than 3-4 weekends will know that the enemy grows wiler and more subtle and comes on stronger the more mature a team becomes.

So....Dear Joe... you have left a beautiful legacy which endures and bears much fruit. My love and respect to your family, especially Kay Marie, and courage to cope and comfort in the memories," Peace, Celia Ryan

"I too met Kay Marie and Joe at Malvern this year. I hope Joe's family will take comfort in this scripture. Welcome home good and faithful servant. Enter the Kingdom prepared for you before the beginning of time. My prayers to all of you." ~ Toni Jester

You can read Joe's obituary by [clicking here](#).

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen" ~Bobby, a 7-year-old boy

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

Rachel's Vineyard 2011 Leadership Conference CDs Now Available!

All of the talks from the 2011 Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference were recorded live by Vincent & Barbara Sumoski (Love Tape-CD Ministry) and are available on CD for purchase. There were 53 excellent talks. You can purchase CDs individually or buy the entire set. FREE SHIPPING & Conference SPECIALS! Contact rv@sumoski.com or 610-779-8989.

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

The Catholic View for Women DVD

Need a great Christmas present idea? Try the 6 episode pilot season DVD of *The Catholic View for Women*, now available! [Click here](#) to order or visit 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

Facebook Cause: www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard

Check out our new Youtube videos!: 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

United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

For **Wilma Lombardo**, who is now fighting spinal cancer. Wilma first introduced Rachel's Vineyard to Santa Fe, New Mexico – the ministry then spread to Pecos and many other places in the Southwestern USA, including Hawaii. Wilma mentored Sr. Geralyn Spaulding who now serves in Hawaii! We unite our prayers for Wilma and her family for spiritual strength and compassion as they endure this illness together.

We pray in thanksgiving for:

For all of our blessings this Christmas season. We also pray for those who do not know Christ, those who are lonely, and those who are unemployed this Christmas.

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

~ Oren Arnold

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

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

Contact: Pam Bell 410-977-2571 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

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

Note: Location: Franciscan Spirituality Center Independence, MO

Camden, NJ

Contact: Margarita Moran 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/

Contact: Pilar Gutierrez 34-916343741 info@nomassilencio.com

Language: Spanish

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

Language: Spanish Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

Albany Area, NY

Local Host: Diocese of Albany

Contact: Kathleen Whimple 518-469-0779 Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Contact: Mrs. Pat Mousaw 518-222-1160 Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

North Battleford, SK

Contact: Bonnie Cameron 306-480-8911 r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313 rvr-nancy@usfamily.net

Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

Houston (Interdenom), TX

Website Address: www.GulfCoastHealing.org
Contact: April 281-236-8719 april@gulfcoasthealing.org
Contact: Stephanie Walker 713-690-2210 steph@gulfcoasthealing.org
Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

Fort Worth, TX

Website Address: www.racheltx.org
Contact: Macaria (espanol) 817-886-4760 misericordia@racheltx.org
Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 forgiven@racheltx.org
Friday, January 06, 2012 - Sunday, January 08, 2012

Linden, NJ

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark
Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 arnewrespect@sjanj.net
Friday, January 13, 2012 - Sunday, January 15, 2012

Bowling Green/Owensboro, KY

Website Address: www.hopeafterabortionky.com
Contact: Debbie Ward 270-683-6933 info@hopeafterabortionky.com
Friday, January 20, 2012 - Sunday, January 22, 2012

Oakland /East Bay, CA

Local Host: After the Choice, Diocese of Oakland
Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 christinew@firstresort.net
Contact: Valerie 707-967-1101 rachelsvineyard@gmail.com
Friday, January 27, 2012 - Sunday, January 29, 2012

Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 christinew@firstresort.net
Contact: Valerie Johnson Fish 707-967-1101 rachelsvineyard@gmail.com
Friday, January 27, 2012 - Sunday, January 29, 2012

Baltimore, MD

Local Host: Archdiocese of Baltimore
Website Address: www.rachelsvineyardbaltimore.org
Contact: Deacon Frank Zeiler 410-299-9597 Fzeiler@archbalt.org
Contact: Denise Douglas, R.N. 410-625-8491 rvbaltimore@archbalt.org
Friday, January 27, 2012 - Sunday, January 29, 2012

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348
Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 toniafj1@comcast.net
Friday, January 27, 2012 - Sunday, January 29, 2012

Dallas, TX

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org
Contact: Fonda Luersman 972-916-0652 healing@racheldallas.org
Friday, January 27, 2012 - Sunday, January 29, 2012

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