

Vine & Branches

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

May, 2012



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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Rachel's Vineyard Brings Healing to Those in Prison

By A Rachel's Vineyard Coordinator

The following comes from a Rachel's Vineyard coordinator who wished to remain anonymous to respect the confidentiality of those involved in this ministry.

I have an exciting update on our recent work in bringing Rachel's Vineyard to a State Correctional Institution. This prison has maximum security with inmates with some of the dangerous rap sheets in our state.

We are so excited that we now have a male facilitator who was a participant in the first group and now has 48 hours of facilitator training. This inmate has been a blessing to all of the men that have come through the last two groups and has also been able to minister to the men in the absence of the team. This transformation has been so amazing to watch. We now have two additional male inmates who will begin their facilitator training in our next group, scheduled to begin at the end of May.

A wonderful aspect of these retreats is that the prison allows former group members to attend the Memorial Services of the following groups. It is awesome to watch the men building community and friendships that would have otherwise never existed! The prison is ecstatic with our Lord's results. Men who have had the hardest of hearts and who were very isolated from the community are now participating in prison life. Some of the guards have made positive comments as well. God is so great!

I am in contact with some of the leading researchers in post abortion trauma for men and we are hopeful to begin research with our next group. We are waiting to receive the final approval from the Warden to initiate this research. Please cover us with your prayers. Many of the men who come through Rachel's Vineyard in the prison had their abortion experiences as young teenagers and they have associated these experiences to behavior that has lead to their incarcerations. WOW!!!!!!

I pray the Lord will continue to protect this great work and allow the truth and devastating effects of abortion to be revealed.

If you have any questions about Rachel's Vineyard prison ministry, or you're interested in helping/starting a Rachel's Vineyard prison site please contact Amanda Conklin at assistant@rachelsvineyard.org .

A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

April 28, 2012 was the 50th anniversary of the death of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla. On October 4, moreover, we will observe her 90th birthday. This woman, a saint and example for our times, knew the deep interrelationship between her vocation to be a wife, mother, and physician. She saw her life in terms of mission and service to God and his gift of life. She and her husband (who was present for her canonization in 2004 -- a first in the history of the Church!) called their children "treasures."

When Dr. Gianna encountered complications during her final pregnancy, she insisted that the doctors pursue the course of action that protected her child, even though it brought most risk to her. She died a week after giving birth.

As we pursue the mission of healing, the prayers and example of Saint Gianna can be an inspiration to us and to those we serve. I invite you to learn more about this patroness of mothers and of physicians at www.StGiannaMolla.com.

Blessings!

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

"A mother is a mother still, The holiest thing alive."
~Samuel Taylor Coleridge

RV at the Catholic Leadership Conference

By Kevin Burke, LSW

I had the pleasure and honor of Representing Priests for Life and Rachel's Vineyard at the 14th annual **Catholic Leadership Conference** held in King of Prussia PA April 19-20. A common and powerful theme ran through the presentations focusing on the new evangelization, with Marian Consecration/Divine Mercy/The Real Presence in the Eucharist and related miracles/ and Media Internet. The presenters provided resources for sharing the good news of the Catholic faith with Catholics and non Catholics. They

were vibrant and inspirational presentations.

In my interaction with the participants who represented some of the best and thriving (many lay-led) movements in the Catholic Church, I found a great love and respect for the ministry of Fr Frank/Priests for Life, and Rachel's Vineyard

Among the many fine presenters I spoke with Fr Michael Gaitley. Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, is a member of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Michael lives and works on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass., home of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. He shared about his book **33 Days to Morning Glory** ([Click here](#) for more information) and his **Hearts Afire** parish evangelization program as well as a fascinating historical account of the role of Divine Mercy in the life and pontificate of Pope John Paul II. These would be excellent programs to consider for your own personal faith formation and parish outreach. The spiritual practice and journey of Marian Consecration and the message of Divine Mercy is a beautiful gift for women and men who after their post abortion healing experience, want to continue their growth in holiness.



Above: Kevin Burke with Fr. Michael Gaitley at the conference

"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." ~Abraham Lincoln

What Does it Really Mean to Win the Race?

By Theresa Burke

April 20th marked the date of the Christian Burial of Susan Fetta's mother. Susan and Guido Fetta have been long time friends and co-workers with Rachel's Vineyard International Office. Susan started the Rachel's Vineyard site at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. <http://www.czestochowa.us/>

Susan and Guido have spoken many times at our Leadership Conferences and both have been very helpful in development and funding strategies because they have an expertise in this area. They have also done tremendous workshops and training for Silent No More and Public Speaking, Impact Presentations and many other courses. Many of our public speakers from Rachel's Vineyard have gained wonderful skills from their trainings. [Click here](#) to read their bios.

At any rate, as long as I have known Susan, her mother was struggling with Dementia -- an insidious illness that requires so much love, compassion and commitment from family members. Susan and Guido cared for their mom in their home. They both made incredible sacrifices and endured many hardships and tremendous suffering. The day of the funeral, Susan was visibly filled with joy. I told her she had run the race and completed the finish line! She was an amazing daughter, and Guido a selfless son in law! As their mother embarks into her new life in eternity -- this marks a new life for Susan and Guido. The pride and satisfaction on Susan's face as she recognized her mother's joy from eternity, seeing the warm display of so many friends and family who knew intimately the heavy cross they have carried for so many years! The sweet relief of knowing that she (Susan) was a hero and had NO REGRETS! That's the kind of sacrificial brave long suffering I respect and admire!

Please keep this family and Virginia's soul in your prayers. Those family members who have regrets because they could not step up to the plate don't feel the same joy when the next life inevitably opens -- that's our REAL life, this is just the practice for that. I believe Susan and Guido hit a rare perfection. It was always a struggle and anyone who wants to glamorize the kind of extreme love it takes to care for someone who is ill, would be missing the point.

My sister Katie D'Annunzio is also another unsung hero in the extraordinary care she provides for my mother, Margie Karminski. Many selfless family members work triple overtime to assist the elderly and the infirm. I thank God for what Katie provides for the rest of my brothers and sisters as the primary caretaker for my mommy. She not only is there for me, but for all of my kids and the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard full time. I am grateful for her many sacrifices and love!

Please join me in prayer, begging the Lord to strengthen those who care for the sick, those who care for children with special needs, and most especially for family members who care for loved ones who suffer. Lord, give them patience, fearless courage, respite and compassion. We say prayers of gratitude for those who honor the gift of life, in all its stages of convenience and inconvenience, of burden and joy, of love and hope.

I also pray in gratitude for the many friends and professionals and family members who have helped me in my current illness. I thank God for ALL of you! I can't wait to write a book about this extraordinary journey! I have learned so much that I know God will use for good. Please continue to pray for our miracle of complete healing!

I invite friends to follow me on Facebook! [Click here](#) to view my profile.

A Mother's Day Appeal

Mother's day is often a difficult time for post-abortive women. You can help a woman to re-claim her motherhood this Mother's day through a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

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

"A mother's heart is a patchwork of love." ~Author Unknown

Through the Valley of Shadow

By J with Andrew Chew

"...Over the weekend, in the shelter of a safe, sacred place and in the company of a few very special people, a miracle happened. There, standing on what I soon realized was holy ground, the cords of condemnation, guilt, shame, and trauma that had grown out of my abortion and that had bound me to a life of shadows and self-destruction were finally, decisively, cut. I was able to recognize the post-abortion trauma I had been suffering since my abortion and understand how it had led to the choices that had sent my life spinning off onto its disastrous trajectory. It was also a time for mourning and grieving the two lives I had lost: my child's and my own..."

To read this entire story of hope and healing please [click here](#).

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

Share Symposium

Abortion Recovery International is hosting a "Share Symposium" July 16-18, 2012 in Long Beach, CA. Topics include addiction and abortion, counseling couples, men's outreach and much more! Visit www.sharesymposium.org for more information or to register!

Julia Holcomb's Art to be Auctioned

Julia has donated one of her paintings to LifeSite so they can sell it at an auction at their gala. Julia is former fiancé of Steven Tyler, Aerosmith's lead rocker and mother of his aborted child. Kevin Burke wrote an article on Julia in 2011. [Click here](#) to read about Julia's art and to view a picture of the piece that will be auctioned.

Rachel's Vineyard 2011 Leadership Conference CDs 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.

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

"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts." ~Washington Irving

United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

For the repose of the soul of **Virginia Ann Smith**, mother of **Susan Fetta** of the **Doylestown, PA** Rachel's Vineyard team. Virginia passed away in the hour of Divine Mercy after struggling with a long, difficult illness. We pray for Susan and her family during this time of loss, may they be comforted by our Lord's Divine Mercy.

For **Fr. Graeme Howard** of the **Hobart, Australia** team as he recovers from a knee replacement. Also, for **Anne Sherston**, site leader for the **Hobart, Australia** team as she recovers from foot surgery. We pray that they may both know Christ's healing and peace as they make a full recovery.

For Rachel's Vineyard Founder, **Dr. Theresa Burke** who has been struggling with Reflexive Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) since she broke her foot at the Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference in July. We pray for her complete recovery and remission from this illness.

We Pray in Thanksgiving:

For the new Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites in **Weisbaden, Germany** lead by **Julie Enriquez**, **New Orleans, LA** lead by **Melanie Baglow**, **Aberdeen, Scotland** lead by **Dawn Williams**, and **Detroit, MI** lead by **Mike Stack**. We also pray for our new site leaders in **Hartford, CT (Marie Laffin)**, **Dallas, TX (Eileen Kuhlmann)**, and **Nashville, TN (Mary Crone.)** We pray for these teams and leaders, may the Holy Spirit shower them with the graces needed to facilitate these healing retreats.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Summerville, NJ-Legatus Banquet

Kevin Burke will be the guest speaker at the Legatus Northern New Jersey Chapter Banquet.

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Malvern, PA- Legatus Banquet 5-9pm

Theresa will be the guest speaker at the Legatus Philadelphia Chapter Banquet.

Monday, July 22, 2013 -- Thursday, July 25, 2013

Malvern, PA- Rachel's Vineyard International Leadership Conference

Contact: Katie D'Annunzio

katie@rachelsvineyard.org

610-354-0555

Watch for updates on the web, newsletters and egroups!

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Stanwood, WA

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

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Pittsburgh (Western PA) Interdenom, PA

Local Host: Hosanna Church

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

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Omaha/Lincoln, NE

Retreat Location: Locations vary by retreat

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

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Minneapolis/St. Paul (Interdenominational), MN

Local Host: Oak Forest Retreat Center

Contact: Debbi Stocco 651-206-8926 dstocco@nationalrd.com

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Denver (Español), CO

Website Address: home.comcast.net/~elvinedoderaquel/site

Contact: Rosalinda Lozano 720-320-2449 ElVinedoDeRaquel@comcast.net

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Kelowna, BC

Local Host: Diocese of Nelson, British Columbia, Canada

Website Address: www.diocese.nelson.bc.ca

Contact: Janet Kormish 250-762-2273 rv.kelowna@hotmail.com

Contact: Janet Kormish 877-683-CARE

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Vancouver, BC

Local Host: Post Abortion Community Services, Catholic Family Services

Contact: Doreen Yung 604-525-0999 vancouver.rachelsvineyard@rcav.bc.ca

Contact: Michele 604-443-3256

Friday, May 04, 2012 - Sunday, May 06, 2012

Winnipeg (Interdenom), MB

Contact: Chris Mackay 204-772-1923 loss@pregnancy.ca

Friday, May 25, 2012 - Sunday, May 27, 2012

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston
Contact: Mary Lee 254-383-1717 ml.mason@att.net
Thursday, May 10, 2012 - Saturday, May 12, 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, May 11, 2012 - Sunday, May 13, 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, May 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012

Orlando/Central Florida, FL

Contact: Karen Reilly 321-662-5097 karenreilly57@gmail.com
Friday, May 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 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, May 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012

Taipei, TC Taiwan

Contact: Georgie 02-27290265
Contact: Georgie Hsieh 886-2-933426608 georgiehsieh@yahoo.com.tw
Language: Mandarin
Friday, May 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012

Lubbock, TX

Contact: Kathy Krile 806-577-5912 lbb_rachelsvineyard@hotmail.com
Friday, May 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012

Long Island/Huntington (Español), NY

Contact: Donna Crean 631-258-5062 donnacrean@optonline.net
Friday, May 25, 2012 - Sunday, May 27, 2012

San Bernardino, CA

Retreat Location: Duarte, CA
Local Host: Pro Life Catholic Ministries
Contact: Blanca Leal-McGuthrie (Español) 909-238-4037 blmcguthrie@yahoo.com
Contact: Mary Huber - (English) 909-475-5352 mhuber@sbdiocese.org
Language: Spanish Friday, May 25, 2012 - Sunday, May 27, 2012

Perth, WAA Australia

Contact: Jenny Shier rachelsvineyardwa@gmail.com
Friday, May 25, 2012 - Sunday, May 27, 2012

Long Island/Huntington, NY

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

Friday, May 25, 2012 - Sunday, May 27, 2012

Fresno, CA

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 butcher_jennifer@yahoo.com

Contact: Paula Davalos - Español 888-686-8537 paula.d@fbcares.org

Language: Spanish Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Joanne Forgue 405-623-3844 rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844 okcrachel@yahoo.com

Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Portland, OR

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

Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 judywarren543@msn.com

Friday, June 08, 2012 - Sunday, June 10, 2012

Providence, RI

Local Host: Life & Family Ministry, Diocese of Providence

Website Address: www.dioceseofprovidence.org

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118

rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Friday, June 08, 2012 - Sunday, June 10, 2012

Northern New York, NY

Retreat Location: Guggenheim Center Lodge - Saranac Lake

Local Host: Respect Life Office

Website Address: www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life/

Contact: Colleen Miner 518-891-2309 cbm510@roadrunner.com

Friday, June 08, 2012 - Sunday, June 10, 2012

Ann Arbor, MI

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

Friday, June 15, 2012 - Sunday, June 17, 2012

Compiègne, France

Local Host: L'Arche Retreat Center

Contact: Joel Rosenfeld 06-08-42-43-81 j.rosen@free.fr

Language: French Friday, June 15, 2012 - Sunday, June 17, 2012

Wichita, KS

Local Host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita

Contact: Bonnie Toombs 316-269-3935 toombsb@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Bahía Blanca , Argentina

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

Language: Spanish Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Prescott Valley, AZ

Retreat Location: Mission Canyon

Contact: Debra 928-713-9504 rvrpvaz@gmail.com

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Tulsa, OK

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

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Litchfield, CT

Local Host: Archdiocese of Hartford

Contact: Marie Laffin 203-631-9030 mlaffin@prolifeministry.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 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, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Wellington Region, WEL

Website Address: www.rachelsvineyard.org.nz

Contact: Suzanne O'Rourke +64 21 549 528 suzanneor@gmail.com

Contact: Wendy Hill +64 27 254 9222 info@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston

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

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Dallas (Español), TX

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760 sanacion@racheldallas.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 toniafj1@comcast.net

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Lupe 915-867-8016

Contact: Martha bslmrvls@aol.com

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

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