

Vine & Branches
The monthly e-newsletter of
Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

July 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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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm writing this just after getting back from the National Right to Life Convention, at which I was able to present several workshops and preach at mass to hundreds of pro-life activists and leaders from around the United States. Needless to say, the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard was featured prominently in my remarks, as I helped the participants understand more deeply the dynamics of healing after abortion.

As happens everywhere in the world when this vision is presented, they were excited and energized to get more involved and start spreading the word. They were able to pick up some Rachel's Vineyard information in English and Spanish at our exhibit booth at the Convention.

Congressman Chris Smith, in his remarks to the general session of the Convention, thanked us by name for our work in the arena of healing after abortion, and commented on what an impact it has had. Thanks go to all of you for your role in fostering this critically important ministry!

Sincerely,

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

"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope." ~Winston Churchill

A Rachel's Vineyard Independence Day Appeal

July is a time to celebrate the many freedoms we have. This Independence day, you can help a man or woman who feels enprisoned by their past abortion experience the freedom that comes from God's healing grace through a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those affected by 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

Save the Date-Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference 2013

The next Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference will take place July 22-25th 2013 in Malvern, PA. Mark your calendars now and save the dates for an educational and inspirational gathering that you won't want to miss! We are moving into high gear in the planning of our conference. Please keep your eye out for more details to come!



Forbidden Grief

We receive many phone calls at our office and on our hotline daily. Several of the callers ask for materials or a book they can read which will help explain their feelings of grief and start them on their way to healing. We always recommend the book *Forbidden Grief; The Unspoken Pain of Abortion* by Dr. Theresa Burke. Below is an excerpt from the book. To read more of the book or to order [click here](#).

Gina's Story

"I was hoping you could help my daughter. She needs counseling. Somebody objective. God certainly knows I'm not." Mr. Davis's voice trailed off as if in regretful thought.

"What's the problem?" I asked, shifting the telephone receiver to my shoulder so I could jot down a few notes.

"Well," he stammered, "my daughter, Gina, is dating this guy. He's verbally and physically abusive. He's ruining her life."

Mr. Davis sounded desperate. In his voice I could detect anger and hurt but worst of all helplessness. "I can't just sit back and watch my daughter ruin her life. This guy already has another kid he can't support. I don't know what she sees in him. My Gina—she's a great girl."

His tone changed to a hushed whisper. "I love her so much but I'm losing her." He was silent for a moment, then his voice cracked, "Please, can you do something? Can you help her see what a creep he is? Gina won't listen to me anymore."

I informed Mr. Davis that I couldn't break them up, but I could help Gina examine her relationship and sort out her feelings about this man. Then I asked Mr. Davis if anything else had happened between Gina and her boyfriend.

The question itself was a threat. Mr. Davis hesitated. Finally he answered, "Well, there is something, but it should really come from her. I think she should be the one to tell you. After all, it's her life, and I don't want her to think I was talking behind her back."

"Did your daughter have an abortion?" I asked in a matter-of-fact tone. The word was said. Abortion. There was silence, as is almost always the case. I had a telephone listing for "The Center for Post-Abortion Healing," yet still people would often struggle to explain why they were calling.

I met his daughter that night. Gina was 19, with long blond hair and sad blue eyes. "My dad made me have it," she explained. "He told me I couldn't live with them if I didn't. He knew it might make me hate him, but he was willing to take that risk. I'd get over it, he said. I was not raised to believe in abortion. In high school I even wrote a paper on it." Her eyes welled with tears, shining like brilliant sapphires.

For three years Gina had never told anyone about the abortion; within a few moments,

the memory surfaced like a tidal wave of grief. The surges of the experience came crashing against the fortress of my therapeutic composure as I attempted to steady her for the next gush of emotion...

Kevin Burke on Fatherhood and Abortion

The following article was originally printed in the Legatus Northern New Jersey Chapter's Spring 2012 newsletter.

Gathering at the Beacon Hill Club earlier this month, the Northern New Jersey Chapter of Legatus greeted Kevin Burke of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries who addressed the topic of abortion's impact on fatherhood and the family. Burke began his presentation with the story of famed musician, Steven Tyler from Aerosmith. In his autobiography, Tyler admits: "It was a big crisis. It's a major thing when you're growing something with a woman, but they convinced us that it would never work out and would ruin our lives...You go to the doctor and they put the needle in her belly and they squeeze the stuff in and you watch. And it comes out dead. I was pretty devastated." We usually think of the mother's choice; however, in 95% of the cases, the father plays an important role in abortion decisions.

Abortion attacks, in a fundamental and diabolical way, the dignity of the human person, the vocation of mother and father, and the spiritual and relational life of the family. At the core of this evil is the "Shame of Adam," men failing in their vocation as men – to protect their children. And the trauma has an immediate impact. A man copes with this through detachment, cutting themselves off from the experience and feelings of abortion. Nevertheless, according to the Shostak Study, one in four consider abortion murder; over 80% think about the child that might have been born; 30% think of the child frequently; they all experience what is called "Complicated Grief."

Men without healing will definitely be affected by the trauma and grief – the lack of healing. They become angry men, avoiding their feelings of grief often leading them into depression, incarceration and criminal activity. On the other side, those men who cope with repressed complicated grief become emotionally detached workaholics; gambling, alcohol, and drug abuse increases. Burke quoted psychologist Dr. Mary Layden of the University of Pennsylvania, who recognizes "the most dangerous addictive substance available in America" as pornography, which actually changes the brain (for more information on this, go to pornnomore.com) These issues can have a serious impact upon relationships, marriage, and family life.

Despite all this horror, Burke assures us there is a door to hope for post abortive men and their loved ones. Couples can work together for post-abortive healing. Thousands of couples have shared their post-abortive experience in Rachel's Vineyard and have taken that step towards healing and redemption.

In 2006, Benedict XVI explained, "The school of faith, then, is not a triumphal march but a journey marked daily by suffering and love, trials and faithfulness. Peter knew the humiliation of denial, and for this he wept bitterly. But having learned his own nothingness, he was then ready for his mission." This movement through grief takes courage, the very courage of the "New Adam" as He is seen on the cross; reminding us that by His sufferings, we are forgiven and even our deepest wounds are healed.

"Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged."

~Ronald Reagan

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

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

United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

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 last July. We continue to pray for her complete recovery and remission from this illness.

For the **Lang Family** as they mourn the miscarriage of their baby girl, **Athanasius Josefina**. We pray that the Lord embrace them during this difficult time and give them the grace to celebrate little Athanasius' life.

For the repose of the soul of **Barbara Hennes**. Barbara worked untiringly with her husband, Mark, to get Rachel's Vineyard started in **Dallas** and was instrumental in the start up of the Rachel's Vineyard in **Fort Worth**. We pray that Barbara is welcomed into the Lord's arms to join her loving husband Mark.

"Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth." ~ John F. Kennedy

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 12, 2012 -- Saturday, October 13, 2012

Fort Worth, TX-Rachel's Vineyard Regional Training

Kevin Burke will be conducting a Regional Training in Fort Worth, TX. The training will be hosted by Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Friday, November 09, 2012 -- Saturday, November 10, 2012

Diocese of Dallas, TX Pastoral Conference

Kevin Burke will be presenting on Post-Abortion Healing to clergy and mental professionals.

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

Malvern, PA-Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference

Save the Date-More details TBA

"There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires." ~Nelson Mandela

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Vienna, Austria

Contact: Claudia Brandhuber (+43) 0699-1021-4241 info@rachelsweinberg.at

Language: German

Friday, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 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, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 08, 2012

Hankinson, ND

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

Contact: Ruth Ruch 701-219-3941 ruch@i29.net

Friday, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 08, 2012

Allentown, PA

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

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Paterson/Morris County, NJ

Local Host: Paterson Diocese

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-437-9735 rachel@patersondiocese.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Annette Evans 916-733-0161 projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Memphis, TN

Retreat Location: Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center

3630 Dancyville Rd. Stanton, TN 38069

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Contact: Mary Crone 901-277-5114 rachelsvineyard@att.net

Contact: Mary Pat Van Epps 901-373-1285 marypat.vanepps@cc.cdom.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Dallas, TX

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Contact: Lacy de la Garza 972-835-4736 healing@racheldallas.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Corpus Christi, TX

Contact: Fr. Tom Goodwin 361-947-2624 thepadre@goccn.org

Contact: Valerie Uriegas 361-739-4744 valeriejean075@gmail.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Williamsburg, VA

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

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

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

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Denver, CO

Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 lorgreg@msn.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Mesa, AZ

Local Host: St. Timothy

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

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 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, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Springfield, MA

Retreat Location: Chicopee & Stockbridge

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

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

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

San Gabriel (LA) (Español), CA

Local Host: Duarte, CA

Contact: Amparo (877) 272-7835

Contact: Graciela Sandoval 562-237-3050

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Lake Charles, LA

Retreat Location: Saint Charles Center

2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway Lake Charles, LA 70611

Local Host: Diocese of Lake Charles

Website Address: www.lcdiocese.org

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317 rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

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

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

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

Friday, August 03, 2012 - Sunday, August 05, 2012

York County, PA

Local Host: Diocese of Harrisburg

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

Friday, August 03, 2012 - Sunday, August 05, 2012

Note: Location: Mariwald Renewal Center in Reading www.mariawaldrenewal.com

Saginaw, MI

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652 sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

Friday, August 10, 2012 - Sunday, August 12, 2012

Perth, WAA Australia

Contact: Jenny Shier rachelsvineyardwa@gmail.com

Friday, August 10, 2012 - Sunday, August 12, 2012

Fresno, CA

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

Contact: Paula Davalos - Español 888-686-8537 paula.d@fbcares.org
Friday, August 10, 2012 - Sunday, August 12, 2012

Longbranch, WA

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814
Contact: Valerie Jacobs 800-822-HOPE valeriepr@aol.com
Friday, August 10, 2012 - Sunday, August 12, 2012

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston
Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717 ml.mason@att.net
Friday, August 17, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012

Camden, NJ

Local Host: Pope John Paul II Retreat Center
Contact: Margarita Moran 856-691-2299 projectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net
Friday, August 17, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012

Denver (Español), CO

Website Address: home.comcast.net/~elvinedoderaquel/site
Contact: Rosalinda Lozano 720-320-2449 ElVinedoDeRaquel@comcast.net
Friday, August 17, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012

San Jose (Interdenom), CA

Retreat Location: Location: El Retiro Jesuit Retreat Center 300 Manresa Way, Los Altos, CA 94022
Local Host: RealOptions Medical Center
Website Address: realoptions.net/hope_details.html
Contact: Maria Klein 650-988-9400 maria@dxdt.com
Friday, August 17, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012

Richardton, ND

Local Host: Bismarck Diocese
Contact: Carol Kling 605-374-5639 ckling@sdplains.com
Friday, August 17, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012

Weisbaden, HES

Contact: Julie Enriquez 49-151-4180-9797 hopeforhealingweisbaden@yahoo.com
Friday, August 24, 2012 - Sunday, August 26, 2012

Cork, Ireland

Website Address: www.rachelsvineyard.ie
Contact: Bernadette Goulding 087 859 2877 noramalone15@yahoo.com
Friday, June 29, 2012 - Sunday, July 01, 2012
Note: Location: Knock
Friday, August 24, 2012 - Sunday, August 26, 2012

Tampa, FL

Retreat Location: Bethany Retreat Center, Lutz, FL
Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 emmaboee@aol.com

Friday, August 24, 2012 - Sunday, August 26, 2012

Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: hkarrow@sfcatholic.org

Contact: Margi Culhane mculhane@sfcatholic.org

Contact: Dr. Marcie Moran 605-988-3775

Friday, August 24, 2012 - Sunday, August 26, 2012