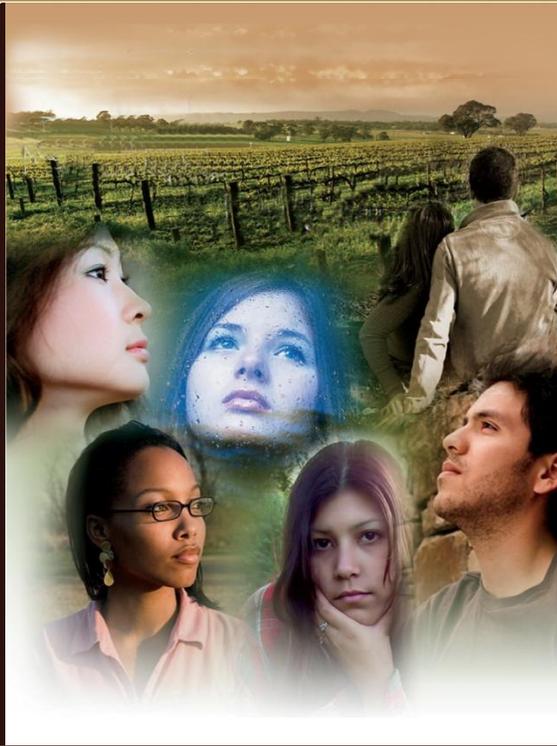


Vine & Branches

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

August 2013



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.

Content:

What it was like for me? . . . my post Rachel's Vineyard Experience

In Defense of a Cure

A Mother's Lament

United in Prayer

Message from Pastoral Director

Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

Rachel's Vineyard Social Networking

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

We are in Urgent Need of New Team Members, TV interviews, Retreat Participants and Clergy in Europe!

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Special Notice:

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries educational DVD set *Abortion Loss & Unresolved Grief* is still available to order! The accompanying study guides are being offered as well. With the purchase of 1 DVD set you will receive one free course guide. Additional course guides are being offered at the great rate of three guides for \$10.00. If you already have the DVD set but do not have the course guides now is the time to order!! It is suggested that each person viewing *Abortion Loss & Unresolved Grief* have their own study guide. To take advantage of this GREAT offer simply follow this link: <https://www.priestsforlife.org/store/c-51-rachels-vineyard.aspx>

What it was like for me? . . . my post Rachel's Vineyard Experience

The first few days after my Rachel's Vineyard Retreat I found myself looking at my life differently. Through the exercises at the retreat I had hovered above the span of my life, seeing it expand -- a huge satellite map before me where I viewed the intersections, the detours, the side roads, the main arteries, the off-road trails, the dead ends. As though I were scanning a Google map, I zoomed in on routes I'd taken, understanding that I had made choices to venture on the road less travelled, delving into my own uncharted territory -- sometimes naively and dangerously led by curiosity; other times, striding defiantly, even willingly into a lake of fire, one that would leave burn scars on me. Through the exercises at the retreat I had forgiven myself for the choices I'd made forty years ago. God had forgiven me—at last I truly believed that. What a relief to know that He loves me still and loved me even then, all through those bad choices.

And with that forgiveness of myself, came an understanding of others – that good people can make some terrible decisions when we are scared and cut adrift of Jesus Christ. When we feel our backs to the wall, we can make murderous choices. I examined beliefs I'd held about capital punishment. There had been a shift in my beliefs. I had murdered: I aborted my two little helpless babies—I had killed them! For decades I

had buried these facts so deep that I rarely thought about what I'd done, and when those thoughts surfaced, I preferred to believe the lie that a fetus is not a human being. I regret my actions. And yet, even though I am a murderer—not in the eyes of the law—God loves me and calls me His child. He takes me back and cares for me and offers me solace.

After the retreat, I held the pieces of my life to my eye, as though through a kaleidoscope: all the pieces were there, but the configuration had changed. My story is no longer the same. I am loved and forgiven, made new again through Jesus Christ on the cross.

I shared details of my abortion with my husband, things I'd never told him. The weight was off my shoulders; Jesus was carrying the load. As a result of the grace I'd been granted, I saw subsequent changes in my husband: greater compassion and patience for others whom he might have judged quickly and harshly before. Grace shared, mercy shown. Mercy within mercy, within mercy. Grace passed on. Jesus, my Savior, my Healer. Thank you, Lord.

Psalm 28:7-8

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

In Defense of a Cure

by Barbara Fryman

Should we cure Down syndrome? It is a question posed by The Lejeune Foundation on Facebook in response to a breakthrough in research that can switch off the third copy of the 21st chromosome, which is the cause of Down syndrome. There are many parents who have serious concerns about fooling with their child's genes, concerns we all should consider. There are also a lot of people who believe we shouldn't even consider curing Down syndrome at all, and I can absolutely relate. Yet, I disagree with them.

Our fifth child, Mariana, was born with Down syndrome. Her diagnosis brought me peace because I knew something was not quite right during my pregnancy. I can only credit God's grace for giving me the first words I muttered when I found out. I muttered, "Thank God." I thought it was going to be worse.

During Mariana's first year of life my mother brought up something she had seen about people with Ds getting plastic surgery to look "normal". (I know, whatever that means, right?) My mom was surprised that there would be any objections to such a proposal as long as the people getting the surgery had the capacity to make the decision. My reaction was not so kind. I love the way Mariana looks. I love her eyes and her cheeks and

her nose. I love her ears and her belly that may never be slender. As John Paul II put it, her body makes visible the invisible and I love every inch.

When I took a step back I realized I was considering me and what I wanted. I'm not exactly the best at accepting change in people. When my mother had a front tooth that needed to be fixed, I felt a little sad that her smile had changed. What was "fixed" actually took what I liked about my mom's smile. (I've gotten over it and my mother's smile is once again in my good graces.) What if Mariana has the capacity to make the decision to change her appearance so that the world doesn't judge her on sight? Could I, as her mother, refuse to support that? I don't have to live with her face! While the harsh judgment of others might hurt me, it is she they would be judging. (I still have no answer to that question of support. She's my baby, and she's perfect!)

Mariana is healthy but delayed. At 16.5 months she wants desperately to catch up with her siblings. She wants to walk, she wants to talk, she wants to be like the other kids. Her behavior is that of a youngest sibling who wants to "Do it myself." But she can't. She will, someday, but not at the rate of her siblings. Her decisions will always be questioned; her ability will always be evaluated. She will always be under the watchful eye of her family and her doctors. What if she doesn't want that? What if she wants a cure? I may have accepted her diagnosis with ease, but will she?

I realize that a cure for Down syndrome threatens to rob me of the child I know. This question really isn't about me, my husband Scott, or anyone other than Mariana. I don't know if she'll see a cure as a reason to hope, but I'm not going to decide for her that she can't have it. She's a person and she'll have her own dreams and her own vocation, and that might include finding a way to live without the effects of her extra chromosome. Can I deny her that?

There is another reason for hoping for a cure. It is that dreaded number of abortions that occur when there is a prenatal diagnosis. How many people are not with us because they were conceived with an extra chromosome? How many parents were convinced that Down syndrome was a sentence? What if there were a cure, and what if it could be administered prenatally? Who among us would rather a child's life be terminated because we are afraid a cure might mean our children will change if a cure is pursued.

Should we question the science? YES! I've written about my very serious questions. I absolutely think we need to check and recheck this breakthrough. I do not feel any less protective of Mariana than before, and I'm not suggesting we run straight into the lab and sign up for human trials. Scientific research is a process, and should never be hurried. I just do not support the idea that we shouldn't ask, "What if we can?" and I don't think we should be offended by those who ask it.

To read more from Barbara Fryman follow her blog, Special Forces, <http://321force.blogspot.com>.

Barbara Fryman is Fr. John McHale's niece. Fr. John is Dr. Theresa Burke's personal spiritual advisor and he is also involved with Rachel's Vineyard and Grief to Grace.

Count your blessings. Once you realize how valuable you are and how much you have going for you, the smiles will return, the sun will break out, the music will play, and you will finally be able to move forward toward the life that God intended for you with grace, strength, courage, and confidence.

-Og Mandino

A Mother's Lament

By Mary Elizabeth

Eleven years after my abortion, I became a Christian. I had buried my thoughts and feelings about it deeply, and remained pro-choice for about 1 year after my conversion. A radio testimony, on a Christian station describing partial birth abortion horrified me and was the catalyst to change my thinking, but God really started to work in my heart!

When I wrote the song, *A Mother's Lament*, I had come to terms with what I had done to my baby. It is not only a bereavement song. It is a song of repentance and ultimately God's mercy and forgiveness of the repentant sinner. In it I ask forgiveness for what I did, both from my child and ultimately from God. My healing from the abortion started here.

Fast forward to 2009 when I attended a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Sanford, Maine

My original desire to attend the retreat was to learn, as a new Counselor, how to help other post-abortive women. In my mind I had received so much Grace and healing from God that I did not expect to find more healing there. Yet clearly I was told by the Rachel's Vineyard team, that if I went I had to go for myself, not for anyone else.

I did not know what to expect, and all I can say is I was in for a beautiful experience beyond my imaginings! You see I had healed in two key areas prior to the retreat weekend, but the third area I had not experienced until the weekend.

It has been almost three years since I attended my Rachel's Vineyard retreat. I have now helped on two weekends as a counselor. We as the team are there only to serve the program and the attendees as they experience it. God does the rest! Throughout the weekend as I watch the changes on the participants' faces, I know I have realized my goal to help post-abortive women!

To view the video for *A Mother's Lament* click this link, <http://rachelsvineyard.org/video/index.aspx> and choose *A Mother's Lament*.

As far as inner transformation is concerned, there is nothing you can do about it. You cannot transform yourself, and you certainly cannot transform your partner or anybody else. All you can do is create a space for transformation to happen, for grace and love to enter.
-Eckhart Tolle

United in Prayer

For *Bishop Frank J. Caggiano*, the new Bishop for the diocese of Bridgeport, CT. The Spanish and English Rachel's Vineyard teams in Bridgeport, CT are asking for your prayers that he may be willing to permit Rachel's Vineyard to bring healing and restoration to those in need.

We pray in Thanksgiving for:

Lovette Vassar who is the new Rachel's Vineyard site leader in *Fort Hood/Kileen, TX*.

Save the Date!!

July 21-24 of 2014!!! This is the date for the next Rachel's Vineyard Ministries International Leadership Conference. Mark your calendars for this very special event. Dr. Theresa Burke has been working hard to bring you some fabulous new classes on topics that have never before been discussed in post abortion conferences. This conference promises to be a rejuvenating experience for all who come! Expect lots of laughter, learning, new friendships, and relaxation! Be on the lookout for more information.

Message from Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You may have seen the news reports about my recent visit to the Medical Examiner's office in Philadelphia. I went there with other pro-life leaders and activists to stand and pray in solidarity with the babies whose bodies, retrieved from Kermit Gosnell's abortion mill, were still there in the Medical Examiner's office as of late July.

I led a press conference which got national media, and both in the remarks at that conference and in the legal letter delivered to the Medical Examiner, the healing work of Rachel's Vineyard was mentioned.

In fact, the request we have made to conduct a national funeral and burial service for these babies, is a request based on the need that so many

have for healing. Our nation itself needs healing.

We do not know what will happen with these bodies, but we do know what Rachel's Vineyard continues to accomplish each and every day, as we draw from the unending stream of mercy, peace and healing flowing from the Cross of Christ. Thank you for helping this process!

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

Fear of the pain blinds us to the goal of healing. Only by seeing our problems clearly and experiencing them can we do something about them.

-Bob Hoffman

Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

Summer is a time of laughter, love and family. This can be a hard time of year for many who have lost a loved one due to abortion. You can help bring healing to someone's life by supporting Rachel's Vineyard this August.

Please consider making a generous donation today. Your donation will make the difference for someone who desperately needs healing.

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

It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.

-Richard Braunstein

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

Happiness is not so much in having or sharing. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

-Norman Macewan

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity

www.GriefftoGrace.com

Beaverton, OR

Contact: Fr Peter O'Brien at griefftoGraceoregon@gmail.com

541-357-7501

September 12-15, 2013

Dr. Theresa Burke will be training facilitators for the Portland, OR Grief to Grace team.

London, UK

Contact: Fr. Dominic at g2guk@yahoo.co.uk

Call: 00 44 (0)75 4855 2558 or 00 44 (0)20 8947 6420

October 27-November 1, 2013

Dr. Theresa Burke will be training facilitators.

Dr. Theresa Burke will be the lead facilitator.

Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Jeanne Haines at info@griefftoGrace.org 610-203-2002

February 23- 27, 2014

Dr. Theresa Burke will be the lead facilitator.

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Contact: G2GKelowna@shaw.ca

Retreats:

April 18-21, 2013

November 7-10, 2013

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada

Contact: Gerri Fletcher religious.ed@theedge.ca 867-920-2129

June 1-4, 2013

This is a closed retreat specifically for the Inuit peoples.

We are in Urgent Need of New Team Members, TV interviews, Retreat Participants and Clergy in Europe!

Please Forward to Anyone Who Might Be Interested.

Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Grief to Grace Retreat in London, England October 27 through November 1, 2013. She will be arriving in London one week prior to the retreat to conduct a number of trainings for clergy, public lectures, and facilitator training for Grief to Grace. She will also be doing television interviews for EWTN.

Special Needs Include:

1. People willing to be interviewed by EWTN about:
 - a. Abortion Trauma
 - b. Abuse Trauma (neglect, sexual, physical or emotional)

c. Clergy Spiritual Abuse

2. Circulating information for people who want to attend the London, England Grief to Grace Retreat for personal healing.

3. Those who have already gone on a Grief to Grace Retreat and would like to attend the training in order to serve as part of the Grief to Grace Team during the October 27 – November 1, 2013 retreat

Please contact Lairen @ 2assistant@rachelsvineyard.org for more information on how you can get involved!

Dr. Theresa Burke will be doing another retreat in Philadelphia on February 23-28, 2014. People in the USA can spread the word about that, as we have many interested sites starting up in the USA as well.

If you are unfamiliar with Grief to Grace, here is a link to learn a little more about the ministry <http://www.griegtograce.org/>

For the information packet click here,

<http://www.griegtograce.org/Grief%20to%20Grace%20'11.pdf> or

email Lairen @ 2assistant@rachelsvineyard.org for more information.

There is only one way to happiness and that is to cease worrying about things which are beyond the power of our will.

- Epictetus

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

Augusta, Georgia – Speaker for Rachels Vineyard Workshop and GRTL Fundraiser Gala

Kevin Burke will be visiting Augusta, GA to be a speaker for The Greater Augusta Chapter of Georgia Right to Life Banquet and will be giving two presentations at a workshop on Saturday August 17, 2013.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Gene Binet 706-855-0906 or via email at gorabinet@aol.com

London, England – Grief to Grace Team Training

Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Grief to Grace Team Training event the week of October 21- 25, 2013.

For further information please contact:

Lairen Vogan at 610-354-0555 or via email at

2assistant@rachelsvineyard.org

Hays, Kansas – Clinical Training and Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator & Team Training

Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Clinical Training on September 3, 2013 and a Rachel's Vineyard Facilitators & Team Training on September 4, 2013.

For further information please contact:

Donetta Robben at 877-447-4383 or via email at rvineyard@ruraltel.net

Grand Rapids, MI – Clinical Training and Rachel's Vineyard
Facilitator & Team Training

Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Clinical Training on October 4th
and a Rachel's Vineyard Facilitators & Team Training on October 5th in
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

For further questions please contact:

Maggie Walsh at 616-340-1824 or via email at mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

One who has imagination without learning has wings without feet.
-Joseph Joubert

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

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

Friday, August 02, 2013

Sunday, August 04, 2013

Longbranch, WA

Contact: (Español) 206-450-7814

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

Friday, August 02, 2013

Sunday, August 04, 2013

Tampa, FL

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

Friday, August 02, 2013

Sunday, August 04, 2013

Palm Beach, FL

Contact: Donna Gardner 561-602-4778 isaiah61@bellsouth.net

Friday, August 09, 2013

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717 rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Saturday, August 17, 2013

Saginaw, MI

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

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

Friday, August 16, 2013

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Oakland /East Bay, CA

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 christinew@firstresort.net

Denomination: Interdenom

Friday, August 16, 2013

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Menlo Park, CA

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 christinew@firstresort.net

Denomination: Interdenom

Friday, August 16, 2013

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Fort Hood / Killeen (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Lovette Vassar 254-289-1595 aclassic74vette@aol.com

Friday, August 16, 2013

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Lancaster, KY

Contact: Ellie Durbin 859-806-3959 elliedurbin@gmail.com

Contact: Gwen Hall 606-874-9170 ghall@cdlex.org

Friday, August 23, 2013

Sunday, August 25, 2013

Richardton, ND

Contact: Carol Kling 605-374-5639 ckling@sdplains.com

Friday, August 23, 2013

Sunday, August 25, 2013

Tucson, AZ

Contact: Confidential Phone Line 520-743-6777 tlmtlc59@yahoo.com

Contact: Gail Phelps 520-234-0208 rachelsvineyardtucson@cox.net

Contact: Judy Barnett 520-237-9034 rachelsvineyardtucson@q.com

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

Dallas, TX

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760

ekuhlmann@prolifedallas.org

Contact: Maggie Lopez 214-544-2273 mlopez@prolifedallas.org

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

Detroit Area, MI

Contact: Chris Elwart 248-494-6363 info@detroitrachelsvineyard.org

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

San Bernardino, CA

Contact: Blanca Leal-McGuthrie (Español) 909-520-3867

blancamcuthrie@gmail.com

Contact: Mary Huber - (English) 909-475-5352

mhuber@sbdioocese.org

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

Note: Retreat will be in Big Bear

Fort Worth, TX

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

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

Perth, Western Australia

Contact: Jenny Shier rachelsvineyardwa@gmail.com

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

North-East, Scotland (Interdenom)

Contact: Mary-Lou Bell 07913290839 mlb@alphainfo.co.uk

Contact: Dawn Williams 07875749350 everydaydawns@yahoo.co.uk

Friday, September 06, 2013

Sunday, September 08, 2013

Providence, RI

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118

rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Friday, September 13, 2013

Sunday, September 15, 2013

Linden, NJ

Contact: Cheryl Riley 973-497-4350 rileyche@rcan.org

Friday, September 13, 2013

Sunday, September 15, 2013

Cedar Falls, IA

Contact: Kris Gaspari 515-306-7838 krisgaspari@mac.com

Friday, September 13, 2013

Sunday, September 15, 2013

Janesville (Interdenom), WI

Contact: Cheryl Ryan 608-235-7542 rancher868@charter.net

Contact: Pregnancy Helpline 608-755-9739 cheryl@pregnancy-helpline.net

Friday, September 13, 2013

Sunday, September 15, 2013

Denver (Español), CO

Contact: Rosalinda Lozano 720-320-2449

ElVinedoDeRaquel@comcast.net

Friday, September 20, 2013

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Doylestown, PA

Contact: Evelyn 215-317-5752 evelynwalsh59@gmail.com

Friday, September 20, 2013

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Atlanta, GA

Contact: Mary Ann McNeil 404-717-5557 pathmcneil@gmail.com

Friday, September 20, 2013

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Cullman, AL

Contact: Maria Steele 901-356-2259 maria_vineyard@yahoo.com

Denomination: Interdenom

Friday, September 27, 2013

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Charlotte, NC

Contact: 1 Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol 704-370-3229

MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org

Contact: Deacon Tom Rasmussen 828-495-7234

deacontom@centurylink.net

Contact: Shelley Glanton 828-230-4940

sglantonop@charter.net

Friday, September 27, 2013

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Hamden, CT

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

Friday, September 27, 2013

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Spokane, WA

Contact: Julie Olson 509-994-4355 spokanerv@gmail.com

Friday, September 27, 2013

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Hays, KS

Contact: Donetta Robben 877-447-4383 rvineyard@ruraltel.net

Contact: Hattie Stein 620-227-1584 hstein@dcdiocese.org

Friday, September 27, 2013

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Vienna, Austria

Contact: Claudia Brandhuber (+43) 0699-1021-4241

info@rachelsweinberg.at

Language: German

Friday, September 27, 2013

Sunday, September 29, 2013