

Vine & Branches

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

May 2014



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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IMPORTANT UPDATE:

We have just made the difficult decision to postpone the 2014 Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference, scheduled for July 21 – 24, 2014 in Malvern, PA. While this is a disappointment to those who have looked forward to our conference, we are excited to announce that we're developing our educational outreach for licensure that will offer online training. This training will be offered over the internet and will lead to levels of licensing for those who use our treatment models. These classes will enhance the team member's ability to facilitate retreats.

This decision will make it possible for those throughout the world, who do not have the financial resources to attend our conference, to be trained using our online educational program.

Please keep these exciting efforts in your prayers.

WINNICA RACHELI – How Poland Has Made a Difference in the Lives of Those Suffering After Abortion

By: Hanna Potrapeluk

Rachel's Vineyard's Polish Branch 'WINNICA RACHELI' has been working very hard over the last year to bring healing to those suffering after abortion to Poland.

My real journey with Rachel's Vineyard started in 2009 when I attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Colorado I truly didn't expect to find any healing because I didn't feel like I deserved to, but by the end of the

weekend I found the same peace everyone else received and I saw it must have been from God. The retreat changed my life.

I waited a few years before reached out to Rachel's Vineyard again. When I did I sent an email to the Rachel's Vineyard National Office. I was elated when Theresa answered my email in my own language! It became clear that there was a great need to translate the Rachel's Vineyard Manual into the Polish language. So that is where my team and I began. It has been a long journey since that first correspondence and now we are beginning to see our labor come to fruition.

We recently took part in a Symposium on Forgiveness in Warsaw, Poland it was held on March 29th-30th.



The Warsaw Catholic University - Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego - invited Rachel's Vineyard to lead a debate on "How to help to forgive after an abortion". Rachel's Vineyard [RV] was not well known in Poland prior to this debate, but thanks to UKSW we are changing that.

The Symposium was organized by a well known psychology professor Maria Ryś. The event turned out to be the perfect place to introduce RV to clergy and professionals.

Having a bit of experience in catering I offered to sponsor one of the coffee breaks on the first day of the conference, according to the Polish proverb "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach." I started the preparations by painting fruit boxes the colors of grapes and spraying the RV logo in gold. I topped each box with a piece of glass to get a presentable surface for the 200 carrot cake muffins I would make.



The number of people registering for the conference grew rapidly the day before, so I requested a favor from a student friend of mine. She later told me that she asked her 2 roommates for help with the cakes, they were happy to help saying that, "for the first time in our lives we got the satisfaction of helping a non-profit activity."

This was only the beginning of what would become a miraculous weekend.

Thanks to the generous sweet display we were all able to look beyond our differing political views. We had people coming up to us all day with a few even asking us for our recipes! Through this weekend it felt like we were invigorating the scattered and separate Polish Pro-Life scene into one body of people who are working to save lives.

We prepared carefully for the debate on 'forgiveness after an abortion' thanks to the material we received from Lauren from the national RV office and the counsel of our mentor Edie Gutierrez of RV Colorado.

Each of us had 2 questions up our sleeves and a short presentation of how the problem is approached and dealt with on the retreat.

Ania, one of our team members, who was raised by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, surprised a psychologist in the auditorium by presenting how the RV process is compatible with 'Jesus speaks with the soul in despair' in St. Faustina's Diary.

Gosia, a psychiatric nurse on our team, explained how the stone is helping the retreatants face their inability to forgive.

I asked what would they most like to know about RV and a man asked

whether we offer healing for men. Luckily the day before I read the [testimony](#) from Kevin Burke about the male retreatant in a Florida prison and I shared what I could remember. After the debate the man came up to us to register for our April retreat!

Another extraordinary moment was that a journalist from 'Gość Niedzielny', the #1 catholic magazine in Poland, came up to us and told us she had planned to attend another more popular debate at the same time, but changed her mind at the last minute and attended our debate. The result of her unexplainable change of plans was a photo session with us holding the RV flag. She also invited me to do an interview. I accepted and was interviewed by a journalist for her program 'Spirituality and Psychology' to present how RV can bring those suffering healing after abortion.

During the show I had the chance to talk about the history of RV and how long we have been in Poland.

She asked what kind of healing we're offering and I said we base what we do on faith that Jesus Christ has conquered death otherwise healing would not be possible; then I said RV is the fruit of a branch of psychology that combines faith and psychology and is widely accepted in the US. I added that the process leads through grief to truth, to reconciliation, peace and ends with joy and happiness.

They asked me to describe the life of a woman with a post-abortion syndrome, so I mentioned some of the symptoms women struggle with such as, depression, insomnia, substance abuse...etc... I added that everyone has a different sensitivity but to the men and women who have had an abortion even a bug which drowned in a sink or killing a fly can remind them of the abortion. Sometimes a newborn in the family or an adopted baby is a reminder to somebody who has been trying hard to forget the decision they made to have an abortion. The radio show aired just before our first retreat at the end of April.

The symposium was a part of the Week for Life here in Warsaw culminating on the 9th Annual March for Life. We couldn't miss this opportunity to attend the march!

Fr. Dominik Koperski, from the Warsaw Curia, who has been designated by Cardinal Nycz to care for the RV retreat yelled "join us!" when he saw us walking with the flag and distributing flyers and we gladly did.

Our initial unease of being in the spotlight melted away quickly and having a sense of God's hand over us in every detail strengthened our belief that RV is truly His work.



Thank you for supporting us as we embark on our journey through the Vineyard.

Sincerely,

Winnica Racheli - Poland

"God does not prosper a man's business so he can move from a Ford to a Cadillac. God prospers a business so that 17,000 unreached peoples can be reached with the gospel. He prospers a business so that twelve percent of the world's population can move a step back from the precipice of starvation."

- John Piper.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Offers Healing for Women after Abortions

By Joseph Ryan

"Thus says the Lord: In Ramah is heard the sound of sobbing, bitter weeping!

Rachel mourns for her children, she refuses to be consoled for her children – they are no more!

Thus says the Lord: Cease your cries of weeping, hold back you tears!

There is compensation for your labor...they shall return from the enemy's land. There is hope for your future...your children shall return to their own territory."

- Jeremiah: 31:15-17

Rachel's Vineyard is a weekend retreat program designed to help women come to terms with an abortion in their past.

The confidential retreats help in healing the emotional and spiritual wounds of women and men who have had or were involved in past abortions.

Nan Freeman, a parishioner at St. Ann's in Wilmington, DE, who leads a retreat team in the diocese, said recently that it is often decades later that post-abortive women begin to seek healing for their loss.

"They've never told anybody," Freeman said. The abortion, "hasn't been grieved. Sometimes, it's just having the courage to tell one other person," that can lead the woman who suffered the loss to get some help.

Freeman said that often the women who attend the retreats have already come to terms with God's forgiveness.

"People can come to terms with God forgiving them," Freeman said. "What's harder to come to terms with is them forgiving themselves. They have a sense of being forgiven but they haven't let go of the shame. The women who come on retreat carry a lot of shame about their abortion."

The "absolutely confidential" retreats, Freeman said, provide an environment where women can look at their shame that exists, give it to God and receive his mercy. "There is a renewed connection with the woman herself, with God and with the child she lost."

Mass, sacraments and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament are offered during the Catholic retreat.

Freeman, a certified Associate Counselor of Mental Health who also counsels families at St. Paul's Church in Wilmington, DE, said the retreat can help people who have pushed away painful emotions and face their anger and sadness, "to provide the opportunity for healing to come in."

Men, including those who were directly involved in an abortion, those who didn't participate and found out after the fact and those who want to know what their loved one is going through – can also participate in the Rachel's Vineyard retreats, Freeman said.

In addition to Freeman, the retreat team in the diocese includes Jackie Wilson, a parishioner at St. Helena's in Wilmington, DE; Sheila Dunne, from St. Patrick's Parish; and Paula LaPente, from St. Edmond's in Rehoboth, NJ.

The diocesan team for Rachel's Vineyard was revived last year after weekends led by a previous team ended several years ago. Fr. Ed Fahey, a diocesan health care Chaplain, is one of the priests who has assisted at the retreat, Freeman said.

Anyone who wants to be on the team has to attend the Rachel's Vineyard

retreat first.

Although not post-abortive, Freeman said, "we've all aborted something in our lives. I know what it's like to abandon myself to God's mercy."

She also understands, as the director of Birthright of Delaware in Wilmington, an organization that offers life-affirming support for women facing crises pregnancies, the "crisis" nature of unexpected pregnancies and how a woman's choice can be affected by pressure and desperation.

"I have a passion for bringing God's healing to men and women who have been impacted by abortion either directly or indirectly," Freeman said.

"I grew up in a pro-life family. My mom, especially, had a strong faith. Her testimony to pro-life was having seven kids. Pope John Paul II has been the most influential pope in the work that I do. He put such a value and dignity on each person," she said.

"Our call is to recognize that every human life has a purpose and mission, every human life, if God wills it, has a right to exist."

Rachel's Vineyard retreats reflect Freeman's passion "to evangelize right here where I am to people who are suffering from an abortion."

She said she once heard from a retreat participant that "the darkness that has always been with her" after an abortion "went away and it has stayed away."

**** This article was originally published by The Dialog. To read more from this publication go to www.thedialog.org ****

[In the upcoming year there will be close to 1000 Rachel's Vineyard Retreats offered in many different locations throughout the world. We invite you to make contact with the coordinators of a retreat location near you. You can explore the availability of retreats by date or by location by going to www.RachelsVineyard.org. Be assured that you will find a compassionate, non-judgmental and welcoming staff to assist you in your journey toward healing. The retreats have an excellent track record of providing a pathway to discover God's help to transform your grief.]

"Without the grammar of simplicity, the church loses the very conditions which make it possible to fish for God in the deep waters of his mystery."
- Pope Francis July 2013.

Tammi's Healing through Rachel's Vineyard

By Tammi Morris

Last weekend I attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat in South Central PA. If you are like me, you may have never heard of them before now. I

didn't either until 2012 when a director from a local pregnancy center in York shared a RV brochure with me. I have to admit when it was given to me, I was angry. Furious to be more precise. I had just shared a snippet of my personal experience with abortions and next thing you know I'm getting these brochures in the mail. I was incensed that this woman would "assume" I needed one of these so called healing retreats, after only hearing a small portion of my story. Who did she think she was anyway?

Would I, a leader in a local ministry dare to go to such an event, and open up to complete strangers about such personal information? Emphatically No. However, I was speaking from pulpits, at retreats, and other such events and speaking openly about my personal story. Why would this make me so angry? It was obvious, that I wasn't as healed as I thought I was. I knew more work needed to be done, but I just wasn't sure I was willing or ready. I certainly wasn't going to go to one of these Rachel's Vineyard retreats, that was out of the question!

The truth is, God had been bringing these painful memories to the forefront for months and although angry and afraid, I was willing to obey Him. After all, God had proven over and over again that anything he asked me to do, was for my good and his glory. It was also during this time, I'd gotten an abnormal pap smear test back and my doctor wanted to explore for possible uterine cancer. It shook my theological Wheaties unlike anything before. It was commonly known that women who had abortion procedures were more likely to end up with cancer, infertility and a range of other health both mental and physical problems later on. I had also begun to remember forgotten abortions and it would take my breath away when another would surface. I began to question my ability to recall with any certainty, how many I actually had. It was traumatic and in a way I felt as if I deserved to suffer from my choices, forever!

But God would change all of that. After an exploratory procedure and further blood work it was discovered I did not have cancer. What a relief. But it did nothing to sooth my battered soul that was haunted with the reality of my choices. One day while driving to a retreat center in Halifax PA to speak, I distinctly heard the voice of the Lord tell me to name my children. This caused almost a sudden panic and nauseousness within me. Here I was on my way to share the goodness and redemptive plan of God, expressed through my personal life story with 60 or so women, and now I had to recall every abortion and then name these children? I didn't think I could do it. I would find out shortly why not. It occurred to me that I believed I was NOT allowed to grieve my unborn dead children, because I was the one who murdered them. Through a series of scriptures and time with God, I realized this was not true. I indeed needed to grieve them and claim them as my own. So with only a couple of hours before I was to speak, I started to write the year of their conception in my Iphone. Then as time went on, almost in a frantic state I began to name them. I wish I could say this was a soothing experience. It was anything but that. I had no idea why God wanted me to do this before I started speaking but he did. It was down to the wire and I was an emotional wreck.

I named them, or at least the ones I could remember. But something

within me said "that's not all of them!" I had to proceed with only a hour before my time at the pulpit, I needed to pull myself together. I did. I prayed, I consulted my notes. I prayed some more, ran to the dollar store and bought some cheap Mardi' Gras type beads, one necklace for every woman and I headed to the meeting room, with bated breath wondering what God would do.

I spoke (with permission ahead of time) for almost 2 hours. The beads, were to remind each woman who chose to take one what God had done for them during that meeting, the names were for me to speak out loud as a closing piece for my talk and I would end up praying and listening to many of the women there for hours and hours into the morning hours. Some friendships came out of that time, some that are dear to me today!

Not very long after the retreat I began to notice a little boy at the daycare our youngest Caleb attended. He was so cute, dark hair, big deep brown eyes and for a reason unknown to me, just couldn't take my eyes off him whenever I saw him. I also felt very sad and just couldn't pinpoint why. This went on for a couple of months, until one day I finally understood. A young woman walked into the daycare as I walked out. Seeing her with "this little boy" knocked" the wind right out of me. She is the sister of an ex-boyfriend of mine. One who got me pregnant and told me in no uncertain terms, it's me or the baby, you cannot have both. The little boy looked like him! Maybe even looked like our little boy would've, had I not aborted him! It took everything I had but I made small talk and then exited the building. I sat in my vehicle and tried to catch my breath, mind reeling and heart racing. I thought for the first time ever " Is this what our child would've looked like?" - I began to cry the most bitter tears, the most broken tears. For the next several weeks, if I saw her pull in before I did, I'd wait in my vehicle with Caleb, in an attempt to avoid making contact. It didn't always work.

The one day it was "field trip day" for Caleb's class. It was apple and pumpkin picking season and we were so excited. We arrived at the childcare center and made our way to the back of the building where we were to line up and wait for the bus that would transport us to the farm. As soon as I turned the corner... I saw this little boy latched onto the thigh of His Grandmother. This was the mother of my ex-boyfriend and she was the one who took me to the abortion clinic to have our child extinguished. She did not see me, and I turned around right away, grabbing Caleb's little arm and walking away as fast as I could. I would've run, but I knew too many people at this place and it would draw attention to me. I told little Caleb we would drive and meet them there. I'd convinced myself that I need the drive time to pray, gather my thoughts, reign in my emotions and then I'd be fine to face her for the first time in almost 20 years. I got my phone based GPS set and started to drive. Somehow I put in the wrong location and ended up 10 minutes east of the farm. I ended up at Long Level past Wrightsville PA. When I realized what I had done, I made a UTURN in a panic and sped back to the location. I was so worried we'd miss the tractor and my poor lil bubby would suffer because of me being a coward. We arrived at the farm only to find the tractor had already loaded up and was out of reach to run too. Caleb

began to cry and all I could say was I am so sorry; I'll make it up to you! We got back in our vehicle and I began to weep and hit the steering wheel in total frustration. I called the childcare center and told them what happened and they let me bring him back, so I could go to work. I cried out to God to help me, because I was broken over this and I just couldn't put myself back together. I felt like an absolute failure. My emotional reaction was definitely over the top and I knew it. As I wiped the snot from my face and tried to regain my composure, I got a phone call from a friend Sarah. She told me she and her daughter, one of Caleb's friends was going to Raab's farm the very next day for pumpkin and apple picking and would we like to join them. Such a God moment! It was salve for my soul! He knew what would happen and he'd prepared for it, for both Caleb and I!

So we did go the next day and had an awesome time.

I did end up seeing my ex's mother at the childcare center many times, and the first time was uncomfortable, but before we met face to face something wonderful happened. I'd prayed and asked God that our first face to face be perfectly ordained by him and that I would have the peace and joy of him when I did. One day I pulled into a spot at the center and was drawn to a van to the right of me. I got Caleb out on the right side and quickly glanced at this "vehicle".. on the back seat lay a church bulletin from a local church and a bible. This was a church that I had not yet spoken at for the ministry I worked for at the time and at first I didn't think anything, until I took several steps towards the door. I heard the Spirit of the Lord say "this is her vehicle, she follows me!" -I gasped in disbelief and joy, thinking she wasn't a believer when she took me for the abortion. Thank you God, we have common ground. I'm ready to see her!" A few minutes later after dropping Caleb off to his class/or picking him up don't recall, I ran into her! It was a brief reunion, a hug and kind words were exchanged. It was enough! Every time thereafter I saw her, I couldn't help but wonder if she was "healed" from this awful time. I wondered if she missed the first grandchild, that her son and I aborted. I began to pray for her and for her heart. To this day we haven't spoken beyond the niceties, I am willing, when and if the Lord leads.

Around this same time and over the next 12 months or so, my friends in ministry kept telling me of a woman they were convinced I needed to meet. They told me she ran Rachel's Vineyard on the east coast, and that was enough for me to avoid her at all costs. I should add that I was in the same room with her at a pregnancy center banquet one evening, where I first saw the LIFE BALLET, and by the time this event was over, the last thing I wanted to do was take the chance that this woman who was trained and skilled to help post abortive mothers, meet me! I was raw with emotion from the ballet that depicted the journey of conception, abortion and healing. It just so happens the same woman who gave me the RV brochure also invited me to this Life Ballet. I hesitantly decided to go, knowing I was being lead by the spirit of God.

So at the ballet, I sat at a table with a bunch of people who thought I was the "bees knees" and spoke about post abortive woman, in a way that cut

right through me. They weren't speaking ill of them at all, but they were talking "shop" and often included me in the conversation, since I was a ministry leader. I guess it never occurred to them that I might be one of "those" women! Why would it? I certainly didn't look post abortive.. or did I?

Well in the Spring of 2013, one of my volunteers handed me a scrap piece of paper and told me to call this person about setting up a "mentoring group" from their church. This woman that I had been avoiding was in black and white on the piece of paper, along with her phone number. Little did I know her boss gave her a piece of paper too, with my information? We both knew it was time to meet. Although I am sure she wasn't avoiding me! I called her. Left a message and boy was I glad she didn't answer! I was very businesslike, but honestly I felt like I was gonna cry. I was calling about helping homeless mothers and children not about my abortions, but in my spirit I knew God had just put the two pieces of a puzzle together and avoid no more could I!

It wasn't very long until we met at the Central Family Restaurant and as soon as I saw Joy, I knew in my spirit, we would become fast friends. With the Holy Spirit, these things are evident, easily! We both talked and talked and talked and shared our stories. We spoke very little of the ministry and her churches needs... we skimmed it sure for good measure, but the time was spent connecting! She mentioned Rachel's Vineyard, but did so in a way that would invite me to attend as a MINISTRY LEADER, like other mutual friends of ours did. I knew that was her angle, but I also knew she meant it FOR ME! This time it didn't make me angry, it scared me! She dropped the topic quickly, but the seed was planted. I would later find out she is affectionately nick-named the "Hound of Heaven" - This beautiful short 5'2 (maybe) dark haired, big personality, beautiful woman knew what brokenness looked like and it was all over my face!

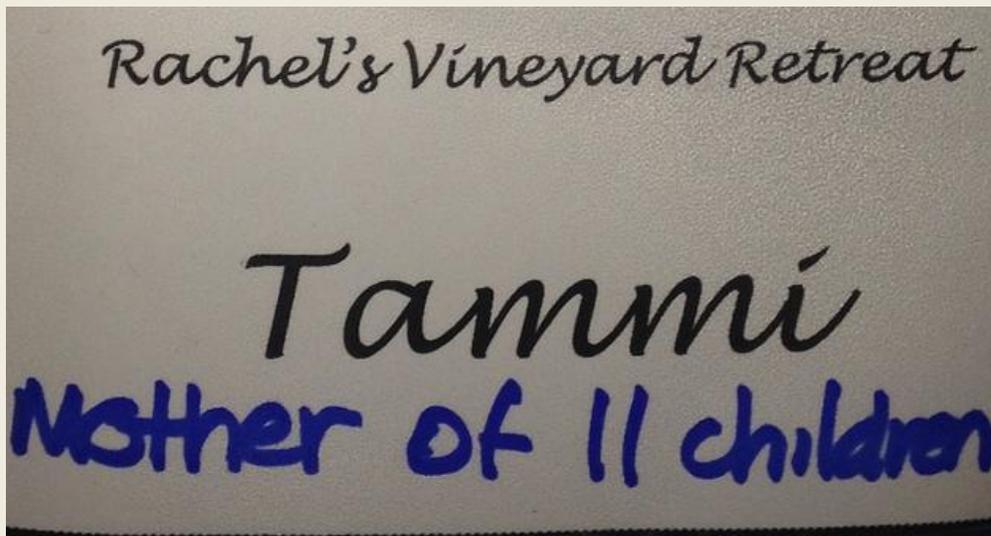
Our relationship would develop over the next 9 months or so and then October of 2013, she came right out and asked me if I would come to a retreat. I agreed and the next one was in November 2013. I didn't end up going to that one, as I got laid off from my job in ministry and so we agreed to postpone it until the dust settled. I would attend the March 2014 retreat!

March 28, 2014 came before I knew it!!! The days prior too were chocked full of anticipation and excitement, fear and eagerness. What happened during that weekend I will never forget. The staff and the other retreatants were all amazing people. The format and exercises, scriptures and events were perfect. I'd never seen anything quite like it and doubt I will again. I'd love to go into specific detail about the retreat but I don't want to deter from anyone's experience who may consider going. I will say this, it was safe, loving, practical experience that left me exhausted and healed. We did some heart-wrenching work, but we did it with the help of trained and licensed professionals, clergy and lay persons. Everything was planned and I didn't have to worry about anything except remembering a simple code to unlock the door to my room!

It's been one week since I attended the retreat and I can say with certainty, that I am no longer bound by my own shame. In John 8, the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery was told. The people wanted to stone her, as was the law of the day, Jesus could've condemned her but He did not! He told her "Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more" - For me the Rachel's Vineyard retreat wasn't about NOT HAVING ANYMORE ABORTIONS... I'd stopped that over 9 years ago. It was about Throwing Down the Stone, I'd Stoned Myself with for years!

What a gift this experience was too me, one I'll never forget! Thank you to all the workers and adoration crew for making this a place of being set free and healed!

My name is Tammi and I am the Mother of 11 children!



[*Tammi Morris is a seasoned and powerful speaker. She has experience in retreat, conference, banquets, fundraising events and Sunday morning pulpit assignments. **If you'd like to consider Tammi for your event**, please visit her website at www.tammimorrisministries.com or email her at tammit1972@gmail.com for more information.*]

"Christ was in an agony at prayer (Luke 22: 44). Many when they pray are rather in lethargy, than in an agony. When they are about the world they are all fire; when they are at prayer, they are all Ice."
- Thomas Watson

Requiem – Kay Marie Geiger

By: Theresa Burke, Ph.D



Requiem for a beautiful Mother. A mother who never had the experience of conceiving a child but she certainly had hundreds of beautiful souls she mothered and nurtured into new lives by her many years of work in Rachel's Vineyard. The ministry was her life – and all the people in it were in truth "her family." A more doting and attentive ministry mother would be hard to find.

Kay Marie considered me like a daughter – and a mentor! She always let me know how much she loved and appreciated me as a "daughter" and the work I was trying to spread. She was there from the beginning of the retreats encouraging me and consoling me through much ministry opposition and trials.

Kay Marie spent her life working and traveling all over the world with the Red Cross. She always had a missionary spirit! She married Joe Geiger late in life and together they gave birth to the ministry of Rachel's Vineyard in Richmond Virginia after traveling up to Philadelphia and serving on many retreats. We both sat in awe at what God was capable of doing during those early retreats, and I shared many special moments with Kay where the Lord was clearly directing our steps and so was Mother Teresa's intercession! I have shared these awesome stories during Rachel's Vineyard leadership conferences.

Kay Marie was with me when I suffered a miscarriage during a four day state wide clinical training in Virginia. She knew my heart was breaking and she consoled me as only a mother could. I remember her asking if she could see the baby, because she had never been pregnant and wanted to share my loss with me. I will never forget her love and desire to understand and connect with my pain in a way that was so tangible and real.

She brought the same compassion and tangible presence of Christ into her own ministry.

When her beloved husband Joe died shortly after the leadership

Conference in 2011, she asked me to come to the funeral – and stay with her.... That sacred private room of grief reserved for families that had endured laughter and pain together. It was not easy to get me there, as I was in the height of suffering a systemic relapse into Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy... but the Rachel's Vineyard family helped deliver me to her doorsteps and then up the steps. Despite my physical weakness, I had the spiritual strength she needed to lean on and I was honored to be there, despite my pretty awful condition.

7 months later, I needed her strength and she came up to Pennsylvania to care for me after I had a second surgery to remove the hardware making it possible for me to recover and walk. She stayed with my mom, Katie and I the first week while I slept as they discussed being widows.... and then the two of us went to the Lake house where she helped me with everything needed. My needs were rather intense! We left no conversational stone unturned as we did life reviews, discussed ministry issues, church trauma, and times of suffering... struggling to understand why we must endure these crosses of loss. Her grief over Joe's death made us a tearful pair, but then laughing at the absurdity of it and clinging to a faith that promises meaning when it's all over. Kay had that faith and she also had a heart for everyone's pain.

I got the call from Kay Marie while I was running a Grief to Grace retreat in London last November. "Theresa, I have cancer. I'm gonna fight this so I need your prayers."

Kay Marie's burden was lifted by a sense of companionship. The Rachel's Vineyard team and many alumni NEVER LEFT HER SIDE! They sat watch for days at the hospital and bonded together even tighter than ever as they camped out sharing stories and so much love for each other.

At the wake there was testimony after testimony of tearful recollections of the moment God broke through the roughest denial and hardness during retreats to completely change lives! Each person had dramatic stories of conversion; they each said that God had used Kay Marie to show Himself through her. They were all grieving a beautiful mother they had lost, but all determined to carry on her legacy with the ministry in Richmond and follow her example of service and the love of Christ she had witnessed to them.

So when we pray for the miracle of healing, and God answers them with death, it is through the doorways of suffering and grief that God is opening up even more ways of fellowship with His Son. He came to Kay Marie with the grip of the pierced hand of His Son. It was an epiphany for her when she realized the potential for her vocation as a mother for those who needed guidance and hope as they grieved their empty wombs. Kay Marie poured herself and all her resources into serving others in a way that would reveal Christ. She did that for me and everyone who came across her path. The good news is that I gave her marching orders for when she arrived in heaven. Everyone knows that Kay Marie was organizer and strategizer extraordinaire.... So she had a

whole bunch of souls to gather when she gets to heaven and deploy into action. I think we can anticipate many more exciting adventures from on high – because if someone can gather so many people around them in death, I can't imagine what she will be capable of doing in the afterlife! And with Joe back at her side.... Well let's just say we expect many miracles!!!!

Thoughts from Rachel's Vineyard Team Members

"May Our Lord comfort precious Kay Marie's family at this time. May they be comforted in the Mantle of our Blessed Mother. May Kay Marie, such a good and faithful servant, joyfully praise God as she is welcomed into the joys of eternal life. God bless all of you,

- Love, Donna Augustine, Rachel's Vineyard Florida"

"I can't help but think of the reception of children that awaits the Vineyard workers. Children who are grateful that they were reunited with their mothers and fathers during our retreats.

May her family be comforted. RIP, Kay Marie.

- Mike Stack, Rachel's Vineyard Detroit, MI"

"I instantly saw the meeting the children meditation they will have surrounded her! Blessed Tridium all!

-Joy Crimmins Rachel's Vineyard York, PA"

"Praying for Kay Marie and her family, and the grieving RV family at large.

May her beautiful soul rest in peace with our dear Lord.

-Anne Arthur, Rachel's Vineyard Germany

"May Our Lord , Mary , and all the babies that were honored and recognized in the retreats that kay Marie was part of it... open the gates of Heaven and receive her with lots of hugs , smiles and endless love.

- Eugenia Hadley, Rachel's Vineyard DC Metro Area

"Kay Marie was a beautiful lady. I met her at the 2011 Leadership Conference and warmed to her immensely. I'll pray for her family and friends and all those whose lives were touched by her kindness and love.

- Anne Neville – Rachel's Vineyard, Melbourne, Australia

"Will pray for her soul and her family at this sad time.

- Pam Richard, Rachel's Vineyard New Orleans, La."

"I met her once at a leadership conference and I think that our heritage of

a couple leading a site comes from the Geiger's. Such a gracious lady! Her family & friends are in our prayers. We have our retreat (last weekend) debrief meeting tonight & will pray there as well.

- Lynda - Rachel's Vineyard Ottawa Canada"

"May God comfort them in their grief and sorrow? May she rest in eternal peace and light.

- Rose Boon, Rachel's Vineyard
Singapore

"On the death of a friend, we should consider that the fates through confidence have devolved on us the task of a double living, that we have henceforth to fulfill the promise of our friend's life also, in our own, to the world."

— Henry David Thoreau

Rachel's Vineyard Appeal

Mother's day is coming up, while this day usually brings smiles, memories, flowers and love. It is also one of the hardest days for post abortive women. Please consider donating to Rachel's Vineyard today, you can help make it possible for a woman grieving to meet her child during 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

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

- Martin Luther

Message from Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are all well aware of the impact that Mother's Day and Father's Day can have on the wound of abortion and on the call to healing.

Our mission calls on us to be ever more aware that the coming weeks provide a special opportunity of openness on the part of many people to think about their pain and their need for healing. One of the projects we are doing at Priests for Life is to call on the Churches to utilize the opportunity that Father's Day brings in order to raise awareness of how abortion impacts men and to issue a renewed invitation to reconciliation

and healing.

But in our own blog posts, social networking, and personal conversations, the weeks ahead can have the same effect, and each of us can be that vehicle, that spark, by which the Lord's grace draws someone closer to responding to the invitation to be healed.

Let's pray very specifically for that! Remember, you can always find a multitude of prayers for all these various needs and opportunities at PrayerCampaign.org.

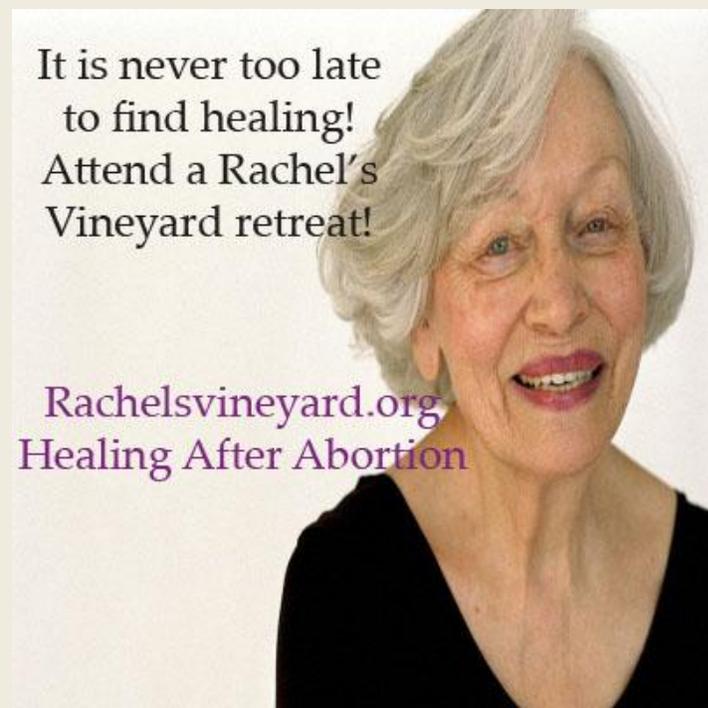
Blessings!

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

Romans 12:9

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

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 YouTube videos: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

"Grace is an ability to give as well as to receive and be thankful. Mystery is a hidden laugh always ready to surface! Glamour only radiates if there is a sublime courage & bravery within: glamour is like the moon; it only shines because the sun is there."

— C. JoyBell C.

Rachel's Vineyard in the Media

TUNE IN at 4PM on Thursday May 1st, 2014: Dr. Theresa Burke was interviewed on 'In Love of Christ'. It will be aired today on JMJ radio, a Northeastern PA affiliate of EWTN, on stations 98.9 FM and 750 AM. OR you can stream the interview live on www.jmj750.com Just click on the Listen Live button.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
— Mahatma Gandhi

United in Prayer

For *Christiane Kurpik*, team member in Germany. She was in hospital the week before Easter to get 3 stents in her arteries. She was admitted this week again because her blood pressure refused to come down. She is having many tests done to see what the underlying cause is, but at this time the doctors are not sure. Please pray for complete healing for Christiane.

For *Pat Mousaw*, team leader in Albany, NY, whose husband, David Mousaw has passed away. We would like to ask for prayers for the repose of David's soul.

"Let us never forget to pray. God lives. He is near. He is real. He is not only aware of us but cares for us. He is our Father. He is accessible to all who will seek Him."
— Gordon B. Hinckley

Upcoming Grief to Grace Retreats

Healing the Wounds of Abuse

Reclaiming the Gift of Human Dignity

www.Griegtograce.org

Yellowknife, NT - June 5-8, 2014

Contact: Gerri Fletcher at 867-920-2129 or Religious.ed@theedge.ca

This is a closed retreat.

Philadelphia, PA - August 31-September 6, 2014

Contact:

Jeanne Haines at info@griegtograce.org or by calling 610-203-2002

Dr. Theresa Burke will be the lead facilitator.

Beaverton, OR - September 18-21, 2014

Contact: griegtograceoregon@gmail.com 541-357-7501

Phoenix, AZ – January 11-16, 2015

“And so I wait. I wait for time to heal the pain and raise me to my feet once again - so that I can start a new path, my own path, the one that will make me whole again.”

— Jack Canfield

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Training Events

Minneapolis, MN - Keynote Speaker at Right to Life Dinner

On Wednesday May 14, 2014 Dr. Theresa Burke will be the Keynote Speaker at Minneapolis, MN Right to Life Dinner.

For more information please contact: Christine Klaesges at cklaesges@hotmail.com

Dallas, TX – Clergy Training, Clinical Training and Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator & Team Training

On June 27th, 2014, Dr. Theresa Burke will be hosting two day sessions. The first session will be a Clergy Training and the second session will be a Clinical Training.

On June 28th, 2014, Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Rachel's Vineyard Facilitators & Team Training.

For further information please contact:

Eileen Kuhlmann at 972-679-4760 or via email at ekuhlmann@prolifedallas.org

Hildesheim, Germany – Clinical Training and Rachel's Vineyard Facilitator & Team Training

On October 4th, 2014, Dr. Theresa Burke will be hosting Clinical Training that will be open to the General Public.

On October 4th and 5th, 2014, Dr. Theresa Burke will be conducting a Rachel's Vineyard Facilitators & Team Training.

For further information please contact:

Anne Arthur at +509 3459-9969 or via email at amecarthur@yahoo.com

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

— Benjamin Franklin

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Beirut, Lebanon

Contact: Brid Gemayel 00961(0)3637849 bridagem@yahoo.com

Contact: Fr. Albert Assaf 00961(0)3398128 palbertassaf@hotmail.com

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Incheon City, IC

Contact: Soon Hyo Kyong (Regina) 0082-10-2769 6157
reginaaaa@naver.com

Contact: Fr. Laurence Kettle 0082-10-4069 2683
frlaurencekr@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: In Suk Kang (Prisca) 0082-(0)10-2634 5348
seek2020@hanmail.net

Language: English

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Kelowna, BC

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

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Vancouver, BC

Contact: Doreen Yung 604-525-0999

vancouver.rachelsvineyard@rcav.bc.ca

Contact: Respect Life Office 604-443-3256 rlo@rcav.org

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Bend, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074

ProjectRachel@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Hudson (Interdenom), WI

Contact: Carla Stream 715-760-2564 carlastream@gmail.com

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Palm Beach (Español), FL

Contact: Emily Babilonia-Gonzalez 561-966-8580

ebabilonia12@bellsouth.net

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Burlington, VT

Contact: Julia Roberts, LCMHC 802-658-6111 x1314

jroberts@vermontcatholic.org

Friday, May 02, 2014

Sunday, May 04, 2014

Fort Worth (Español), TX

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

Friday, May 09, 2014

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Houston (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Shay Christophson 281-799-2002

shay@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: April 281-236-8719 april@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: Stephanie Walker 713-690-2210

steph@gulfcoasthealing.org

Friday, May 09, 2014

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

Contact: Nancy Blom 763-250-9313 rachels@vineyardmn.org

Friday, May 09, 2014

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Vienna, Austria

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

info@rachelsweinberg.at

Language: German

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Contact: Lala Rey Méndez 0291 154 74 4500

lalareymendez@gmail.com

Language: Spanish

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: Margi Culhane 1-800-700-7867 mculhane@sfcatholic.org

Contact: Dr. Marcie Moran 605-988-3775

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

San Angelo, TX

Local Host: Diocese of San Angelo

Contact: Gloria M 432-897-4788

rachelsvineyardsanangelo@gmail.com

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Williamsburg, VA

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

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Detroit Area, MI

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

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Minneapolis/St. Paul (Interdenominational), MN

Contact: Michele Frascht 715-781-4430

projecthealingministries@gmail.com

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Linden, NJ

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

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Tampa, FL

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 projectrachel@ccdosp.org

Language: Spanish

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Los Angeles (Español), CA

Contact: Raquel 626-290-8333

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Santa Rosa/St. Helena, CA

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

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Oakland /East Bay, CA

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

Friday, May 16, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Hobart, TAS, Australia

Contact: Anne Sherston 03-6229 8739 rachelsvineyardtas@aapt.net.au

Friday, May 23, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Joanne Fogue 405-623-3844

rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Friday, May 23, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

San Bernardino, CA

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

blancamcuthrie@gmail.com

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

mhuber@sbdiocese.org

Language: Spanish

Friday, May 23, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

Northern New York, NY

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

Friday, May 23, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

Cache Creek, BC, Canada

Contact: Nancy Hadden 250-267-5081 rvkamloops@yahoo.ca

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Friday, May 30, 2014

Long Island/Huntington (Español), NY

Contact: Donna Crean 631-258-5062 donnacrean@optonline.net

Friday, May 30, 2014

Sunday, June 01, 2014

Hamden, CT

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

Friday, May 30, 2014

Sunday, June 01, 2014

Albany Area, NY

Contact: Kathleen Whimple 518-469-0779

Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Contact: Mrs. Pat Mousaw 518-222-1160

Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Friday, May 30, 2014

Sunday, June 01, 2014

Morganton (Interdenom), NC

Contact: Kim Ollis 828-919-8020 kimberly.ollis@hushmail.me

Friday, May 30, 2014

Sunday, June 01, 2014

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, May 30, 2014

Sunday, June 01, 2014

Bahía Blanca , Argentina

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

Language: Spanish

Friday, June 06, 2014

Sunday, June 08, 2014

Tulsa, OK

Contact: Mary Lee Ingram 918-508-7142

mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

Friday, June 06, 2014

Sunday, June 08, 2014

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871

judywarren543@msn.com

Friday, June 06, 2014

Sunday, June 08, 2014

Grand Rapids, MI

Contact: Maggie Walsh 616-340-1824 mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

Contact: Toll-free (MI only) 800-800-8284

Friday, June 06, 2014

Sunday, June 08, 2014

Stockton, CA

Contact: Kim Fuentes 209-465-5433

respectlife@stocktondiocese.org

Friday, June 06, 2014

Sunday, June 08, 2014

Note: This retreat will be held at El Retiro San Inigo, Jesuit Retreat Center

300 Manresa Way

Los Altos, CA 94022.

Dallas (Español), TX

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760

ekuhlmann@prolifedallas.org

Friday, June 13, 2014

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Ann Arbor, MI

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

Friday, June 13, 2014

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Portland, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074

ProjectRachel@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org

Friday, June 13, 2014

Sunday, June 15, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

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

Friday, June 20, 2014

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Providence, RI

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118

rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Contact: Mary Lee Mason 254-383-1717

rvinfo@newheartoftexas.org

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Camden, NJ

Contact: Margarita Moran 856-691-2299

projectrachel.pjp2rc@verizon.net

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Long Island/Huntington, NY

Contact: Frank and Lorraine Gariboldi 516-523-0586

fgariboldi@optonline.net

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Tampa, FL

Contact: Emma Boe 813-924-4173 projectrachel@ccdosp.org

Friday, June 27, 2014

Sunday, June 29, 2014